

# The Customs Journal

No. 622

August, 25th 1928

Fortnightly

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*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," 91 Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.*

*All matter for insertion in the forthcoming issue should reach the Editor on or before the Monday preceding the day of publication.*

## THE BONUS.

THERE is much diversity of opinion throughout the Civil Service on the subject of the Cost-of-Living Bonus, and many conflicting views are being put forward by members of all Departments. Each drop in the index figure betrays the disturbing fact that some adjustment is necessary somewhere, though, unfortunately, there does not seem to be unanimity of opinion as to which direction we must look to find the weak spot. The very great majority of Civil Servants, however, are unanimous on one point, and that is that the method of fixing the bonus is by no means the success that it proved itself when it was first put into operation. A correspondent in this issue voices a point that we continually hear being discussed among the Preventive Staff, and it is perfectly true that the Preventive Officer commencing in that grade eight years ago finds to-day, although he has received eight annual increments since his promotion, he will be in receipt of less pay next month than in the days when the bonus was a new departure. This would matter but little if the spending power of the money fluctuated accordingly, but experience shows that this happy state of affairs does not exist. Our correspondent's reference to the family budget is exactly the point of view that is freely expressed throughout the Department, and

it seems to be generally proved conclusively that retail prices to the housewife do not fall in the same ratio as would be indicated by the index figure. House rentals, too, since those days, and rates also, have certainly not fallen—on the contrary rather. The exigencies of the Service, in our case, demand a large amount of transferring from port to port, and there are comparatively few members of the Preventive Staff who are, in these days, still living in houses under the control of the Rent Act. The position, of course, is not confined to the Preventive Officers, for Assistant Preventive Officers, large numbers of whom have to live in lodgings, find that whatever happens to the index figure has no effect upon their landlords' charges, so that a fall in the bonus invariably means a greater proportional expense. One thing is certain, and that is that the present fall of a twenty-sixth part of the original bonus is a serious blow to a big majority of Civil Servants. Domestic responsibilities increase in the Civil Service just the same as they increase in any other walk of life, and normally are met by our incremental system. The present application, however, of incremental system and bonus has killed all the benefit which the annual increment is intended to carry with it.

## CURRENT COMMENTS

THE chief feature of these comments this week will be their brevity. Not only is news scarce at this time of year, but, those whose job it is to distribute news items are more inclined for holidays than for the arduous task of hunting up what small amount of information there is to be had. Curtailment of these columns is, therefore, due to the holiday season. Possibly this vacation will be as much enjoyed by readers as by the writer.

It so happens, however, that there is plenty of interesting matter appearing in this issue in connection with the Conference. Members will no doubt appreciate the manner in which the Annual Report, together with an abridged report of the Conference, has been published this year. This new departure should make it more easy to follow what is being done by the Association.

At every District meeting held to discuss the doings of the Annual Council Meeting, it can be expected that members will come provided with the two copies of the "Customs Journal" containing these reports. This is a decided improvement on the past method by which the District officials were compelled to read to their members lengthy documents the details of which it was difficult to assimilate under such conditions.

The result ought to be a more lively interest in the work of the Association, and will probably lead to better-informed criticism of Association policy. In the pages of the Journal, during the past twelve months, we have had writers urging the Executive to take action on matters already disposed of, and, also, there have been cases where the Executive have been upbraided for doing things they were really bound to do under Council instruction.

Preservation of copies 621 and 622 of the "Customs Journal" will enable members who express their views in the Journal to be more constructive and more progressive in the future.

