

The Customs Journal

No. 625

October 6th, 1928

Fortnightly

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	197	Correspondence	201
Current Comments	198	Civil Service Confederation	202
Customs Fund	199	Old Time Smuggling	203
Preventive Staff Association	200	Sports and Social	204

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.

WE have a very decided aversion to this page bubbling over to the next, for we like Current Comments to commence at the top. This is one reason for cramming our few remarks on Complaint (which could easily fill an edition) into the small compass of this page. There is another subject upon which much could be written, and to which many pages could be devoted, and that is Association Achievement; indeed, were it possible to set down an account of the discussions, the anxious thought, the Staff Side and Official Side meetings, the postponements, the doubt attendant upon each concession great or small, readers would gather some idea of the difficulties that are always ready to beset the path of a negotiator acting on our behalf. It should be well borne in mind by each member that every small concession gained has necessarily been won after ceaseless and patient study of the subject.

Correspondence and conversations betray the fact that the membership generally possesses but a very hazy idea of the value of the work that is actually performed by Association leaders. Take the year's work reported at the last Conference, for instance, and ask any member what was the most valuable and important work done by the Association during the past year. How many would answer "Recruitment"? Very few! And yet we have no doubt whatever in our minds that this has been the biggest

step forward for very many years. This result was not reached in a day. Indeed, discussions were spread over a considerable period, often wearying, often disappointing, for it was necessary to convince the Official Side that a change in the method of recruitment to the Preventive Service would be of ultimate benefit to the Crown. To have initiated discussion on such a subject, which has now resulted in entrance to the Service through the channel of competitive examination, shows a high degree of courage and vision on the part of the Council and Officers of the Association. Twenty or so years ago the entrance was by the old nomination system, which gave way to the claims of limited competition. Progress has taken us a step further—to open competition. The Service has improved out of recognition since the nomination days. We claim duties of increased responsibility with the complete confidence that we can perform those duties with credit. That claim is now infinitely stronger by reason of the fact that the door is now open whereby the Department can assimilate men who will be able to follow, and undoubtedly improve upon, the traditions that we pass on to them.

We are continually up against the man who says that the Association does nothing. He is in much worse case than a blind man, for a blind man cannot use his eyes.

CURRENT COMMENTS

At the Association Headquarters it has become a common event to receive a post card intimating during the recent summer season, quite a that some member, on holidays in the vicinity of London, intends to pay a visit to Beer Lane for the purpose of discussing local affairs, and to get first-hand information on Association activity generally.

In spite of the fact that the Association office is about the busiest place one could step foot into, these visits are far from unwelcome. They are in fact encouraged by the Association leaders, because it is believed that the more widely it is realised what the Headquarters establishment actually is, and what it does, the more loyal will be the support from the membership.

There is, unfortunately, a good deal of evidence indicating that full appreciation of the value of the Headquarters organisation is not forthcoming from the members generally. This fact is fully borne out by the very interesting conversations that usually take place when a provincial visitor calls at Beer Lane. Half-an-hour's talk, right on the spot where there is overwhelming evidence of the useful everyday service which the Association gives its members, is sufficient to convince the most sceptical visitor that our organisation is more than justifying its existence. But, too often is it true that our friends from the provinces express surprise at the volume of work dealt with daily, and also at the numerous side-lines of Association activity, the existence of which they had not hitherto suspected.

Almost invariably the parting remark of these visitors is: "If only the people at my port could come and see these things for themselves, they would understand and be more enthusiastic." This is an expression of opinion resulting from only one brief investigation into the inner workings at Headquarters.

Clearly, even amongst those who are well disposed towards the men who take up the burden of Association work, there is a somewhat hazy notion as to what that work entails. It is to be expected, therefore, that those who are naturally ill-disposed will make capital out of this when engaged in that charming and manly pastime of undermining the reputations of Association workers. These are the people who, even if forced by plain facts to admit that the daily turnover of work in the P.S.A. is great, will irresponsibly assert that at least half of it is useless and not required by the members; that our leaders are wasting their time on futile things. It is so very easy to make statements of this type—especially if care be taken not to make them at a meeting where Association officials might defend themselves. The depot, or the retiring room, is normally the place where these destructive merchants blow off their hot air. The hall-mark of their talk is that it leads nowhere and is merely damaging—it is the talk of inaction. There is, indeed, much truth in the words of Carlyle:—"Speech that leads not to action, still more that hinders it, is a nuisance on the earth."

