

# The Customs Journal

No. 620

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Fortnightly

## CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
The Council Meets ... ..	149	Preventive Staff Association ... ..	154
Current Comments ... ..	150	Correspondence ... ..	154
Gleanings from the Past ... ..	151	Changes in the Staff ... ..	154
First Impressions ... ..	152	Cricket ... ..	155
Presentation to Mr. S. A. Neilson ... ..	153	Sports and Social ... ..	156

*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 COUNCIL MEETS.

AS mentioned in this column in the last issue, we are not able to publish the proceedings of the Council in session at Anderton's Hotel, London. The first day coincides with our day for going into print, and by the time the Council rises this issue of the "Customs Journal" will be ready for despatch.

There is something immensely thrilling about the P.S.A. Annual Conference, particularly when the members arrive and meet on the first morning. Some have arrived over-night to stay at Anderton's, and are already in the smoking room when the local members put in an appearance. Acquaintances are renewed and introductions made, and often we meet for the first time people we have corresponded with for years.

Despite an animated general conversation, the Conference opened a very few minutes after 10 o'clock, presided over for the first time by Mr. D. G. Thomson, who was elected to the presidency on the appointment of Mr. E. P. Madden (the late President), to the position of Chief Preventive Officer.

In declaring the Conference open, Mr. Thomson thanked the members for the confidence they had shown in electing him to the Chair. He went on to say that if the previous year had not brought forward much of a tangible nature, it certainly had shown marked progress, and he mentioned, among other things, the inauguration of open competition for entrance into the Department, and the floating of the Vocational Education Section with its tremendous success. Nothing had impressed the Official Side more than the anxiety of the P.S.A. to educate its younger members in the matter of their duties,

We had broken the ice and taken the plunge, and had definitely decided on action to prove our capability of performing the whole of the Lading and Shipping Duties, as well as what are at present known as Waterguard Duties. For many years we have been sowing the seed, and the time has now arrived when some of it is bearing fruit.

He reminded the Councillors that the P.S.A. is now one of the most highly-organised Associations in the Civil Service. It was not only safe to say this—it was true. He also reminded them that many of them are District Officers. The weakest spot in the organisation is in the Districts, and Councillors must be propagandists in their Districts. They must go back from this Conference and tell their people exactly what has been, and is being, done. Local Officers, also, should be better educated in the use of Whitley machinery. Local Whitley machinery should be used more in order that when cases come to London they may have much greater weight and power through having been thoroughly prepared and discussed in the first place.

A hearty welcome was extended to those who were attending their first Conference (there were eight new members). Appreciative reference was made to the late President, Mr. Madden. We had lost a very valuable member whose place would be difficult to fill.

The Conference proceeded with the discussion of the Annual Report, which is the report of the Executive Committee to the Council (this is a lengthy document and covers a tremendous amount of activity), and here we must leave it. As soon as is humanly possible, a report of the full proceedings will be prepared, and we confidently hope to be able to give it to readers in the next issue,

## CURRENT COMMENTS

THE definition of the term "non-member" will have been decided by the P.S.A. Conference by the time these Comments appear. It is one of the small but important points that definite in this connection, because many District Organisers have become hopelessly involved in their efforts to distinguish between the *non-paying member* and the real *non-member*. The latter appear to be extremely few, because somehow or other the former nearly always fiercely resent being called non-members . . . they have merely not paid up. There is, of course, much wisdom in this attitude. It enables one gracefully to slide back into pukka membership in cases of personal emergency—at least, until the emergency disappears. The thoroughbred members, however, don't like it a little bit, and that is why the Executive have placed before the Conference a scheme for clearly separating the genuine non-member from the non-paying member.

\* \* \* \*

There is no intention to be too hard on the member who falls into arrears with his subs. The degree of culpability varies considerably with the different cases. Sometimes slack methods of collecting are the cause of the trouble. Collectors, to be successful, must have a natural gift for the job; otherwise they are likely to provide excuses for luke-warm members to refuse payment. There are several other reasons for falling into arrears, and it not infrequently happens that inability to pay even small amounts of outstanding subscriptions is the cause of a member losing heart and ceasing to pay anything.