The Council decision to endorse the Executive's scheme for revised representation from the areas was taken after a very interesting discussion on this subject. To provide an equitable system of representation is a most difficult problem, owing to our members being scattered all over the country. It is hoped, however, that the new scheme will afford a sporting chance to those Districts failing to get a direct representative at the ordinary elections. The scheme provides for four additional Councillors to be elected from nominations submitted only from such Districts. It is very probable there will be some keen competition for these posts, and one can look forward to some vigorous election addresses in the Journal, for this will be the principal means by which these "free-lance" candidates will be able to get into touch with the electors. In most cases they will not have the advantage of addressing District meetings,

As it will be necessary to complete the ordinary elections before proceeding to vote for the new additional members, this business will have to be done as expeditiously as possible this year. The Organising Secretary is making preparations for an early start, and it would greatly assist if District officers would keep this in mind, so that there will be no delay in dealing with the nomination forms and voting papers when they are issued.

The caricatures of Conference delegates contributed by "Buster" to the previous issue of the Journal seem to have caused much interest and amusement, judging from the numerous remarks that have been made concerning them. "Buster's" ambition was to provide us with sketches of every member who attended the Conference, but as he was unable to do this we have to be content with the impressions he managed to gather, and upon which he deserves to be complimented.

According to the Report of the Select Committee on Estimates, reduction in expenditure in the Customs and Excise Department, since 1914, has been effected by economy in staffing. Part of this economy is stated to have resulted from the "entire transfer of the control of the Waterguard Services to lower grades."

In spite of the very large increase in the work of the Department, the staff numbers now are only 11,959, as compared with 10,802 in 1914. The revenue collected has increased by 233 per cent.

As was anticipated, the cost-of-living figure for the current month definitely decides a reduction in bonus. This will mean a drop of one-twenty-sixth of the original bonus, which is equivalent to one-fourteenth of the current bonus.

Many Waterguard officers will be interested to hear of the transfer of Mr. W. H. James from the Officer Grade to the post of Higher Executive Officer in the Custom House. For many years he has been prominent in Staff Side work, not only in his own Federation, but also in connection with the Civil Service Confederation and the National Staff Side. He held the position of President of the Confederation for three years, with marked success. He was a familiar figure on the C. & E. Joint Committee, and the Departmental Council. He is to be congratulated on his recent advance.

Members are notified that Mr. J. T. Sutton will be dealing with all correspondence addressed to Headquarters up to the end of August. The General Secretary and Assistant Secretary are away on annual leave,

# Preventive Staff Association

## Sixth Annual Conference Report

(Continued from last issue.)

### Constitutional Amendments.

The following amendments to the Constitution were adopted:—

Rule 2, paragraph (a).—Delete “workers” in last line and substitute “Civil Servants.”

Rule 2, paragraph (1).—Cancel the paragraph and substitute “Co-operate with other Civil Service Societies or Federations, the primary object of which is to promote the interests of Civil Servants.”

Rule 4, paragraph 2 (a).—Delete “sixteen” and substitute “twenty.”

Rule 4, paragraph 2 (b).—Delete the sub-paragraph and substitute:—

(b) Sixteen Councillors, i.e., eight from each grade, shall be elected by the electoral areas, each area electing two Councillors (one from each grade). The election shall be by ballot—each grade conducting its own ballot under the control of the Organising Secretary and Treasurer. Casual vacancies shall be filled by a ballot of the grade in the area concerned. Eight Councillors, i.e., four from each grade, shall retire annually in October, and they shall be eligible for re-election.

(c) The remaining four Councillors shall be elected by a ballot of the whole of the membership under the control of the Organising Secretary and Treasurer. The election shall be held immediately following the area elections under sub-paragraph (b). Only members stationed in Districts that have not direct representation as a result thereof being eligible for nomination, the two successful candidates of each grade being declared elected. Councillors elected under this sub-paragraph shall retire annually in October, and they shall be eligible for re-election under sub-paragraph (b) or (c).

(d) The electoral areas shall be as follows:—

LONDON.

LIVERPOOL, comprising Liverpool, Preston and Manchester districts.

CARDIFF, comprising Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol districts.

SOUTH COAST, comprising Plymouth, Southampton and Dover districts.

GRAVESEND, comprising Gravesend and Harwich districts.

HULL, comprising Hull and Grimsby districts.