It will be easily seen why the Association leaders are anxious that as many members as possible take advantage of the opportunity to obtain a "close-up" view of the P.S.A. machine in full act on; constructive action; progressive action. It is the most effective means for spreading the truth which will confound the sedition-mongers in their nefarious subterranean practices.

In the records at Beer Lane there is ample evidence for any member who cares to investigate regarding the benefit of Association activity to members, individually and collectively. There has never been an instance where a member who could justly claim assistance has appealed for assistance in vain. Numerous letters giving grateful acknowledgment of services rendered are in existence.

There is a continual demand for advice, from ports all over the country, in connection with questions of staffing, local grievances generally, and the methods for dealing with them in Whitley. Frequently this involves the solving of intricate problems, requiring a close attention always freely given from Headquarters.

In addition to all this, constant activity and vigilance is necessary, in order to further P.S.A. policy as laid down at each successive Annual Conference. The work done in this connection, and in watching Waterguard interests generally, is both important and extensive.

The best way for the ordinary member to obtain full realisation of all this is by a personal inspection of Headquarters; and that is why visitors are welcomed.

* * * *

With reference to G.O. 82/1928, dealing with promotion to the Officer grade, the Association has been severely criticised in some quarters because of the age limit imposed. One view is that all ex-Service men should be eligible; and another is that opportunity should be open to the whole of the Waterguard.

The point which is entirely overlooked is that when an age restriction is imposed in such cases, it is not done without a definite reason. In this instance the reason will be obvious to anyone who knows anything at all about Officer Grade work and conditions. Unattached service is quite unsuitable for any but comparatively young men. The only difference of opinion there could be is on the question as to what age the description "comparatively young" ceases to apply. There can, of course, be scores of opinions on this, but the Official view is that 30 years is the limit.

The maximum age for normal recruitment of the Officer Grade is 21, and it does not seem to be fully appreciated that to raise this to 30, in order to facilitate the selection of Waterguard officers for the Officer Grade, is by no means a small concession. Because it has been impossible to extend the age further, some members are ungracious enough to blind themselves to the fact that it is entirely due to Association effort that Waterguard officers are allowed to apply for these posts.

The news that applications for promotion have been numerous is, however, some satisfaction for our representatives who obtained the concession. It is also to be noted that one lonely little letter of real appreciation appeared in the last issue of the "Customs Journal."

* * * *

Development of the campaign in connection with the ALL-SERVICE PROGRAMME, details of which have already been published in these columns, is steadily progressing. It is hoped that District Officers in the large ports are keeping in touch with the movement. All Waterguard officers should take a lively interest in this business, and particularly those on the lower salary scales.

A very strong Committee has been formed in London, comprising representatives from a large number of Associations, including the P.S.A. This Committee is on the lines of the Civil Rights Defence Committee, which did such good work in combating attacks on the Service.

* * * *

Speaking of attacks on the Service brings to mind that a new weekly journal, "Britannia," has recently made its appearance with the avowed intention of rescuing the journalistic profession from the clutches of the modern newspaper combines.

Gilbert Frankau, who is directing this new publication, makes reference, in a very interesting leading article, to the dominating newspaper influences which are demoralising the journalists of to-day.

Such a periodical deserves to be successful, and, since "Britannia" has decided merits of its own, apart from its missionary intentions, there seems every prospect of it becoming firmly established.

If this should be so, and any real headway is made in the reforming of those terrible journalists, it would not be a bad idea if, as a penance, they were given the job of writing some really good, common-sense stuff, regarding the finest Civil Service in the world. How many sins could thus be blotted out!

Smuggling at Barry Dock.