In future it will be possible to deal with such cases on clearly-defined lines. There will be no non-paying members, because each one will be given a fair opportunity of becoming a real member under honourable conditions, or of being consigned to the non-member category finally. The new rules, though firm, are not rigid enough to inflict hardship on any individual.

\* \* \* \*

Contrary to what might be expected, it is not at all an easy task to define a "non-member." It requires lengthy and complicated phraseology in order to make sure of things. The non-member is more easily described than defined, and, in fact, there are many concise and pithy descriptions in common use.

\* \* \* \*

It is the right of every Civil Servant in these days of Whitley to take his part in making the conditions by which he is controlled. If a man does not understand what are his rights, he certainly cannot do his duty fairly by his colleagues, or to himself and his family. If he does understand his rights and yet fails to assist in exercising them, then he is well described in the line by Cowper:—

"Who lives, and is not weary of a life  
Exposed to manacles, deserves them well."

The gentleman who drops out of his Association with the excuse that "the Association can do nothing for me," has a difficult job to avoid being labelled either as below the average in thinking-power, or, what is practically the same thing, as being in love with his manacles. The exception to this is, of course, the eccentric genius who imagines his manacles to be gold bangles.

\* \* \* \*

The cost-of-living figure for August must show an increase of at least four points above the July figure, which is 65, in order to avoid a drop of one-twenty-sixth in the bonus. The reduction, however, seems inevitable. The present bonus is based on the figure of 70, which is rounded up from an average of 67 1/3 for the preceding six months. For the five months of the current period the figures are: 64, 64, 64, 65, 65, giving an average of 64 2/5.

A reduction of one-twenty-sixth takes place for every complete five points by which the index figure falls below the original 100 figure.

\* \* \* \*

The impossible seems to have been achieved in connection with the new type of electric torch now issued generally to A.P.O.s—everybody is pleased with it. It is regarded everywhere as a useful and workmanlike article. A slight difficulty which has been experienced in some places regarding the suitability of the bulbs supplied, is now being put right.

Distribution is evidently causing a little trouble in some ports. The General Order is so perfectly clear that there should be no misunderstanding. Every A.P.O. employed on Waterguard work is liable at any time to be called upon to perform active work, even though normally he is employed on clerical duties or patrol duties. The intention is that he shall be fully equipped to carry out ordinary Waterguard duties at a moment's notice. Practically the only A.P.O.s not entitled to be supplied with torches are those engaged on Land duties.

\* \* \* \*

It is understood that about 40 Preventive Officers have been called for examination for Chief Preventive Officer. The written test will take place on the 27th inst. Amongst those called will be some second-time candidates.

Judging from the increasing popularity of the C.P.O. section of the V.E.S., many of the candidates have taken to heart the warnings given in the "Customs Journal" regarding the crucial nature of the written part of the examination.

\* \* \* \*

The three Assistant Preventive Officers who were successful at the examination for entrance to the Clerical Class have now been appointed Departmental Class Clerks. They are Messrs. Gilbertson, Milne, and Young, and have been attached to the Inverness, Dumfries, and Bristol Collections respectively.

The question as to whether these officers have bettered their prospects by transferring to another Grade has caused a good deal of discussion. There is, however, one thing they have well lost, and that is the prospect of spending about 40 years in a service where half their time would be occupied in carrying out onerous duties during the night hours. They have also secured the benefit of a weekly half holiday, together with Sundays and holidays off duty. An increase of eight days in annual leave will also be theirs.

We may well wish them luck in their new sphere.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the C. & E. Annual Sports, held at Chiswick on the 10th July, there was a goodly sprinkling of Waterguard people. The Inspector-General was present, and also Mr. F. C. Warne, Superintendent, and Messrs. Romans and Briden, Chief Preventive Officers, in addition to many other of the Waterguard Staff.