TYNE, comprising Hartlepool and Tyne districts.

SCOTLAND and N. IRELAND, comprising Leith, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Belfast districts.

“The remaining existing paragraphs to be re-lettered.”

Rule 4, paragraph 2 (d).—Add:—

“Voting at the Annual Conference shall be confined to members representing districts, and to Officers.”

Rule 4, paragraph 4 (c).—Delete “and” before “of ‘Customs Journal’” (as added by amendment at 1927 Conference).

Add, after “Journal,” “the Vocational Education Section, etc.”

### Resolutions.

#### Co-ordination.

The values of unity, combined strength and finance and concerted action were strongly argued on the motion to secure a system of closer co-ordination with analogous grades within the Preventive Service.

An interesting debate resulted in the adoption of a motion recommending to the Districts that the Association should seek amalgamation with analogous grades.

#### Official Circulars.

The practice of publishing matter relative to Waterguard duties in circulars and issuing these to Supervising Officers only gave rise to a resolution (which was adopted): “That all circulars relative to Waterguard duties be embodied in General Orders.”

#### Applications for Transfer.

Three resolutions on this subject were tabled, with a view to finding a common factor to govern all applications for transfer. The factors suggested were (1) seniority of applicant, and (2) date of application.

It was made clear in the discussion that the circumstances in respect of each transfer varied, and that it would be practically impossible to devise a fixed rule that would not create considerable hardship in one direction or another.

The motion recommending “date of application” was defeated, on the ground that this would permit one applicant to nominate several ports and so securing first consideration in each.

It was finally agreed:—That primarily seniority should be the deciding factor for transfer, but domestic circumstances and hardship (such as duty at isolated or undesirable places) be given due consideration.

#### Promotion by Merit.—A.P.O. to P.O.

Those much-discussed schemes, “South Coast” and “Leith,” now came up for consideration.

A motion from Leith seeking to withdraw the scheme number II was not admitted in view of the fact that the scheme had now been adopted as a basis of discussion.

A lively debate, interposed with numerous resolutions and amendments, resulted in the adoption of the following:—

1. The present system of calling up shall be continued.
2. The examination to be on a qualifying basis, the qualifying mark being fixed.

3. Successful candidates to take their seniority from examination marks secured, and to be absorbed into the P.O. grade as vacancies occur.

#### District Representation.

Four new P.S.A. Districts were created:—

- (i) PRESTON (embracing Barrow, Fleetwood, Workington, Heysham, Maryport, Millon, Preston, Silloth and Whitehaven).
- (ii) SWANSEA (embracing Swansea, Briton Ferry, Llanelly, Milford Haven, Fishguard, Port Talbot, Burry Port and Neyland).
- (iii) HARWICH (embracing Harwich, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Lowestoft, Wells, Yarmouth, Maldon and Brightlingsea).
- (iv) BELFAST (embracing Belfast, Coleraine, Larne, Derry and Goraghwood).

#### "Customs Journal."

In future the "Customs Journal" will be supplied to retired members of the P.S.A. at reduced rates.

#### Waterguard Claims.

Previous policy on this question was endorsed and the whole question is left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

On the question of leave, it was decided to adhere to the claim as laid down by the 1927 Conference, i.e., P.O.s 28 days, and A.P.O.s 21 days.

#### Promotion by Merit—P.O. to C.P.O.

Early in the discussion the Conference decided to adopt previous policy, i.e., that the system of promotion in this connection needs reorganisation, and that promotion by merit shall obtain.

Consideration of the draft proposals submitted by the E.C. resulted as follows:—

- (i) Promotion to the C.P.O. grade to be on the result of a qualifying examination.
- (ii) Seniority to be the sole deciding factor as to the order of calling up.
- (iii) Candidates to be promoted in order of merit.
- (iv) A definite qualifying standard shall be laid down.
- (v) Two chances to be allowed to eligible P.O.s.
- (vi) Six months' notice of an examination shall be given.
- (vii) The questions should relate to:—

Administration	...	...	350 marks.
Police Court Procedure	...	...	150 marks.
Customs Law	...	...	150 marks.
General knowledge of the			
C. & E. Department	...	...	250 marks.
Viva Voce	...	...	150 marks.