At the Barry Police Court on September 14th, the donkeyman of the steamer "Dunafree" from Rotterdam was fined £50 or two months' hard labour for smuggling 3½ lb. of raw opium. The goods were found by Mr. W. W. Buchanan, P.O., J. W. Lambert and A. R. Sture, A.P.O.s, concealed in drawers and on ledges in the offender's berth.

Mr. F. Cornish prosecuted on behalf of the Crown.

HOKEY.

"Hard luck, old man," said a P.O. to another, who had recently visited London, "but never mind—you've still another chance."

"Rot!" exclaimed the disappointed one. "I PASSED the written test."

POKEY.

CUSTOMS FUND.

ELECTION TO DIRECTORATE.

The following letter has been received on this subject:—

Secretaries' Office,
Custom House,
London, E.C.3.

Gentlemen,

In response to the request of a number of colleagues who are subscribers to the Customs Fund, I have decided to accept nomination for the vacancy on the Directorate caused by the resignation of Mr. John L. Mackie, C.B.E.

In making this preliminary announcement, I beg to ask for your support, and assure you that, if elected to the position, your interests and the stability and prosperity of the Fund will have my most careful attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) JOHN S. SUTTON.

September 19th, 1928.

Presentation at Belfast.

At the Waterguard Office, Belfast, on September 24th, another of the port's frequent happy events took place in the presentation of a leather suit-case to Mr. W. McKenna, A.P.O., on the occasion of his transfer to Liverpool.

Mr. E. R. Norman, C.P.O., presided, and after addressing the meeting, called upon Mr. McDonald, A.P.O., to make the presentation. Mr. McDonald spoke very highly of Mr. McKenna, and hoped he would never forget his old associates at Belfast.

Complimentary speeches were made by members of the staff of the port, and Mr. McKenna, in responding, said he would always carry with him memories of the happy days spent in the port of Belfast.

Presentation at Barry Dock.

At the Waterguard Office, Barry Dock, on September 22nd, Mr. W. H. Hore, A.P.O., was presented with a barometer to mark the occasion of his transfer to Dover.

Mr. F. Cornish, C.P.O., presided, and opened the proceedings with a tribute to the sterling qualities shown by Mr. Hore, and was followed by Mr. Nicol, P.O., who made the presentation. In performing this duty, Mr. Nicol spoke in glowing terms of the willing and happy disposition displayed by Mr. Hore in performing his duties, and wished him every success in his new port. Other speeches were made by Messrs. Hopkins, Costain and Buchanan, P.O.s, and Messrs. Sture and Bugler, A.P.O.s. Mr. Hore responded, and sincerely thanked his colleagues, not only for the present, but for the happy days spent with them at Barry, and for the spirit which had prompted the present gathering.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office:

Thames Chambers,

18, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.3.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Poccell*

LONDON.

London discussed the report of the Council of 1928 at a meeting of the District held at the St. Katherine Dock Hotel on September 28th. Both Councillors were present.

Before proceeding with the Conference discussion, several local matters engaged the attention of the meeting. A question was asked regarding the new London Port Scheme, and it was reported, in reply, that the Official Side were doing their utmost to put the scheme into operation, and it was understood that it was now only a question of launches and launch crews.

The necessity arose for electing a new District Organiser, and the choice fell upon Mr. R. A. Stocker, P.O.

In reporting on the doings of the Local Whitley Committee, Mr. Sutton (Vice-Chairman of the Committee) said that the last meeting had been the first since the new Waterguard Superintendent had been appointed to London. Under the circumstances it had not been possible to do very much, as it would have been obviously unfair to expect a new W.S. to give an opinion on first hearing questions governed by local conditions. The reorganisation of the port had been discussed. The Rotation of Duty Scheme was tabled, and the Official Side will probably reply at the next meeting. Rotation of Reserve Scheme was also tabled, and it is quite possible that this will receive attention at the next meeting. The question of A.P.O.s acting on Sunday when P.O.s are available was received by the local Whitley Committee, and it was pointed out that the staff were unanimous that the duties of Preventive Officers should be performed by Preventive Officers whenever possible. The unsuitability of certain launches in service on the Thames was pointed out.

