

The Customs Journal

No. 627

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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.

A SILVER CELEBRATION.

DO you know that the "Customs Journal" is the oldest publication of its kind in the Civil Service? On April 9th, 1904, the "C.J." appeared for the first time, born at a time when the question of its success or failure was simply a matter of conjecture. Nobody at the time could have been certain whether the venture would receive sufficient support to ensure a long life, or whether it would be necessary to fade away after only a few issues had been put before those who would be expected to support. However, the value and usefulness of the paper must have been speedily recognised, for the "Customs Journal" still exists, and is considered to be of greater value to the Association to-day than ever it was. The spring of next year will see our silver anniversary, when a few retrospective remarks will surely make extremely interesting reading. It is not ill said that the history of the "Customs Journal" is the history of the Waterguard Associations from that time, and a history of Waterguard activity, based on the history of the "C.J.," would give the lie direct to those whose mission in life is to decry any claim to Association success. In looking through our files we are ourselves surprised at the fund of evidence which unfolds itself before us of the absolute necessity of an effective organisation to preside over and to protect our interests. What takes our attention repeatedly is the fact that negotiations have always been a tedious business. In fact, the results of negotiations reached in these

days are arrived at at express speed when compared with the work done in the old days. It is, as we say, surprising, and our existence of well-nigh a quarter of a century teaches us that we contain a fine record of progress.

In the last two issues we have drawn attention to just two items of success that have attended the efforts of Association action. These were naturally written to meet the eyes of those whose imagination allows them to pass comments accusing the Association administration of inactivity. We have put forward the view that a great deal of good work has been done by the Headquarters staff, and that that work has been done efficiently and well. Few people will deny that this is true. Still, it would be highly unfair if we allowed the Headquarters staff to get away with it all, deserving as they are of the highest praise. Surely, the ordinary member has done something in the scheme of things? He must have played some part that must have materially contributed towards success. We ourselves do not wish to detract from the ordinary member's importance to the Association; so, all being well, we will try to give this page to him in the next issue, and will endeavour to point out how he contributes his share, by doing justice to the real live member to whom the Association is a necessary machine, to be tended and kept running smoothly.

CURRENT COMMENTS

THE National Whitley Council at its meeting Committee to enquire into the present operation of the Cost-of-Living Agreement of 1920, and to make what recommendations seem desirable. A strong Staff Side for this Committee has now been appointed and there is every prospect of some interesting discussion on this important problem. It is rather a pity that the Committee's deliberations could not take place in public, because this would serve the two-fold purpose of letting the man-in-the-street gain a true idea of the Government's strictly economical attitude in regard to Civil Service pay; and would also impress Civil Servants themselves with the urgent need there is for giving solid support to their proper representatives in order to obtain justice.

* * * *

The kind of justice which the Civil Servant normally gets is indicated by an article which appeared recently in "Britannia"—a journal which has come into existence with the object of raising the tone of modern journalism. Sir John Foster-Fraser writes on "The Curse of Bureaucracy," and starts off with the following pleasantry:—

"If we had warm Latin or excitable Slav blood in our veins there would be a pogrom in London and the electric standards in Whitehall would be festooned with Civil Servants."

That is rather a good beginning, and the remainder of the article was quite in keeping with it. It was a plaster of abuse right to the end.

What Sir John might have mentioned is that the calm tolerance of the British Civil Servant makes it possible to write that kind of stuff with impunity. Had we excitable blood in our veins there is no doubt that one day the electric standards of Fleet Street would present a very interesting spectacle—and that locality could not possibly smell any the worse for it.

* * * *

There is evidence that many of the Customs and Excise staff are not quite happy in their minds as to what will be the effect upon themselves of the transfer to Somerset House of the work in connection with their Income Tax assessments.

Hitherto, these assessments have been dealt with inside the Department and the very efficient manner in which the work has been conducted has always been a source of satisfaction to the staff. The system was as near perfection as it could be, and, even if Somerset House can equal this, the staff in the C. & E. is bound to feel the great disadvantage arising through the lack of personal contact.

* * * *

Letters have appeared recently in the correspondence columns of the "Customs Journal," suggesting that the P.S.A. would increase its popularity if sick benefits could be provided from the Association funds, the argument being that

members become more enthusiastic when they see something tangible for their subscriptions. This is very true, but at the same time it is rather a pity that it should be true, because it really means that members would be more satisfied with even small results that can be seen without any trouble, than with the more important things that require thinking about in order to estimate their real worth.