(Oral questions to be based on recent amendments to the Regulations, and their practical application in unusual circumstances.)

#### Publication of Rulings.

It was agreed that when authentic rulings are obtained by the V.E. Section on contentious points in the regulations, such information should be available to all members of the Association.

The columns of this Journal will probably be used

#### P.O.s' Pocket Journals.

Instructions have been given to the E.C. to negotiate for the abolition of the system of Pocket Journals.

#### Landing and Shipping Duties.

Full approval was given of the action taken by the Executive in this connection.

#### Revised Instructions.

The present condition of the Revised Instructions gave rise to the adoption of a motion seeking reprint and issue of these at stated intervals not exceeding five years.

#### Duties of the A.P.O. Grade.

The Executive Committee has instructions to explore the possibilities of relieving the Preventive Officer grade of a portion of the large volume of work now performed by transferring certain minor duties to the Assistant Preventive Officer grade.

#### Subscriptions.

A motion to reduce subscriptions was amended. The matter is submitted to the E.C.

#### Waterguard Title.

The question of the change of title of the Waterguard Department to Preventive Department was referred to the E.C.

#### Medical Examinations.

An attempt will be made to secure the introduction of a system under which candidates for promotion will not be debarred from sitting at examinations through physical disabilities; the question of physical fitness to be decided at a subsequent medical examination.

#### E. P. Maddey, Esq.—Past President.

The following motion, adopted unanimously, is self-explanatory:—

"That this Conference instructs the E.C. to organise a presentation to Mr. E. P. Maddey, the late President, in appreciation of past services."

#### Higher Appointments in the Waterguard.

Previous policy on this question was amended to ensure that the E.C. shall give due consideration to the circumstances before taking any action.

#### Election of Officers.

*President*—Mr. W. G. Thomson (P.O.).

*General Secretary*—Mr. J. Merron (P.O.).

*Organising Secretary*—Mr. J. T. Sutton (P.O.).

*Assistant Secretary*—Mr. W. H. Powell (A.P.O.).

#### Election of Committees and Representatives.

*Executive (P.S.A.):*—

Mr. W. A. Colwill (P.O.).

Mr. A. W. P. Densley (A.P.O.).

Mr. S. E. D. Ball (A.P.O.).

Mr. A. E. Farmer (A.P.O.).

*Waterguard Sectional Committee:*—

Mr. J. Merron.

Mr. J. T. Sutton.

Mr. W. H. Powell.

Mr. A. W. P. Densley.

Mr. S. E. D. Ball.

*Joint Committee—C. & E. Associations :—*

Mr. J. Merron.  
Mr. J. T. Sutton.  
Mr. W. H. Powell.  
Mr. P. Spear.

*Departmental Council :—*

Mr. J. Merron.  
Mr. W. H. Powell.

*Civil Service Confederation :—*

Mr. J. T. Sutton.  
Mr. W. H. Powell.  
Mr. J. O'Connor.

*Suggestions Committee :—*

Mr. W. H. Powell.

*" Customs Journal " Officials :—*

Editor—Mr. W. E. Staudring.  
Treasurer—Mr. J. T. Sutton.  
Secretary—Mr. P. Spear.

**Honoraria.**

The Council, in granting honoraria, repeated the amounts voted at the previous Conference.

W. H. POWELL

(Conference Secretary).

The photo taken of the Conference will appear in the next issue.

**CHANGES IN THE STAFF**

TO 26th AUGUST, 1928.

**PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—**

Gotts, G. W. Ramsgate, Dover to London.  
Green, G. W. Grimsby to Whitstable, Dover.  
Page, R. J. Newport, Mon. to London.

**ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—**

Donaldson, R. J. Port Edgar, Leith to Methil, Dundee.

**VACANCIES.****PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—**

\*Padstow, Plymouth. 30.9.1928.

\*(An allowance of £30 per annum for performing Long Room Work, etc., is assigned.)

**Correspondence**

*The name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication) should be given in all letters to the Editor, who accepts no responsibility for the views expressed.*

Sir,—From time to time one comes across some rather odd things in the matter of applying the various regulations which are designed to safeguard Britain's revenue and public health.

Amongst them the following is worthy of comment.

Situated on the shallows of a River, which, some miles further on, broadens and deepens into a great estuary containing possibly the largest system of Docks in Great Britain, is a small town famous for its chemicals.

Vessels of light draught may go there on spring tides by way of the said river. They may go at any time by way of a ship canal, but the saving of canal dues makes the river a very popular route.

These preparatory facts bring us to the official Boarding Station appointed "by order of their hands" for such vessels, a very large proportion of which, by the way, come from the Irish Free State, whilst others which take the river route come from French ports with stone.

As may be guessed, the Boarding Station is a prescribed area in the aforesaid estuary, and is patrolled for at least two hours a tide. During this time ships, which are really dangerous, both from a Revenue and a Public Health point of view, are left to themselves, and their crews' fondest interest in the Exchequer.

Therefore, beheld, the big ships, the important ships, are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance. They are taken up as a very little thing, they are counted as less than nothing, and vanity.

It must not be assumed, however, that everything connected with the boarding of these ships is unsatisfactory. On the contrary, one may consider the Launch. It is really a shame to employ the Launch on anything else.

R. E. VENEW.

**ADVISING STAFF.**

Sir,—With reference to filling the vacancy of Assistant Advising Officer, I do not see the need for one. If economy is the order of the day, I suggest that another grade be created, to supervise the technical grades.

Yours, etc.,

"ECONOMIST."

**THE BONUS.**

Sir,—I understand from an article in the daily Press that the official union is taking some action in regard to the Cost-of-Living Bonus, owing to the repeated fluctuations in the index figure.

It is indeed an Irishman's rise after eight years' service as a P.O. to be receiving less salary than when first promoted.

These nibbling tactics may suit the Ministry of Labour, but when the cost of living goes down according to their working, it does not go down with the working out of the family budget. I venture to suggest that the Civil Service should press for a salary settlement, and abolish the cost-of-living bonus which, in the opinion of many, is nothing short of expert juggling with figures.

In this respect we can safely take a lesson from the Police Force.

Yours, etc.,

"BONE THEM."

## Civil Service Confederation.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 27th July, 1928, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. In the absence of the President, Mr. G. Chase, on annual leave, Mr. Ross Wyld (Vice-President) presided over an attendance of 23.

On the subject of Motor Car Insurance, it was reported that information was being sought from other Civil Service staff organisations as to their experience, and any agreements reached on the question of liability and compensation for accident.

It was reported that, in reply to the representations made by a deputation from the Confederation which had interviewed representatives of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party on the subject of the issues arising from the Wig and Cochrane Judgment, a communication had been received from the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party to the effect that, whilst not expressing any opinion on the merits of the decision, or the propriety of granting generally the concessions covered by the decision, the view of the Executive Committee of the Party was that the important point is equality of treatment, and that no Irish Civil Servant should suffer as a result of his transfer from the British Service, and any proposal contrary to this would be opposed by the Party.

It was reported that an amalgamation had taken place between the Customs Port Clerks' Association (77 members) and the Excise Clerks' Association, the former body being an affiliated organisation of the Confederation. The new combined body, known as the Customs Port Clerks and Excise Clerks' Association, desired to continue in membership with the Confederation, and a proposed basis for the payment of subscriptions was endorsed.