The London Port Committee reported that the question of Office Accommodation was discussed at their last meeting.

Mr. Griffiths addressed the meeting on the report of the Council, and enlarged on the subject of the responsibilities of membership. He made an earnest appeal for closer co-operation between the ordinary member and those who shouldered some of the burdens of responsibility. The report was very well received, and appreciation was shown in a motion of thanks to the Councillors, Messrs. Griffiths and Spear.

CARDIFF.

Mr. G. Warne, P.O., presided over the meeting held at the Old Arcade Hotel on September 21st.

The meeting was fairly well attended, but the feeling was expressed that it would be much more encouraging if a greater number of members attended and gave the officers the benefit of their views instead of talking in the watch-house.

Following the minutes, the Councillors (Messrs. Griffiths and Densley) rendered a full report of the recent Conference of the Council, and a debate was entered into. After careful discussion, the meeting gave its opinion that the P.S.A. should favourably consider amalgamation with analogous grades. The question of 1928-29 emoluments was also considered, and it was agreed that a general wage claim should be pressed forward. Attention was also given to monthly salary for A.P.O.s, seizure awards, shipment of all bonded stores by the Waterguard, the issue of all circulars as general orders, landing and shipping duties, and revised instructions every five years.

A hearty vote of thanks and confidence was passed to the two Councillors.

A BLACK OUTLOOK.

A successful meeting had just been concluded at a race-course which a friend of mine had attended, doing himself well. At 2 o'clock next morning my friend called up the secretary of the course by telephone. A somewhat hazy voice asked: "Is that the secreterary of the r-race-courshe?"

"Yes."

"Well, can you tell me when the courshe will be opened again?"

Said the official, with some heat: "What do you mean by waking me to ask that? The next meeting is in January!"

"What! next January?" said my friend, "H'm. That's going to be awkward for me. You see, I've just woke up in the bar." B.J.B.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The person who conducted the prosecution in a recent smuggling case at Harwich, in which a yacht was involved, was not Mr. Booth, Chief Preventive Officer, but Mr. E. R. Booth, of the Solicitors' Department.

An interesting and amusing point, not mentioned in the "Customs Journal" account, was that the defendant complained seriously to the magistrate that the Customs officials had not given him notice that they were going to search his yacht.

Yours, etc.,

"BUZZ."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Members are asked to note the following change of address of the District Secretary at Cardiff. It now is:—

Mr. W. Bowen, 23, Clodien Avenue, Cardiff.

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.

PROMOTION.

Sir,—“ Non sibi, sed omnibus ”—not for himself, but for all. A noble phrase used to cover a selfish object. A robber chief once sang this song to his followers as he drew the rope up after himself.

Another thing to observe in the letter of the person using the laudable phrase above quoted, is that “ members would have some confidence that our Councillors knew what they were talking about ” if they had discussed “ Organisation and Control ” as against “ Administration. ” I don't think they would—do you? I am afraid some of the Councillors would emerge from such worldly warfare with an “ intoxicated idea ” as to who had won.

What is the truth? The present system of promoting men to the C.P.O. grade stands condemned because it often fails good men, and sometimes promotes others who are not fit to hold the rank. We all know this. The Council have obeyed the general wish in condemning the present system, and they have also carried out the *majority instruction* by laying down a standard examination which C.P.O.s should pass. I congratulate the members on their courage in instructing their Councillors to make this alteration. It was a long-felt want, and bears the stamp of *Progress*.

A lone wolf, howling in a wilderness of his own fear, is not likely to disturb the equanimity of those who believe that the change will be in the interests of sound common sense and progress.

In conclusion, and in answer to your correspondent's question, “ Are prospective candidates for the position of C.P.O. to anticipate questions relating to surveying of breweries, racking of spirits, blending of tea, etc. ? ” I can only say that many of us are concerned with the product of these processes, and to which we generally add sufficient water to maintain a sense of proportion.

Yours, etc.,

“ ON TOP OF OMNIBUS. ”

SUCCESS—AND THE FAILED A.P.O.