The Waterguard tug-of-war team were again successful. On this occasion they pulled against a team from the Debenture Branch. As these were the only teams in for this event, it was not a very satisfactory business. The London Waterguard ought to be able to produce at least two teams themselves. There are strong rumours that Gravesend intends to take the Cup from London next year. It is to be hoped they will have a try for it anyway.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is encouraging to note that the tendency shown by some of our supervising officials, during the past year or two, towards active interest in staff sports, is gradually increasing. There is no reason why the Department should not be in the forefront of sporting affairs in the Customs and Excise. We have the material, and if our chiefs lend a hand, we could turn out some good stuff.

A typical instance of hidden talent came to light in the last issue of the "Customs Journal," in the account of the presentation made to Mr. Pat Crimmins at Weymouth, on his retirement from the Service. Mr. Crimmins was well known in Liverpool, but there were few, if any, who knew of his prowess as a cricketer. It would appear that he did not commence to play for the Customs team until he was in his sixtieth year.

Another old Liverpool officer whose experience in sporting affairs would be of valuable assistance is Mr. T. E. Hargreaves. For many years he held the position of Vice-President of the Liverpool County Football Association, and only gave up the post when forced to do so through his promotion to Chief Preventive Officer some months ago. He has a wide knowledge of sports management and organisation.

No doubt there are many others with similar qualifications throughout the Department, and it is time we dug them out.

\* \* \* \* \*

A small error crept into "Current Comments" in the previous issue of the Journal. In referring to "Digger's" contribution, the year 1928 was quoted. This should, of course, read 1908.

## GLEANINGS FROM THE PAST.

By DIGGER.

### TARIFF NOTES by "OLD STILL."

(Reprinted from the "Customs Journal" dated 23rd September, 1905.)

#### "ARRACK," "SAM-SHOO," and "SAKI."

These beverages, produced and used frequently by Chinese and Japanese, are frequently met with on ships from the East, and have a small consumption in this country, chiefly amongst Easterns living in London. Arrack is a rice spirit, originally distilled from the fermented juice of the East Indian cocoa palm tree; but nowadays obtained from fermented rice. The rice is made into wort, on the lines of brewing and distilling, and after fermentation, is distilled. As imported it is almost colourless, with a grain spirit odour, and somewhat harsh to taste. It mellows and develops improvement with age. It is usually imported in bottle, and is admissible as U.C. spirits if, as is usually the case, free from obscuration. In the case of small quantities on board ship, however, where testing is not claimed, it is usually charged as mixed spirit at the 16.4 rate. As it is much under proof, and probably not sweetened, and therefore free from the bottle tax, the option of test should be suggested if the quantity is at all considerable.

Sam-shoo is practically the same class of spirit as Arrack.

Saki is the Japanese wine of rice. It is prepared from rice, which is first steamed, then impregnated with a ferment prepared from rice straw, and allowed to ferment until all the rice starch is converted to spirit. It is then clarified or bottled at a strength of about 24 to 28 degrees of proof spirit. It is charged at the spirit rate of duty at importation, and if in bottles, with the bottle tax. It has a pale sherry colour, with an odour and taste something like a dry Manzanilla sherry minus vinosity.

#### VERMOUTH.

This beverage may be called the "wine of wormwood," in the same way as Absinthe may be called the "spirit of wormwood." It is prepared by simply adding the alcoholic extract of the dried leaves of the wormwood shrub—grown largely in the Tyrol, in Italy, and on the Pyrenees—to a basis of white wine. It is therefore wine flavoured with wormwood, and hence comes under our tariff description, and rating as Wine. It almost invariably comes in at the lower rate of duty, viz., n.e. 20 degrees. . . . In the absence of test, Vermouth is brought to account as Wine a e. 42 degrees.

## "FIRST IMPRESSIONS."

By A PROBATIONER.

**T**HIS," said the Collector, "is the Chief Preventive Officer." I turned and found myself introduced to a sturdily-built gentleman who had a radiant face and a resplendent naval uniform. I had spotted him previously and had concluded that he could be none other than the First Lord of the Admiralty. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that this awe-inspiring personage was, from that moment, my chief.