Correspondence had been received from the Foreman's Association of India, one of the Overseas affiliated bodies of the Confederation, on the establishment of Whitley Councils in the Ordnance and Clothing Factories and Inspection Sections, which has been sanctioned by the Government of India. Correspondence is taking place with the Association, seeking further information on the subject of the classes covered by the proposed Departmental Whitley Councils and the interpretation of certain clauses in the Constitution.

The General Purposes Committee reported that correspondence had been received from the Executive Officers' Association with regard to an arrangement operating for exchanges between the Irish Free State and the British Civil Service, in which the view was expressed that the attention of the National Whitley Council should be drawn to the matter, as it was a general question, and the Treasury had not consulted the National Council with regard to the terms of such exchanges.

It was decided that the matter be referred to the Standing Joint Committee on Reorganisation, with a view to getting a discussion with the Official Side and ascertaining the terms of an agreement which

it was understood had been reached between the British Government and the Irish Free State Government on this question.

In connection with the All-Service Programme, the National Staff Side has decided to appoint a special Sub-Committee to conduct a campaign, and the Confederation was invited to appoint three representatives to serve on this Sub-Committee. It was decided that Miss R. Smith Rose, Mr. W. J. Brown, and Mr. P. H. M. Heey (General Secretary) be appointed. Four leaflets have been issued by the National Staff Side, and specimen copies of these are being circulated to constituent organisations of the Confederation.

In response to a circular issued to constituent organisations seeking information as to conditions of retirement, a number of replies have been received, and these have been forwarded to the National Staff Side, from whom the request for information emanated.

It was stated that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, having been asked to receive a deputation from the Confederation with regard to the ruling he had given that the participation of a Civil Service Association in a meeting to advocate the extension of the franchise would be contrary to the Civil Service (Approved Associations) Regulations, 1927, a reply had been received from the Chief Registrar refusing to receive a deputation, and suggesting that any arguments which the Confederation may have to adduce should be adduced on paper. It was decided that this should be done.

A report was given by Mr. W. H. James on National Whitley proceedings, dealing especially with the subjects of All-Service Programme; Deductions from salaries or wages; Age of Retirement; Adverse Reports; Provincial Differentiation; Application to Messenger grade; Widows' and Orphans' Fund; Deductions from pay on establishment; Hours of Attendance on Saturday morning.

On the subject of the negotiations with the Joint Consultative Committee, a resolution was moved on behalf of the Executive Officers' Association to the effect that the Confederation representatives on the National Whitley Council be instructed to move for and secure the rescindment of the resolution of the National Staff Side of the 22nd June, 1927, which laid down certain conditions in regard to the return of the Joint Consultative Committee to the National Staff Side. The motion of the Executive Officers' Association was defeated.

Mr. W. T. Seddon, of the Association of Officers of Taxes, was appointed as a member of the General Purposes Committee of the Confederation in succession to Mr. T. Rees Jones, of the same Association, resigned.

On the motion of the Civil Service Clerical Association, the Association of Officers of Taxes, and the Ministry of Labour Staff Association, a resolution was adopted:—

"That a Committee be appointed within Confederation to consider and report on "P" Class Clerk issues. The Committee to consist of not more than three representatives of each affiliated Association with affiliated "P" Class Clerk members. The Committee to have power to elect its own officers, and to report regularly to the Executive Committee."

A resolution from the Association of Ex-Soldier (War Office) Clerks on the subject of Age of Retirement was referred to the Confederation representatives on the National Whitley Council for consideration in the light of any developments on the National Staff Side.

On the motion of the Civil Service Clerical Association, a resolution was adopted:—

“That in view of the urgent need for the removal of the anomalies in Superannuation rights of permanent Civil Servants, especially as between men and women, the Confederation urges its representatives on the Superannuation Committee of the National Council to press for the publication of that Committee's Report at the earliest possible date.”

Other resolutions moved on behalf of the Civil Service Clerical Association, on the subjects of Annual Reports in connection with promotion, and gratuities to Unestablished Officers, were referred to the General Purposes Committee for investigation and report.