Sir,—As a junior A.P.O., it is remarkable to me to note the amount of interest shown with regard to the failed A.P.O. and his future prospects. I have just been reading a very capable article by “ Round Table,” and he graciously suggests that the failed A.P.O. who is keen enough should be allowed to sit for a third examination for promotion.

I strongly deprecate this suggestion, for inevitably it would recoil on the younger men awaiting their turn to be called up for the first time. Under such a scheme as “ Round Table ” suggests a junior man, expecting to be called up in, say, ten years, would possibly have to wait twelve years or more before he got his first chance, in order to let the failed A.P.O. have his third chance. Would this be fair? I

suggest not, for without a doubt a number of the present failed A.P.O.s had their first chance of promotion at less than ten years' service.

We are all striving after success, and the system of obtaining it in this Department, and throughout life in general, is competitive. As soon as we come into the Service we learn that a competitive barrier is set up for us to surmount. We accept these conditions, and we have a number of years in which to prepare ourselves for the “ great day. ” The failed A.P.O. knew this perfectly well when he came into the Service, and he sat for promotion twice.

Why did he fail?

With all due deference to some of the splendid failed A.P.O.s I have met, I calmly submit that the cause of their failure was, with a few exceptions, procrastination, or lack of ability. It was their fault, although they may never admit it.

Throughout the whole of modern life the spoils go to the victor, and you cannot get the spoils unless you strive after them. Professor J. Arthur Thomson, the scientist, has said that any social scheme which seeks to bolster up the inefficient on equal terms with the “ go-getters ” will inevitably produce an effete nation. This undoubtedly is a fundamental truth; one simply cannot argue with it.

One day it may be my fate to swallow my own medicine, but I trust that I shall be man enough to keep it down. I intend to go all out for promotion, for the sake of my dependents and for my own gratification, and naturally I hope I shall be successful. But if I fail I shall know that it is through lack of brains and ability.

Yours, etc.,

“ M.M. ”

THE FAILED A.P.O.

Sir,—In reply to the letter of “ Round Table,” as a failed A.P.O., I cannot agree that the Association is continually striving to solve the problem. Take, for instance, the last Conference: what action had been taken on our behalf? It stated nothing could be put forward.

You cannot wonder why failed A.P.O.s drop out of the Association, for they do not get support. We are fighting for an outlook against great odds. At Association meetings we are downed by people striving to get promotion at any price, and who won't support an effort which might help them in the future.

As far as I can see, nothing can be done by the failed A.P.O.s themselves—there are not sufficient Association members to get support. The only outlook is for the Association leaders to approach the Honourable Board to give a further chance of promotion to those who wish to make the application.

I quite agree with “ Round Table ” that there are many failed A.P.O.s who are satisfied, but surely something can be done for those who are still keen and have the Service at heart.

If “ Round Table ” is one of our leaders, I can assure him that the Association would greatly benefit if his suggestion were brought through with success.

Yours, etc.,

“ BLANK WALL. ”

Civil Service Confederation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 3rd September, 1928, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. G. Chase (President) presided over an attendance of twenty-five.

On the subject of the All-Service Programme, it was reported that the first meeting of the National Staff Side All-Service Programme Committee had been held, and that 87,000 leaflets had been printed, most of which had already been distributed to organisations. A meeting had been convened by the Union of Post Office Workers, in conjunction with the All-Service Programme Committee of the National Staff Side, to be held at Caxton Hall on the 10th September, with a view to organising and co-ordinating Civil Service activities in London in connection with the All-Service Programme campaign. The Confederation was co-operating in this meeting, and constituent organisations with members in London had been invited to appoint representatives to attend. It was proposed that, if considered desirable, a central committee, representative of organisations with members in London constituencies, should be appointed, with a view to conducting a Parliamentary campaign.

With reference to the Committee to consider and report upon "P" Class Clerk issues, which it had been agreed at the last meeting of the Executive Committee should be appointed within Confederation, it was reported that the constituent organisations concerned had furnished the names of their members on this Committee, and steps were being taken to arrange a first meeting of the Committee.