Sick benefit schemes, and other schemes of similar kind, are always desirable if they can possibly be organised, but it must not be lost sight of that the first and most important duty of every man is to safeguard his rights as a wage earner. Membership of the Association provides this safeguard, and, at the moment, the P.S.A. is constituted for that purpose alone, the financial side being constructed to meet only those demands arising from furthering the interests of members in connection with their means of livelihood.

It is failure to properly understand the financial side that makes people imagine that the annual balance from P.S.A. funds could be used for any but Association purposes. To begin with, it should be noted that the surplus usually amounts to, roughly one quarter's subscriptions. Now, it is too often forgotten that members do not pay their subscriptions in advance. Remittances do not reach the Treasurer until the end of the quarter in respect of which they are paid. Association expenses are, of course, going on all the time, and thus it is that money has to be spent before it is actually received in the form of subscriptions. The surplus appearing in the annual statement of accounts is utilised for this purpose, and to imagine it is a lump sum that can be drawn upon for the payment of sick benefit is quite wrong.

* * * *

But even if this money could be available for other than Association purposes, it would have to be many times greater than it is in order to float a scheme that would be actuarially sound. Quite apart from the payment of benefits, there would be a good deal of expense in administration. Any scheme of this nature could not be undertaken with safety except as a special branch of the Association, and it would probably be necessary to employ someone permanently in order to ensure the constant and immediate attention which those people entitled to benefits would rightly expect.

* * * *

Nevertheless, there is no reason why the P.S.A. should not discuss the possibility of introducing a sick benefit scheme, and if this is really desired by the membership there is no doubt that a resolution in some form will eventually reach the Council with the object of having that discussion. It should be realised, however, that to bring such a scheme within the bounds of possibility it would be necessary to increase the present subscriptions considerably. Also, it would be necessary to get rid of the idea now entertained by some members,

that they are entitled to stop paying subscriptions whenever they think fit. An ordinary Association, possessed of a really case-hardened Treasurer who refuses to be disheartened by anxieties of this kind, can always manage to struggle against the handicap. But it would be absolutely fatal to any scheme which would ensure payments in case of sickness. It must be admitted, of course, that the *tangible* loss that would be suffered by defaulters might cause them to think longer before cutting themselves off from benefit.

* * * *

Members throughout the kingdom will be interested to hear that a number of London Waterguard officers have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, N.W.1, to form a class for receiving instruction in elementary law and police court procedure.

The College is a delightful place and has many attractions for the young man who desires to further his education in any subject. The social side is excellent and there is something to suit every taste. The Common Room is most inviting; there is an easy, friendly atmosphere about it. It is a kind of club room, comfortably furnished, where the students congregate for conversational intercourse. Meals, at most reasonable charges, are served in this room. There is also a large and well-equipped library where one may spend a quiet hour or so with a book, before a cosy fire.

The building is spacious and contains many other attractive features too numerous to mention here. London officers who have not already seen the place ought to make a visit.

All the tuition at the College is given voluntarily, and there is a fine spirit of good fellowship between the tutors and students. The conductor of the Waterguard class is an experienced member of the legal profession, and his practical knowledge of the kind of difficulties Waterguard people are likely to meet in police court proceedings is already proving most helpful to those who have joined the class.

In practically every large town facilities exist for the forming of such classes, although perhaps not under the same comfortable conditions, and probably, now that London has started the lead in this direction, other ports will follow.

* * * *

The first meeting of the new Executive elected at the Conference will take place on the 13th and 14th of November. There are one or two very important matters to be discussed at this meeting, in addition to the ordinary business which falls to the Executive directly from Conference instructions.

It will be a busy week for the Headquarters staff because it is intended also to hold a meeting of the Staff Side of the Waterguard Sectional Committee whilst the members of the Executive are in London.

* * * *

The cost-of-living figure at October 1st was 66. This is an increase of one point over the previous month. Milk, eggs, butter and coal have been responsible for this increase. A decrease in the prices of potatoes, bread, flour and sugar was recorded.

Cost-of-Living Bonus.

The National Staff Side has appointed the following persons to serve on the Joint Committee charged with the duty of reviewing the Cost-of-Living Agreement of May, 1920, viz., Messrs. W. E. Llewellyn (Chairman), G. Chase (Secretary), H. E. R. Alefounder, J. W. Bowen, W. G. Boys, W. J. Brown, J. Fielding, A. L. N. D. Houghton, F. A. A. Menzler, C. Smith, and A. C. Winyard. It is anticipated that meetings of the Joint Committee will commence almost immediately.