## PROSECUTIONS.

### STOCKTON.

On Sunday, the 5th inst., Mr. W. S. Kirby, P.O., observed the second engineer of the S.S. Hendrik Conlonce leave his ship carrying two bags which subsequently were found to contain 6 bottles of brandy, 3 bottles of rum, and 150 cigars. On the following Tuesday, at the Stockton Police Court, the offender was convicted and fined treble the duty-paid value, amounting to £25 7s. 0d., or in default, three months. Mr. J. Imrie, C.P.O., conducted the prosecution.

### MIDDLESBROUGH.

At the Middlesbrough Police Court on the 19th inst., three Lascar firemen of the P. & O. S.S. Khiva, were convicted and fined treble the value of 15 automatic pistols and 1,300 rounds of ammunition, amounting to £162 3s. 0d. The goods were discovered on board by Messrs. J. Smith and R. Nelson, A.P.O.s.

The fines were not paid, and the offenders have gone to prison, two for one month each and the third for three months.

Mr. J. Imrie, C.P.O., prosecuted.

### GRIMSBY.

At the Grimsby Police Court on August 1st, the bosun of the S.S. Stockport, from Hamburg, was charged with attempting to smuggle 1 lb. 2 oz. of cav. tobacco, 6 oz. of o.s. tobacco, 1 lb. 7 oz. of cigars, and 6 bottles of spirits. The offender pleaded guilty and was fined £7, including costs.

The goods were seized by Mr. W. Simms, A.P.O., under the supervision of Mr. R. J. Girling. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. W. H. Johnson, C.P.O.

## Presentation to Mr. J. Imrie, C.P.O.

On the evening of August 16th, the Middlesbrough Watch-House was the meeting place for a great gathering of the Waterguard Staff, every grade, both on and off duty, being represented, the occasion being to present to Mr. Imrie, C.P.O., a gold demi-hunter watch, suitably inscribed, at the conclusion of his thirty-seven years' service.

Mr. Imrie at one time was Assistant Editor of the "Customs Journal" during the time that it was printed in Hull.

The Chair was taken by Mr. Dowland (C.P.O., Hull), Mr. T. Forth (W.S., Tyne) being present to make the presentation. Mr. Dowland briefly opened the proceedings, pointing out how great the gathering was. He said that it represented more than mere words the deep regard in which Mr. Imrie was held, and was of opinion that he had set a standard that it would be difficult to follow. Messrs. W. S. Kirby, of Stockton, A. Forbes, W. A. Fulton, J. Wilson, and E. G. Watkins, spoke on behalf of the Preventive Officers, Mr. A. O. Brown for the A.P.O.s, Mr. Bell, M.C., on behalf of the Launch Service, and Mr. Warne for the Watchers.

During the course of the speeches it was pointed out what a courteous and capable superior Mr. Imrie had been. Although he had only been in the district little more than twelve months, he had endeared himself to the whole staff. When the testimonial was first proposed, the readiness of the whole staff to add their names was eloquent testimony of the high esteem and regard in which he was held. Not a single name was missing from the list.

Middlesbrough was not alone in wishing to show appreciation; the Coast Preventive Staff of the District also sent a gold-mounted pipe as a token of their regard.

Reference was made to Mr. Imrie's recent severe illness and also to his interest in the Sports Club, and everyone wished him and his family good health and long life to enjoy the fruits of his pension, and hoped that every time he had to consult his watch it would remind him of the affection and goodwill of the staff at Middlesbrough.

The Waterguard Superintendent, in making the presentation, said he had known Mr. Imrie for the full 37 years, having been very early in that time together in Hull. He regretted that the retirement of Mr. Imrie was occasioned by illness, and also because in him he had a C.P.O. in whom he knew he could place every reliance.