Obedying his commands, I followed him to the Waterguard Office where, after having my hand nearly shaken off by several miniature C.P.O.'s, who wore only one ring, and by numerous undergraduates who had no rings, I was persuaded to partake of lunch. To avoid offending these good-natured fellows, who appeared to think that I had had nothing to eat for a month, I tucked in to a miscellaneous diet of sardines, jam, toast, kippers, etc.—stuff I hate.

Presently the company broke up in twos and went to their respective stations (so I was informed), and left behind a typical Londoner with a cherubic smile. This gentleman took me under his wing and escorted me round the docks, trying the while to explain the necessity for the C. & E. Service. As we paced this strange world of shipping my mouth opened and my eyes became filled with amazement (I am an inland youth and am very green). Observing my bewildered countenance, my guardian promptly warned me of the dangers of dock-side walking and told me to mind that bollard, this rope, that plank, this tarpaulin, that—. A few seconds later I was helping him to get out of the ash-tray of a steam crane. Whether he fell into it to add emphasis to his advice or to point out how easy it is to break one's neck, I have doubt, but certainly he didn't look a bit dignified in that ash-tray.

In about an hour's time we returned to the office where I met more fellows feasting. I was introduced to them and was requested to join in with their refreshments. Feeling more or less bilious after the last snack, I asked to be excused, but when they warned me of the danger of attempting to perform Waterguard duties on an empty stomach, I sat down at the table and pushed down my throat another instalment of sardines, jam, toast, kippers, etc., and tried to look as though I was enjoying myself.

"This chimney requires sweeping," said one of the company. "The sweeps were ordered weeks ago and its about time they came."

"Here they come," said I.

"Tut, tut man, that's the Rummage Crew. Allow me to introduce you, Mr. . . ."

Armed with a pair of overalls, electric torch, tuck-stick and jemmy, I again followed my guide (a P.O.), together with the Rummage Crew, who by this time had washed their faces and looked perfectly human. We went to a Danish ship, which was full of timber

right up to the platform where the captain stands, and I was told to hold a tape measure and go to the end of the timber. Where the end was I couldn't make out. The wood was sticking out all over the place; some pieces protruded a yard or more and some receded three yards. However, I found the end by—well, never mind how.

Later, we sought the skipper and to my surprise he was minus the venerable-looking white beard so familiar to me in the picture of a skipper on sardine tins. He spoke quaint English and, from the way he treated my P.O. I thought that, to the Danes, English people are as little gods. And then to the engine room. . . . One A.P.O. seemed to be hanging by his teeth fixed to a beam and trying at the same time to work his arm down a two-inch pipe. Another was digging himself in under the machinery; a pair of boots sticking sole upwards indicated the whereabouts of another chap in the greasy depths; and yet another was busily engaged sub-classifying the contents of the engineers' store room. The latter fellow engaged my attention and after searching for some time he found a blue packet of shag and was soon exhibiting the find to his brother acrobats with the glee and reverence of one who had found a great auk's egg. Then to the office, or restaurant, or whatever the place is called, where another probationer was being told by an elderly official that a crowd of people had taken samples of the dock water to place in baths for tired feet. Both of us thought intently. Certainly the water-level had gone down, but—could it be possible? Had so much been taken? Perhaps—er—he was leg-pulling. Anyway, was said nothing.

Next morning I was supplied with an "al fresco" uniform, which apparently had undergone the ravages of a Persian rag-market. The cap must have been an old one when St. Matthew left the job; the sleeves of the jacket hung down to my finger-nails, and the trousers, creased like crepe paper, were on their last legs. In fact, the most important part of them was on the point of leaving the seat of Customs!

Together with the P.O., I boarded a ship and was told to stand by the steps, or rather the gangway, while he hurried along to the saloon. (By this time I was getting acquainted with nautical terms and knew the meaning of bollard, deck and several new swear words.) Presently a voice from behind called out, "Good morning, Officer." I looked all over the show to find an individual likely to fit the title of Officer, but without success. Then the loud-voiced one peered into my face and said, "Good morning, Officer." Strewth, he was talking to me! This tickled my vanity. My bosom filled with pride and my out-size vest became so inflated that it would have burst if the P.O. had not appeared and told me to follow him to the store room and check

stores. We opened the cupboard, and what a queer collection of packages there were! Several lots of tobacco were wrapped in rope, unwashed stockings, old newspapers, red handkerchiefs, and so on. The P.O. didn't seem a bit surprised, and simply put the parcels on a spring balance in the manner of a tripe-dresser weighing tripe and said, "Correct!" After sealing up we left the ship, scurried round the station doing all sorts of strange jobs, and eventually wended our way to the friendly atmosphere of that institute of strange diet, the depot.