In accordance with an unanimous decision of the National Staff Side, an invitation has been extended to the Joint Consultative Committee to resume the four seats on the National Council originally occupied by them, and to accept representation on the Bonus Committee.

EASY TERMS.

As a result of conversations with certain of his colleagues, a correspondent writes to know if we may expect something of the following nature in the near future.

Mr. Probationer: I have called to see you with a view to becoming a member of your Association.

District Secretary: Pleased to meet you, Mr. Probationer. We shall be delighted to have you.

Mr. P.: Thanks, very much—now, how about terms?

D.S.: Oh! don't worry about terms; that's quite a minor consideration with us. You just suit yourself, and we do not require any references.

Mr. P.: Well, would it do if I just pay when I feel I can really afford it?

D.S.: Perfectly satisfactory, I assure you. I will sign you on immediately and you will receive, in due course, our little handbook, together with the life and fire assurance policy, post free.

Mr. P.: I should like to express appreciation of the manner in which you have treated me.

D.S.: That's quite all right—we are here to assist you. Perhaps I should explain that your membership entitles you to free medical attendance up to any amount, two weeks' holiday annually, first-class rail and hotel expenses paid for yourself and family, and a share in the firm's profits, which is usually distributed just before Christmas.

Mr. P.: The advantages are certainly exceptional, but tell me, do you think your people would assist me to purchase a small house when I get married in a few months' time?

D.S.: Most certainly; and the General Secretary himself will personally superintend the furnishing, etc.

Mr. P.: Really, Mr. District Secretary, I don't wonder everybody is talking about you.

"OPTIMIST."

(With apologies to a well-known advertisement.)

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office

Thames Chambers,

18, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.8.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

LONDON.

Local Joint Committee:—

The following members have been elected to the

Chairman—*J. T. Sutton.*

Secretary—*J. Pescod.*

Treasurer—*S. A. Stubbs.*

Messrs. *R. E. Dudley, W. R. Foster, M. J. Griffiths, W. E. Standing and R. A. Stocker (Preventive Officers); Messrs. H. Arnot, S. F. Bennetts, R. G. Foakes, J. Lynch, A. Massam, W. H. Powell and P. Spear (Assistant Preventive Officers), and R. G. Jones (Launch Service).*

The Gravesend Members are—*Messrs. G. Grey (P.O.), F. P. Smith (P.O.), J. A. O'Connor (A.P.O.), C. J. Prislely (A.P.O.) and S. Dines (A.P.O.).*

Local Whitley Committee—

Vice-Chairman—*J. T. Sutton.*

Secretary—*J. Pescod.*

Representatives—

London: *Messrs. Arnot, Dudley, Foakes, Powell, Spear and Standing.*

Gravesend: *Messrs. Dines, Grey and Prislely.*

Launch Service: *Messrs. Jones, Stubbs and Young.*

GRAVESEND.

Special District Meeting, held at the Labour Exchange on October 11th. Chairman, *Mr. E. L. Sharrock.*

The meeting was called to discuss Office Accommodation at Tilbury Docks.

The proceedings were opened with an explanation of the changed conditions brought about by the berthing of the vessels of the P. & O. Company in the far western part of the docks, the proposed new entrance, and other extensions. After much lively discussion on the subject resolutions were carried, and instructions were accordingly given to the local Whitley Representatives.

Mr. Priestley will act on the Local Joint Whitley and Local Whitley Committee until the election of an A.P.O. member, *vice Mr. Camburn* (promoted), at the next meeting.

SOUTHAMPTON.

A successful meeting was held at the Alexandra Hotel, Southampton, on Thursday, October 19th. The items dealt with were mainly of local importance.

Particular attention was paid to the depleting of Rummage and Baggage Crews, and to the sending

of Station Officers away from their stations for periods of four or five hours.

The following Officers were elected Local Whitley Representatives:—*Messrs. Stanford and White (P.O.s), and Messrs. Moody and Keeble (A.P.O.s).*

SWANSEA.

At the "Market Cafe" on the 19th October, *Mr. H. E. Bevan* in the Chair. The members present included officers from Port Talbot.