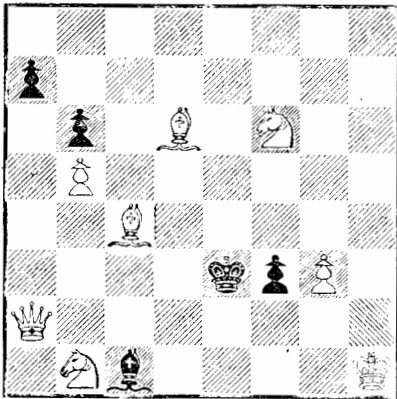
Mr. Imrie feelingly replied and said he had had a staff under his supervision that was second to none and in whom he had every confidence. He thanked the staff for their valuable present, and would always remember them for their very kind thoughts and enquiries during the period when he was so ill. He had been told by his wife to say how pleased and comforted she was to think that the staff was so concerned during those dark days.

A vote of thanks to the Waterguard Superintendent for having honoured the occasion, and to the Chairman, brought the ceremony to a close.

## SPORT AND SOCIAL.

## Customs Waterguard Chess Club

## PROBLEM No. 22.



By B. G. LAWS.

White mate in two.

## Solution to No. 21.

1. R—K4 if 1 Kt.—B6    2. Kt.—R3 if 1 P×R.  
 2. B—B7 if 1 P—R3.    2. B—K2 if 1 K—O3.  
 2. B—K2 if 1 Kt.—R6.    2. B—K2.    6 points.

## 1928/9 Tournament.

- Round 1.—Sections 1 and 2 begins 1.9.28.  
 Round 3.—Sections 3 and 4 begins 1.9.28.  
 Round 1.—Sections 3 and 4 ends 31.8.28.

## Cup Contest. Opponents. Round 2.

1. R. E. Dudley, London v. T. Croxford, Dover.  
 2. S. H. Matthews, Newport v. F. G. Boodle, Dover.  
 3. A. R. Deans, Dover v. S. W. H. Hargrove, Eastham.  
 4. B. C. Reilly v. B. R. Clarke, Weymouth.

**Ladies' Championship at Tenby.**—It will be remembered that Mr. J. M. Mitchell, Leith, played Miss E. E. Abraham in the Kent County Chess Association correspondence match, and the game, after being contested for five months, was adjudicated in the good lady's favour. The importance of the game will be realized when members are aware that in the British Ladies' Championship Match, Miss Abraham took fifth place, being only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points behind Miss E. C. Price, the winner, and two behind Mrs. Stevenson at the 2nd place.

**Change of Address:**—Hon. Sec., W. W. Bishop, Elm Bank, Edmund Street, Holyhead.

## OUR SHORT STORY.

By "GEN."

'Tis not in mortals to command success, but we've done more—deserved it; as the two stout A.P.O.s gasped when they met under the boilers,

## Civil Service Dramatic Society.

The performance of three one-act plays, followed by dancing, will take place in the Students' Common Room, Royal College of Arts, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, on the 22nd September, 1928, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Dancing will continue until midnight.

Tickets may be obtained at a cost of 3/-, which will include light refreshments, from the Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. W. Nash, 9, Palmers Road, East Sheen, S.W.14, or from any member of the Society.

The three one-act plays will be selected by impartial judges from amongst eighteen plays, produced and cast by members of the Civil Service and other Departmental Dramatic Societies.

A most enjoyable evening is anticipated, and it is hoped all devotees of dramatic art and lovers of dancing will attend.

## THE NON-MEMBER.

"The man who benefits from an Association without joining it is on the same level as the man who steals blooms from a grave and wins prizes at a Flower Show with them."

(With acknowledgments to the *County Court Officer* and the *New Civilian*.)

## Another Form of Work and Wait?

This is from *Beachcomber* in the "Daily Express."

A Scottish commercial traveller was snowed up. When he had managed to get into touch with his employer, he said: "I am snowed up here, and shall not be able to get on the road again for a week."

His employer replied: "Take your annual weekly holiday, as from yesterday."

## Customs Journal

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