\* \* \* \*

In a moment of reflection, after several weeks' experience of Waterguard work, I concluded that an efficient Waterguard officer must possess more than five senses. He must have X-ray eyesight, be able to calculate swifter than a ready reckoner, have a memory like Datas, and the tact and affability of a politician canvassing votes, the ability of a journalist, a physique like Hercules, and must always have a spare laugh handy in case the C.P.O. cracks a joke. But, speaking most seriously, he must be able to tackle any sort of job, whether mental or physical. I say so because all the officials at my port do so all day long. Here, a P.O. goes round his work as though he were an encyclopædia of general knowledge; but where he acquires it is a mystery to me. No doubt the job is worth about £15 a week. Someone told me that they started at £160 per annum, but as I am young and inexperienced, I must submit to having my leg pulled occasionally.

\* \* \* \*

And now, having related my first impressions, I might as well mention that there is one ship in which I am particularly interested, and that is P.O.-ship. My colleagues tell me that periodically we are called to London to see about this ship, and between you and me, I am sometimes awake at night wondering whether the "stores" will be correct when my turn comes. Anyhow, we'll see!

## Presentation to Mr. A. S. Neilson.

The full staff of Leith was present at a gathering on Monday, June 25th, at the Custom House, to wish good luck to Mr. Neilson, Preventive Officer, retiring after 35 years' active service.

Mr. Smith, Collector of Customs and Excise, occupied the Chair, and spoke of the excellent qualities possessed by Mr. Neilson. The Collector read a letter from Mr. Skelton (Officer, Long Room), regretting his inability to attend and desiring that his good wishes and appreciation of Mr. Neilson's unflinching kindness be conveyed to his friend now entering his well-earned leisure.

Speeches in eulogistic terms, backed up by a sincerity that was especially noticeable, were made by Messrs. Angus, Grieve, Kerr and Crowe (Preventive Officers), and Mr. Groat (Assistant Preventive Officer), who also read a letter received from Mr. Keefe (C.P.O., Fishguard), wishing Mr. Neilson many happy years to come.

Mr. McDiarmid (Waterguard Superintendent) gave a vivid account of the merits of Mr. Neilson, and remarked that we were losing a friend as well as a colleague of the highest order.

Mr. Smythe (Chief Preventive Officer), in making the presentation (a two-valve wireless set with loud speaker), stated that he had never met a better officer anywhere and could only speak of our retiring colleague in the most brilliant terms. He asked Mr. Neilson to accept the token on behalf of the subscribers with every good wish for a long and happy life. Mr. Neilson, speaking under great stress of emotion, replied that he appreciated to a very great extent the kindness of all concerned. He felt the parting from his old colleagues very deeply.

The Committee, who organised the presentation, take this opportunity of expressing their grateful thanks to all those throughout the Service who have been so kind in subscribing towards the parting gift to Mr. Neilson.

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## OUR SHORT STORY.

By "GEN."

"Service; not Self—" as the A.P.O. observed when he stood aside to let the P.O. precede him up a very shaky-looking ladder.

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## Civil Service Joint Committee.

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### WAR BONUS. OUTSTANDING CASES.

Consideration by the Arbitrator, Mr. H. Claughton Scott, K.C., of the outstanding claims under the Sutton and other judgments is proceeding daily throughout the month of July. It is anticipated thereby that the great majority of the cases will have been dealt with by the end of the month. There will be an adjournment during August. Any cases which may remain will be completed after the holiday period and decisions will then be delivered.

In view of the exceptional pressure caused by the daily sittings, it is requested that enquiries and correspondence be reduced to a minimum during that period.