Among the items discussed were District Representation, Probationary A.P.O.s' Leave, and also the present summer periods of leave of the A.P.O. grade. Other questions of local and general interest were discussed, following which the annual election of officers was conducted, the result of which was as follows:—

Chairman—*Mr. R. Roy (A.P.O.).*

Deputy-Chairman—*Mr. McEnaney (P.O.).*

District Organiser—*Mr. W. J. Bittel (P.O.).*

District Secretary—*Mr. A. G. Colburn (A.P.O.).*

Whitley Representatives—

P.O. Grade: *Messrs. McEnaney and Jones.*

A.P.O. Grade: *Messrs. Colburn and Ford.*

"Customs Journal" Correspondent—*Mr. B. J. Burge (P.O.).*

MIDDLESBROUGH.

At a meeting held at Middlesbrough last week, with *Mr. Watkins* in the Chair, the question of promotion from the P.O. to the C.P.O. Grade received a lengthy discussion, and underwent a fair amount of criticism. As a result, a resolution was passed disagreeing with the policy of adopting the principle of promotion by order of merit in this connection, and gave the opinion that a vote of the Districts should be taken.

The meeting later passed on to the question of Office Accommodation, which was dealt with as a Staff Side Whitley Meeting.

Election of Councillors.

The members stationed in the Areas concerned are hereby informed that the following members have been nominated for the position of Councillor in the Area indicated:—

Area.	Grade.	Name.
London.	P.O.	<i>Mr. R. E. Dudley.</i>
		<i>Mr. M. J. Griffiths.</i>
		<i>Mr. T. O. Hughes.</i>
		<i>Mr. A. E. Stuart.</i>
Liverpool.	P.O.	<i>Mr. R. O. Kewley.</i>
South Wales.	P.O.	<i>Mr. G. E. N. Griffiths.</i>
South Coast.	A.P.O.	<i>Mr. S. E. D. Ball.</i>
		<i>Mr. A. Boughton.</i>
Gravesend.	A.P.O.	<i>Mr. J. A. O'Connor.</i>
		<i>Mr. C. A. Timby.</i>
Hull.	P.O.	<i>Mr. P. W. Howard.</i>
Scotland.	A.P.O.	<i>Mr. J. Johnstone.</i>

Messrs. Kewley, G. E. N. Griffiths, Howard and Johnstone have been duly declared elected. Voting will take place immediately in the remaining areas, and the ballot papers have been circulated. The closing date for the receipt of the same is the 30th of November. The election for the A.P.O. Councillor for the Tyne Area will take place later.

For the Executive Committee,

J. T. SUTTON, Organising Secretary.

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.

LOOK FORWARD.

Sir,—A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of discussing Association affairs with an outport officer, and I was very surprised when he told me that at his port the members took very little interest in their Association, except to criticise the methods adopted. While reasonable criticism is at all times healthy, it must be remembered that destructive criticism is the easiest form of effort.

It is the duty of every member, if he is not satisfied with the policy of the P.S.A., to let our officials at Headquarters know his reasons. I feel I shall be right in stating that this is just what our Association officials require. I should strongly advise any member who has a grievance, or thinks he has one, to get in contact with Headquarters. I can guarantee him satisfaction.

It is my opinion that the present Association is composed of good fighters, who have the best interests of the grades in mind, and who are prepared to go all out for a policy which is for the common benefit of the grades. But do they obtain the support they should from the members of the Preventive Staff? I unhesitatingly state they do not. The majority of the younger members take no interest at all in the affairs of the Association. They seem to think that when they have paid their subscriptions they have done all that is required of them, and hope that some kindly-disposed officers will arise who will sacrifice their leisure time to fight their battles.

It is not realised that the best engine in the world will not move without steam, and no Association can be effective unless it has enthusiasm and interest to encourage it in its efforts. The older members of the Association have done their best to raise the grades to their present standard, and if further benefits are to come our way the younger members must wake up and realise that a great deal depends on their interest and support in the future.

What our Association requires is not destructive criticism, but helpful, sympathetic and keen interest on the part of its members. When this has been obtained the Association can advance with courage and confidence towards a definite end—the betterment of the grades concerned.

It is pleasing to note that in London a number of the young members are taking a live interest in things, but there is still a great amount of room for improvement if London is to maintain its proud position. It is hoped that at the next branch meeting there will be a record attendance. It is the duty of each member who can possibly attend to do so. It would be instructive and useful to himself, and his attendance would be encouraging and helpful to those who are giving of their time, brains and energy to further the interests of the Department to which we belong.—Yours, etc.,

“ENERGY.”