On the subject of the proposed extension of the area of compulsory insurance, the General Secretary reported that, in accordance with previous Confederation decisions, he had notified the National Staff Side that the Confederation was in favour (subject to the safeguarding of existing rights) of the proposal that the area of compulsory insurance should be extended to all Civil Servants without salary limit.

It was reported that steps were being taken to arrange a conference between the Confederation officers and representatives of the constituent organisations of the Confederation with Higher Grade members, in order to discuss the problems concerning Higher Grades with which the Confederation is confronted.

On the subject of Deferred Pay, it was reported that this matter had been under consideration by the Superannuation Committee of the National Staff Side, which had appointed a Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. Boys, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Llewellyn, to draw up a detailed report making proposals in connection with the matter.

The General Purposes Committee reported that a reference had been sent forward to the National Staff Side on the questions of (a) the application of the Injury Warrant to officers employed on cross-Channel duties, which had been raised by the Immigration Officers' Association, one of the constituent organisations of Confederation, and (b) the

liability of Civil Servants, driving official vehicles, for injuries done to Third Parties, and the present lack of provision for compensation to such Civil Servants in the event of injury, or compensation to their dependants in the event of death. The latter had been raised by another constituent organisation, i.e., the Association of Officers of the Ministry of Labour. The National Staff Side is being asked to look into both matters, with the intention that they shall ultimately be brought to the National Whitley Council, with a view to clarifying the position. A Report received from the Customs & Excise Federation on the subject of Injuries on Duty has also been referred to the National Staff Side, this matter being related to the other matters agreed to be referred to the National Staff Side.

The General Purposes Committee also reported that the ruling given by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, to the effect 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, had also been referred to the National Staff Side (with copies of the relevant correspondence), as one of the subjects for consideration by the National Staff Side in connection with a review to be undertaken by the Staff Side of the rulings received by constituent organisations from the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and the Treasury.

A lengthy discussion took place on the subject of Cost of Living, arising out of the resolution which had been passed by the last Annual Council meeting in the following terms:—

"That the new Executive be asked to consider the question of the Cost-of-Living Index Figure and the Civil Service Bonus, and to make recommendations on the subject, including *inter alia*, the desirability of consolidating bonus and basic salary."

After full consideration, it was decided that the Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side should be authorised to move, at the Staff Side meeting on the 18th September, that the Staff Side should undertake an enquiry into Cost of Living.

A report was given by Mr. W. H. James on National Whitley proceedings, dealing especially with the subjects of (a) the adoption by the National Staff Side of the resolution put forward by the Confederation urging the Staff Side of the Superannuation Committee to publish a report at the earliest possible date, (b) the discussions that were taking place with regard to the proposed amendment of the Sick Leave Regulations, and (c) Provincial Differentiation—application to Messenger Grade.

It was agreed that the subjects of Substitution Pay and Increases on Promotion, which it had been decided to withdraw from the agenda of the National Whitley Council, should be referred to the General Purposes Committee of the Confederation for consideration and report as to further action.

The Executive Committee received with regret the resignation of Mr. F. C. Osgood, of the Admiralty Draughtsmen's Association, caused by his transfer from Portsmouth to Liverpool, and it was unanimously agreed to record in the Minutes appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Osgood since the

inception of the Confederation. The effect of Mr. Osgood's resignation is that Miss Rose Smith-Roe fills the vacancy created in the six seats on the Executive Committee filled by election at the Annual Council meeting (being the highest non-elected candidate at the Annual Council Meeting) leaving the Post Office Group eligible to appoint another representative on the Executive Committee. Mr. H. J. Brewer was appointed to fill the vacancy created on the General Purposes Committee by the resignation of Mr. Osgood, and Mr. F. Cooper was appointed a member of the Finance and Organisation Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Brewer from that Committee.

OLD-TIME SMUGGLING.

By "VULCAN."