A. C. WINYARD, *Secretary.*

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The youngsters must be smart nowadays to prove their worth. One we heard of the other day had secured a job in a hosiery establishment, and was supplying a customer with some goods.

Customer: "Will this flannel shirt shrink?"

New Hand: "How does it fit?"

Customer: "Too large."

New Hand: "Of course it will shrink."

B.J.B.

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An American tourist, doing Italy, was eventually conducted to Vesuvius, at the time in eruption.

"Great, Bo!" he remarked. "Some central heating."

B.J.B.

## Preventive Staff Association

Head Office :

Thames Chambers,

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London, E.C.3.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President : E. P. Madden

General Secretary : J. Merron

Organising Secretary : J. T. Sutton

Assistant Secretary : W. H. Powell

### GARDIFF.

Mr. G. O. Warne (P.O.), occupied the Chair at a fairly well attended meeting at the Old Arcade Hotel on Friday, July 13th, the greater portion of the time being spent in discussing the agenda for the forthcoming Conference, both Councillors (Messrs. Griffiths and Densley), who were present, explaining the chief items in detail.

Monthly pay was discussed at length, and the meeting asked the Councillors to press for same, but to safeguard against any pecuniary loss.

The subject of four additional Councillors was debated, and the meeting was in favour of the proposal coming into force for the 1929 Conference.

It was noted with pleasure that Liverpool was returning to its old self and renewing its place in Association activity.

It was also pleasing to notice so many new members present taking a keen interest in the proceedings. Through an unfortunate oversight and owing to pressure in consequence of an unusually heavy agenda, these new members were not welcomed at the meeting, as was intended, and the officials and old members take the opportunity of doing so here and now in this report.

### SWANSEA.

A meeting took place at the Market Cafe, Oxford Street, Swansea, on July 20th, and included an excellent attendance from Port Talbot. Mr. Powell (P.O.) was Chairman.

Several items were discussed, which are on the agenda for the Council, particular attention being paid to the possibility of co-ordination between analogous grades in the Department.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

TO JULY 16th, 1928.

### PROMOTIONS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER,  
LOWER SECTION (unattached):—

Johnson, W. H. Whitstable, Dover to Office of  
I.G.W.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Crimmins, P. Weymouth.

Neilson, A. S. Leith.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Woodgate, J. E. Ipswich.

### VACANCY.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UPPER SECTION:—  
Middlesbrough, Sunderland. 17.8.1928.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.  
Bradbrook, S. Waterguard Superintendent, 2nd  
Class.

Galloway, R. Chief Preventive Officer, Upper  
Section.

## 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.*

### COMPETITION AND PROMOTION.

Sir,—May I appeal to your well-known courtesy to allow me, through the medium of your columns, to ask the writer of Current Comments how he arrived at the conclusion that I inferred, in my previous letter, that seniors would stand no chance against juniors in a competitive examination, and also in what manner he considers that my letter suggested incompetency on the part of the seniors?

It is also stated in Current Comments that some of those who have been through the mill are wondering what is the reason for so much opposition to reform. I wonder if these wonderers are on the right side of the hedge! It is my personal opinion that there are far more officers wondering what is the exact reason for the suggestion of the introduction of competition.

"Dante" was frank and honest when he drew our attention to the hopeless plight of a section of our members and suggested competition as a way out.—Yours, etc., "CEEARPEE."

## C. & E. Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund.

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Room 120 of the Custom House, London, on Monday, July 2nd, when Mr. R. Barnard, Vice-President, occupied the Chair. The Secretary reported that he had received over thirty letters from beneficiaries, thanking the Committee for the increases that had been made in the annual grants under Rule 23. A number were read, and it was evident that the additional money was of the greatest possible benefit in all cases.

From the financial statement submitted it was seen that the income for the quarter amounted to £599 16s. 11d., and of this £551 8s. 0d. had been disbursed in grants. Of this sum, over £300 was for the maintenance and education of children.

Ninety-four persons of all ranks in the Department were elected to membership.