Open Letter to Assistant Preventive Officers.

In some ports there is a tendency to deprecate the Vocational Education Scheme, so far as it affects A.P.O.s, promoted, no doubt, by selfish motives. On the other hand, it is felt that a little more prominence given to the scheme may not only convince those who at the moment are critical of its methods, but others who may be dubious as to its advantages.

In the first place, it has been the dominant element in the policy of the Vocational Education Committee to give their best in the interests of the members of the P.S.A. On them lies the responsibility of formulating all questions and lesson papers to those who desire to avail themselves of the unique offer placed before them. It is considerably in advance of the old system; this is borne out by the fact that immediately the V.E.S. was put into operation the Committee were almost inundated with questions seeking interpretations on this and that, while others were contentious points for definite rulings. It proved conclusively the inconsistencies that existed and the necessity for the present system, with the result that the questions have been satisfactorily dealt with. Furthermore, the outstanding successes at the last examination were ample evidence of its effectiveness.

To those A.P.O.s who have not sent in their applications, and to those who are not quite conversant with the exact details of this section, it will be useful if some mention is made of the advantages that accrue from the V.E.S. There are three distinct sets of papers, consisting of PRELIMINARY, INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED courses. The first is designed for the young A.P.O., to assist him in the requirements of his office, and by gradual stages he becomes involved in the interesting studies of the regulations. Each paper is covered by a lesson paper wherein very useful and essential information is given for his guidance. At the conclusion of each course, a test paper on his previous work is given. The danger of a student having explanatory or lesson papers of a complicated nature invariably led to confusion of thought. This has been avoided, and, as far as practicable, the principle is confined to lesson and question papers on one subject. It is so arranged that it is not only fascinating, but is simplicity itself.

Having gone through this gentle stage, he automatically passes on to the Intermediate class. Here he finds questions demanding more detail—yet far from difficult—observing the fact that he has been training and leading up to this stage. This series of questions is in itself interesting and has proved of inestimable value.

On completion of this course he will see that every page and paragraph of importance, together with the relevant G.O.s, have been touched upon throughout the Revised Instructions. This, then, prepares him for the all-important Advanced Course, colloquially speaking, “a finishing-off process.” It covers a splendid range of questions on every conceivable point, and is framed on examination lines.

Another direction in which to obtain the confidence of those interested is that the P.S.A. has secured the services of the most experienced and competent tutors. They have generously given their whole-hearted support. This, undoubtedly, is a happy combination.

I strongly recommend all ambitious A.P.O.s who have not sent in their applications to do so. There is no excuse for delay. Many have joined and more are joining. They apparently know a good thing when they see it. Seize the opportunity, and remember that apathy in this connection is no friend of yours.

A word to those who are studying on their own. They will find that they will require just that guiding influence to help them along. Here is a chance to take up a course suitable to them.

To those who would belittle the scheme I would say, experience teaches. The V.E.S. stands for Efficiency and Progress.

"COMMUNE BONUM."

Two Interpreters Necessary at Swansea.

The discovery of 1,250 cigarettes, in boxes of 250, amongst the clothing of a Chinese on board a vessel, of which he is ship's cook, led to the appearance of the said cook before the Stipendiary at Swansea on October 24th. According to the "South Wales Daily Post," the cook told the Customs he did not have any cigarettes, but those determined men would not take his word for it, and according to the evidence found the cigarettes under some clothing.

When the case was called, a bespectacled Chinese stepped forward as interpreter. While he translated the charge to the offender, that person appeared to have no interest in the case. So detached did he appear that the Stipendiary was prompted to ask the interpreter if he thought the prisoner understood.

Following a voluble dialogue—quite lurid to English ears—the interpreter announced that he and the prisoner did not understand each other owing to dialect difficulties; whereupon a third Chinese came forward and offered his assistance. After a "three-cornered" battle in Chinese, it transpired that No. 1 interpreter could make himself understood to No. 2 interpreter, who could make himself intelligible to the prisoner.

The scene which followed made the orations of the legal profession look feeble from a point of volubility. Eventually, the information that the prisoner had nothing to say in answer to the charge was conveyed to the Court, amidst exclamations of wonder.

Envy was written on every face when it was stated that packets of cigarettes, which are sold for 6d. in this country, cost 1d. in China—the Stipendiary elected to take the English valuation.

The cook's love of nicotine cost him a fine of £5 5s. 6d., £2 2s. 0d. for the interpreter, and costs.