The Press of this country, while by no means the alarmist nor the sensation-mongers that the Press of certain other countries is, can and do at times "discover" mountains where only mole-hills exist. One of the most recent, and to Customs Officials most interesting, of these journalistic mares' nests was, of course, the discovery of a revival of smuggling. Statements which any reader of average intelligence would, on reflection, laugh at were made, and for the purpose of "copy" most simple events were credited with being part of the dark and wicked work of (a) an international dope ring, (b) desperate ex-Army men, or (c) that famous stand-by, shady longshoremen. It is not the intention of this article to invite the attention of readers of the "Customs Journal," who on the subject of smuggling can claim a more or less expert knowledge, to the "bogey-man" stories which have been circulated, but rather to a few of the known facts dealing with smuggling when it was in its prime, and then to try and discover where the "revival" is. Any figures given have been obtained from recognised sources, mostly the work of non-officials, though based in part on Hansard.

The first item, taken from "Trade and Tariffs," tells us that at one time the smugglers were so formidable that they used to go about London itself in bands of forty or fifty, and not only were they too powerful for the Revenue Officers, but they used to defy the magistrates themselves. As an example of their strength, 250 Revenue Officers were beaten or wounded, and 6 killed outright in 1723 alone. The same authority informs us that evidence given in 1745 stated that the smugglers were working in bands of 40, 50, 60, and even 90 men. An interesting sidelight is that the band of 90 hired an armed guard of ten men and employed 112 horses for the "running." In 1783 smuggling was so popular and widespread that the Crown to oppose it used 42 cruisers, carrying 1,42 men and armed with 389 guns; one of the good seizures of this time being made by H.M. Sloop "Orestes," which in 1784 made a prize of a vessel laden with tea, brandy, silk and lace to the value of £30,000. In spite of such set-backs, the trade was so profitable that it was carried on with such zeal that in 1821, according to an old edition of "New Age," at a single station there were 52 fishing boats known to be engaged in smuggling! The actual quantity of contraband may be gauged by the fact that it has been calculated that in 1766,

of 9,000,000 lb. of China Tea used in this country, at least half had had no duty paid on it.

The above figures give a fair idea of to what an enormity smuggling grew in its prime, and a comparison with present-day records will make any talk of a "revival" a little foolish. To prove how much public opinion has changed its outlook towards wholesale smuggling, it is actually on record that it was argued before a committee of investigation that smuggling was praiseworthy because it employed people who would be otherwise unemployable! A better reason would have been that to be engaged in the "trade" was to be both socially respectable and well paid, as about 1700 a smuggler's pay was half a guinea and 13 lb. of tea for every completed journey, horse and all expenses found.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO OCTOBER 1st, 1928.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Ballard, L. G.	Lindell, G. F.
Booth, F. L.	Lindley, E.
Brown, J. F.	Linford, R.
Chuck, E. A.	Patterson, L. P.
Gawn, A. E.	Shearer, J. F.
Harding, W. J.	

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Chapman, F. S. B.	Grangemouth, Edinburgh to Sheerness, Dover.
Jones, W. H.	North Shields, Newcastle to Gravesend, London.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Anderson, E. E.	Cardiff to Sharpness, Worcester.
Evans, D. V.	Liverpool to Londonderry, Belfast.
Gaillie, W. W.	Bo'ness, Edinburgh to Glasgow.
Hore, H. W.	Barry Dock, Cardiff to Dover.
McKenna, W.	Belfast to Liverpool.
Taylor, H. R.	Cardiff to Liverpool.

EXCHANGES:—

Donaldson, R. J.	Methil, Dundee, with Foster, W. Liverpool.
Houston, F. W. B.	Glasgow, with Skinner, F. W. Ayr, Dumfries.

PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Arnott, H. (Jr.).	London to Grangemouth, Edinburgh.
Camburn, G. E. N.	Gravesend, London to Glasgow.
Davies, R.	Point of Air, Chester to North Shields, Newcastle.
Hackman, E. F.	Dover to Newport, Mon.
Matthews, S. H.	Newport, Mon. to Irvine, Dumfries.

OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE.