The Committee re-elected Mr. Medwin as Treasurer, and also re-elected the former Visiting Committee. Mr. Ralph was elected to fill a vacancy on this Committee.

**CRICKET.**

**GRAVESEND CUSTOM HOUSE SPORTS CLUB  
v.  
LONDON WATERGUARD SOUTH SIDE  
CRICKET CLUB.**

The occasion of the second visit of the London Waterguard South Side Cricket Club to Gravesend on July 4th was blessed with good weather. We at Gravesend were pleased to welcome not only the team, but also the large number of their supporters, who included Mr. and Mrs. Fleet, Mr. Egan, and that ever-present sportsman, Mr. Evans, who never misses the opportunity of seeing Gravesend and London in opposition on the sports field. Gravesend supporters were also there in large numbers, including Mr. and Mrs. Ladhams. Mr. Ladhams has not been with us long at Gravesend, but has taken great interest in our Sports Club since taking up his duties here.

The match commenced with Gravesend winning the toss and electing to bat first. The score reached 13 (lucky number) before the first wicket fell, Thomas being bowled by Eve in attempting a big hit. The second wicket soon fell, Grey being out with the total at 15. The next wicket fell at 21, and two further wickets fell for the same total. Things began to look bad for Gravesend, as the score had only reached 33 before two more wickets fell. The game then veered round somewhat, the next wicket adding 10 runs, but the end soon came, and Gravesend were all out for 59, a total that did not seem big enough to make the home team confident of success.

Tea was taken before our opponents commenced their innings, and whether or not the interval had any effect on them, they commenced very disastrously, as their first wicket fell to the first ball

bowled, and another fell for the addition of two runs; but thanks mainly to Mr. Steers, 11 runs were added before the next wicket fell. After that no one seemed to be able to make any resistance against the bowling, and the South Side were all out for 33, Gravesend winning by 23 runs. Their success was due more to their goodly array of bowlers than to their batting.

After a further supply of light refreshment, our London friends departed for home. They say they hope to beat us at the return match at Eltham on AUGUST 1st. Whether they do so remains in the lap of the gods; but we are certainly looking forward to a fine game and, of course, fine weather—and may the best team win.

**CARDIFF**

Another victory was recorded for the Waterguard on Tuesday, July 11th, in a match at Penarth between the Cardiff (Waterguard) Cricket Team and the Penarth Presbyterian C.C., Cardiff declaring at 100 for eight wickets and getting their opponents all out for 16. The outstanding performances for the Waterguard were those of Gatheridge and Bray, the former scoring 45 and the latter taking nine wickets for 11 runs. A return match is being arranged.

A pleasant afternoon and evening was spent on Saturday, July 21st, at Spillers' sports grounds at Pengam (Cardiff) when the Cardiff (Waterguard) Cricket Team played Spillers' (Spillers & Bakers, Ltd.) Cricket XI, the game ending in a draw owing to lack of time. The score was, Cardiff 136 runs for three wickets (declared), and Spillers' 54 for seven wickets. Not content with proving himself a bowler in the last match, Bray knocked up a very fine score, being neatly stumped after scoring 72 runs. The weather was all that could be desired, and the tea laid out in the open (provided by Spillers') was greatly enjoyed by the players and their families.

**FILL IN THIS FORM NOW.**

The Secretary (V.E.C.),

Preventive Staff Association,

13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

Preliminary Course

Please enrol me for Intermediate Course (delete Courses not required) in Waterguard.

Advanced Course

Departmental Regulations. Postal Order payable to S. C. Steel, London, value.....(insert amount), enclosed.

Name .....

Address .....

Tutors:—Messrs. Angus, Fin'ey, Gardiner, Jeffreys, Lake, Sheehan, and Thomson.

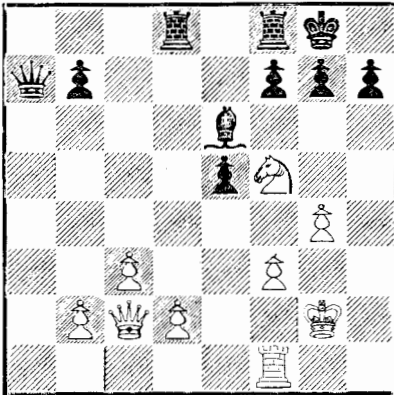
Please indicate Tutor desired, and choice of Tutors will be given as far as possible.