The goods were found by Mr. McGrath, a member of the rummage crew, under the supervision of Mr. J. R. Conibear, P.O.

Mr. F. Blewitt, C.P.O., conducted the prosecution.

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

The Quarterly Meeting of the Executive was held on October 1st in the Custom House, London, under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. Morton (Vice-President). There was a good attendance of members.

The financial statement for the quarter ended September 30th, showed that the amount received in subscriptions amounted to £516, and that there had been paid in grants for the maintenance and education of children £330, and to widows in necessitous circumstances £120.

Fifty applications for membership of the Fund were accepted by the Committee. A little over fifty per cent. of the applications were from members of the Clerical grades.

Preston District Presentation.

At the Custom House, Workington, on October 18th, officers from Preston, Harrington, Maryport and Silloth met to bid adieu, and make a presentation, to Mr. A. F. Phillips (P.O., Silloth) on his retirement.

The presentation, consisting of a barometer suitably inscribed, accompanied by an umbrella for Mrs. Phillips, was made by Mr. A. E. Gallant, C.P.O. He spoke of Mr. Phillips' sterling character and zeal for the Service, and wished both he and his wife long life, good health and happiness in their retirement. Speeches were made by the other officers present, who unanimously endorsed their Chief's remarks. Mr. Phillips feelingly replied, and the gathering dispersed amid a feeling of mutual cordiality and good fellowship.

Hospitals Saving Association.

Members are requested to note that Mr. H. J. Humphries, whose address is "The Laurels," Ranccliffe Road, London, E.6, has very kindly undertaken the Group Secretaryship of Group D.582, and as he already has a group of London officers, the members of Group D.582 have been transferred to his Group, No. E.1010. All correspondence should be addressed to him at the above address, the new Group number being endorsed on the letter, *i.e.*, E.1010.

May I take this opportunity of thanking those officers who acted as Collectors for me, hoping that they will carry on for their new Group Secretary. I also wish to thank the other members who were prompt in making their contributions. To those who are not so prompt I feel I ought point out that delay causes a deal of unnecessary trouble to the Secretary. It must be borne in mind that Green Vouchers are not, under the H.S.A. rules, to be issued to any member in arrears. This might cause much inconvenience in the case of sudden illness.

The number of members in the two Groups now amalgamated totals over 130 officers of the Preventive Staff.

W. W. BISHOP.

Vocational Education Section.

Police Court Procedure.

LONDON'S VENTURE.

The time is now opportune to again remind those members of the Waterguard Department who have their future at heart, that the above section of the P.S.A. is still in existence. It has now developed into a smoothly-working machine, offering exceptional facilities at a very moderate cost to prospective candidates at the next examination for promotion to the rank of Preventive Officer. The range of questions given deals with every phase of the Departmental regulations and are checked by the best tutors throughout the U.K.

Holidays and light evenings have gone, and the opportunity now presents itself for a gradual course of study which will prepare the candidate for his examination, and which will inspire him with the utmost confidence.

Do not put the matter off until a later date. Give it your consideration NOW—it will be worth your while. Remember the result of the last examination, when the honours went to the V.E.S. students.

Particulars of the scheme will be gladly supplied on application to the P.S.A. office.

S. C. STEEL,
Secretary to the Vocational
Education Committee.

The District Officials of London are to be congratulated on their courage in accepting the opportunity of forming a class for the study of Police Court procedure and Law, as affecting our Department. The interest displayed up to date promises well for ultimate success. At the moment the procedure is a lecture on various phases of the rules of evidence, followed by open discussion based upon questions propounded by the students. The real value of the lectures cannot be rightly gauged until the series comes to a close. Despite the fact that the majority of Waterguard Police Court cases are conducted by officers of that Department, there is no doubt that there is much to learn that will be useful in the future.

Later in the season the class will probably assume a more practical aspect in the shape of debates, with possibly an occasional mock trial, in which any weak points that may have been adopted in the past will be brought into the limelight and rectified.

The class is meeting every Friday evening at the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London, N.W. Its composition, mainly members of the P.O. Grade, contains representatives of three grades of the Preventive Staff and numbers at the moment nineteen students.

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 P.S.A., London, value.....(insert amount), enclosed.