MATE-IN-CHARGE:—

Calvert, D. C.	Southampton.
----------------	--------------

VACANCIES.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UPPER SECTION:—

Glasgow.	17.10.1928.
----------	-------------

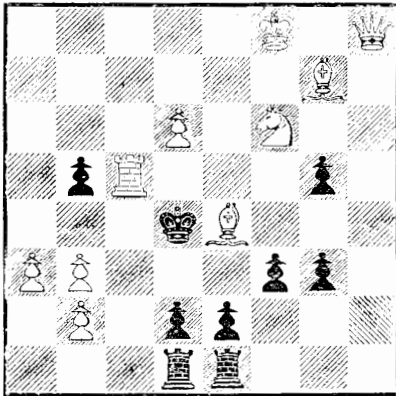
PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

London.	16.11.1928.
---------	-------------

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club

PROBLEM NO. 24.



White to move and mate in three.

Prize problem by A. F. Mackenzie, who is a blind player.

Solution to No. 23.

- 1. R—Kt5+.
- 2. Kt—B7+.
- 3. P—Kt4.
- 1. K×R (best).
- 2. K—R4.
- (3 points).

EARLY CHESS—Continued.

Mr. Murray, in the Oxford University Press, prints in full the interesting " treatise on the demonstration of the game of chess " by al'Lajlaj, who died soon after A.D. 970. This work contains four openings, as we should now call them, the analysis of which extends to 48 columns, like those we are familiar with in modern works.

In the older game, owing to smaller powers of some of the men, it took several moves before the forces came really into contact. A player could generally rely on a dozen moves or so of comparative immunity from attack, in which he might hope to form his battle array.

I give one specimen of the kind of play represented in al'Lajlaj's treatise.

THE DOUBLE MUJANNAH (Wing, Flank).

Place the K's on K file; for each side make the following moves:—

- 1. P—KB3, 2. P—KB4, 4. Kt—KB3, 4. P—KKt3,
- 5. P—B3, 6. P—B4, 7. Kt—B3, 8. P—Kt3,
- 9. P—K3, 10. P—Q3, 11. R—QKt1, 12. R—Kt1.

From this symmetrical position the real contest begins as follows:—

(To be continued.)

KENT COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS.

Waterguard, Team A. Kent Composite Team.

- 1. A. Hardie 1 v. R. E. Dudley (Team B) 0
- 2. F. G. Boodle 1 v. Miss L. Evelyn (Margate) 0

- 3. J. Smallwood 1 v. I. M. Stevens (Tun. Wells) 0
- 4. W. W. Bishop 0 v. W. Murphy (Sevenoaks) 1
- 5. E. T. Sandford 0 v. O. Miles (Cranbrook) 1

Team B.

- 1. R. E. Dudley 0 v. A. Hardie (Team A) 1
- 2. S. H. Matthews 0 v. E. J. McCormick (Cranbrk.) 1
- 3. E. W. Kidman ? v. R. I. J. Malone (Margate) ?
- 4. G. Douglas 0 v. K. L. Steward (Tun. Wells) 1
- 5. A. R. Deans 0 v. S. Allen (Sevenoaks) 1

0 4

Mr. E. W. Kidman's game has yet to be sent in.

Final Positions and Score:—1st, Tunbridge Wells, 4; 2nd, Sevenoaks, 3½; 3rd, Customs Waterguard "A," 3; 4th, Cranbrook, 2; 5th, Margate and Customs Waterguard "B" have unfinished games, which will decide last place.

London South Side Sports Club.

Attention is drawn to the South Side Sports Club's programme of social events, which are to be held at the New Cross Palais de Danse.

On October 31st, the second Annual Dinner and Dance is to take place, and this is to be followed by a series of dances on the following dates:—November 28th, January 9th, February 20th, March 27th, and April 24th.

Book these dates now, and ensure at least half-a-dozen bright evenings during the long, dull winter. You won't be disappointed.

Customs Journal

Terms of Subscription

Payable in advance

To readers not eligible for Membership of the Associations, one copy 6/- per annum, post free.

Back Numbers, single copies, post free 4d.

All communications relative to the supply of copies of this paper should be addressed to

The Secretary, Mr. P. SPEAR,
101 Upton Park Road,
Forest Gate, London, E.7