Fees: 10/0, 15/0, and 20/0 per term respectively.

## SPORT AND SOCIAL.

## Customs Waterguard Chess Club

## PROBLEM NO. 20.



White mate in three.

## Solution to No. 19.

1. Q — B 2. If 1. P — K 6, 2. P — Q 3,  
if 1. P — Kt 6, 2. R — B 1, if 1. Kt (B 1) moves  
2. Kt — Q 6, etc. (6 points).

## PROBLEMIST versus PLAYER—continued.

Problems are the Poetry of Chess. They show a player perhaps that, under certain peculiar conditions, and in certain peculiar situations, powerful pieces appear impotent, while the tiny Pawn may seem a veritable tower of strength; its simple march may lead, perhaps to a most unexpected development, or may constitute an unanswerable reply to a wrong first move. Problems are a distinct branch of Chess, which must not be confounded with the game itself. There are many fine players who are capable problemists, yet they view a game situation in a totally different light from that in which they consider a problem. Points in common to both problems and games are rarely to be met with: first, because in a problem the disparity in the forces is almost always great (and is not taken into account); and as the scorer of problems is so fond of saying, "Black would have resigned long ago!" Secondly, a problem is the deliberate fancy of a single mind—a mind, too, unfettered by what the opponent may do. How often has it happened, when playing Chess, that white foresees, with much suppressed excitement, that he can make a brilliant sacrifice which will cause the downfall of his adversary, on condition, however, that the latter makes a certain move? Then, all unconsciously perhaps, Black has done something else, and the "fireworks" which were to dazzle the onlookers are dummies after all! It is not so with problems. There we find these brilliancies are carefully preserved, embellished and perpetuated; if it is a good one, the solver cannot thoroughly master the problem without grasping the author's idea in all its

grace and strategy. Thus it will be seen that the problemist opens a field of entirely different situations and tactics, and that problems cannot be compared with games, any more than Billiards with Pyramids. One does not hear of billiard players deriding the game of Pyramids because it is so easy to make a cannon. There is no analogy between the two games, though played with the same materials.

So with games and problems. The object in a game is to beat your opponent. In nine cases out of ten a mate is never reached, and when it is, it is clumsy and inartistic. That of a problem is to exhibit some ingenious and unlooked-for idea in a stipulated number of moves.

## C. &amp; E. SPORTS.

Chiswick and the weather were at their best on Tuesday, July 10th, when the evening was taken up, in the presence of a large gathering of members and friends, in deciding the various athletic events. Several plucky attempts were made to win individual successes for the Waterguard. The Customs and Excise, however, boasts a number of famous runners, and to score against these would be success indeed. Our men certainly are not down-hearted, and will assuredly reappear again next year. The Chief Preventive Officers' Tug-of-War Challenge Cup was retained by the Waterguard.

At the end of the meeting, the prizes were presented by Lady Floud. Sir Francis Floud, replying to a vote of thanks on behalf of Lady Floud, heartily thanked the meeting for the welcome that had been accorded her, and for the compliment paid in asking her to come and give away the prizes. He was greatly impressed by the wonderful standard of athletic prowess displayed, and commenting upon the fact that he had nearly completed a year with us, said he was proud and happy to be the head of such a great Department.

## Lawn Tennis at Chiswick.

Since the commencement of the summer season, there has fortunately been only one week-end when rain stopped play altogether, and although Chiswick has had its share of high winds, members have not been prevented from taking full advantage of the courts, and the hard and grass courts are by no means suffering from disuse. Civil Servants who are considering whether to avail themselves of the splendid accommodation afforded by the Chiswick ground should lose no time in getting into touch with their Departmental Secretary, or direct with the Federation Secretary, Mr. A. C. Baker, 9, Defoe Avenue, Kew Gardens, Surrey, when full details as to membership will gladly be given.