Name

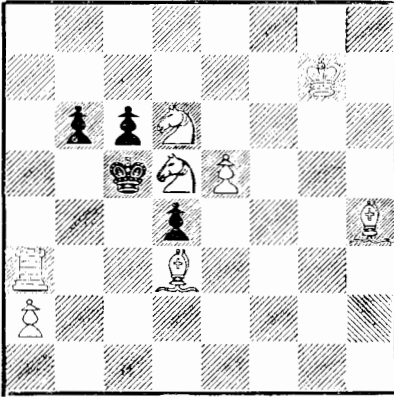
Address

Tutors:—Messrs. Angus, Finley, 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. 26.



By LOPEZ RINCON.
White to mate in three moves.

Solution to No. 25.

- 1. Q-K Kt7. 1. K-B3 2. P-B5
 - if 1. K-Q3 2. Kt-Kt5+
 - if 1. K-Kt3 2. Kt-Kt5
 - if 1. KxP 2. Q-Q4+
- and 3 mates accordingly (9 points).

The following matches will be of interest to all Chess players in the Service:—Nov. 24th, Essex v. Civil Service, 50 boards; Dec 15th, Surrey v. Civil Service; Feb. 9th, 1929, Kent v. Civil Service. July 29th to Aug. 10th, British Chess Federation Congress at Ramsgate.

Sections I and II. Round 2 begins 1st November, 1928, and Round 4 in Sections III and IV, and unfinished games in the later Sections, are due for adjudication on the 31st October, 1928.

EARLY CHESS (continued)

The End Game.

The End Game is the chief feature in the early Chess literature, both in Muslim lands and in Europe. Of these, which include what we should call Problems now, about 550 have come down to us, and are included in Mr. Murray's work. Of these I have selected one, and hope that it will give pleasure. When one gets over the strangeness of a K attacking a Q, or a B checking through another man, it will be found that these early positions have at least as great merit as the problems of the beginning of the 19th Century, and the win by "Bare King" is quite as much, according to the inmost nature of things, as is the only win we now acknowledge, by checkmate; which way of winning would, in the old days, have been comparatively infrequent owing to the scanty powers of the Q and B.

1 k 1 Kt3 r; 5 R R1; b p 3 P1 p; r p4 Q1; 2 kt Kt3 kt; q P3 p2; K3 p3; 8. Black to play and win.

Solution and The Game in the Middle Ages to be continued.

C.S.C.A.—The annual report of the Civil Service Chess Association and its Municipal Chess League has been issued. After commenting on the World's Record Chess Match between the Association and "The Rest," 508 aside (The Rest won, 297½—210½), it notes that all other matches played last season were won and included the scalps of Surrey, Kent, Essex, the London and Oxford Universities.

The Patent Office won the "BONAR LAW" Trophy from 10 other entrants. J. Mahood won the Individual Championship with E. J. Price as runner-up. The Patent Office also won Section 1 of the League, in which there are five sections with about twelve teams in each (and the Waterguard Club hopes shortly to have a team of London Officers in this League).

Civil Service Dramatic Society.

The Civil Service Dramatic Society has decided on the presentation of "The Silver Box," by John Galsworthy, for its next production, to be held at the Scala Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, on the 19th and 20th November next. This play will be preceded by an original one-act play on both nights. "The Net," by Miss Gates, of the Money Order Department, Holloway (the winning play in the recent One-Act Play Competition), will be produced on the 19th November, and "The Last Joke," by Mr. Evans, of the Post Office Savings Bank, W.14, on the 20th November.

While the selection of another play by John Galsworthy might lead to severe criticism from some quarters, the success of this author's play, "The Skin Game," so ably presented by the Society last March, will be vividly recollected, and it is hoped that "The Silver Box" will justify its selection this season.

The following revised terms of annual subscription for Honorary Members have been instituted to operate forthwith:—

- £1 1s. 0d.—2 5/9 Stalls or Dress Circle for each production.
- 15s. 0d.—2 4/9 " " " " "
- 10s. 0d.—2 3/6 " " " " "
- 6s. 0d.—2 2/4 Pit Stalls or Circle for each production.

Forms of membership for Acting or Honorary Members and applications for tickets at the above prices are obtainable from the Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. W. Nash, 9, Palmers Road, East Sheen, or from any member of the Society.

Football Fixtures.

LONDON NORTH SIDE CLUB.

- November 8th—v. L.G.O.C. (East Ham) (away).
- November 15th—v. Victoria Dock Police (home).
- The next North Side Club dance will be at the New Harmonic Hall, Plashet Road, East Ham, on December 7th.