

The Customs Journal

No. 632

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Fortnightly

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	The New Civilian	5
Current Comments	2	E. P. Madden, Esq.	6
Preventive Staff Association	4	Sports and Social	7
Correspondence	4	London South Side Sports Club	8

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 present discussion running through our pages on the subject of the duty-free allowance contains references to a point that has continuously formed the basis of debate ever since the first appearance of Form 142. In all ports and on all stations this question has a habit of cropping up, and the burden of it is that Form 142 is not a legal document. We would presume that the reason for this view lies in the argument that the form is not provided for in the Act. Most officers having dealings with crews of vessels will agree, however, that the form is of inestimable value in obtaining the declarations of seamen. Its utility is not confined to the officers of the department alone. Intelligently used by members of crews, it becomes of value to them also. It safeguards their duty-free allowance and asserts their title to any concession that should be theirs. There is nothing of difficulty in the use of the form, and the small task set the seaman in settling down against his signature the quantity of dutiable goods remaining in his possession at the end of a voyage is amply rewarded by the saving of time and trouble it would cost him if his declarations were taken by word of mouth. The use of Form 142 makes for efficiency and accuracy, and well should we know it if we went back to the days of oral declarations.

As to the question of the legality of the form, it surely need bother us but little. The true legal aspect appears in the fact that the seaman, in common

with any other person entering the country, must make his declaration. Nobody, with the honest intention of making a true declaration, can object to the most convenient method of setting it down on a form provided for the purpose. The method is the quickest, and the cleanest. His goods are above suspicion. He can prove at once, if proof is needed, that he has no intention of evading his obligations.

It is not the form that matters so much as the declaration, and it is here that we should study the legal aspect. We have heard it said that Form 142 would not be accepted in a Court of Law. Why not? It is a declaration, and can always, in our opinion, be produced as evidence. If it has ever been rejected in such a circumstance, it cannot have been because of the form itself. Obviously the reason for rejection must have been the method of presenting the evidence. To produce the form and to say that you have an offender's signature to a declaration that he only had twenty cigars would be insufficient for any magistrate. You must be in a position to produce corroborative evidence. How do you know it is his signature? It is necessary to substantiate your statement by producing a witness who saw the declaration made.

The form is issued under the authority of the Hon. Board, and officers are guided by the information contained in the declarations found thereon. The question of the legality of the form hardly enters at all. A much greater amount of importance attaches to the genuineness of the declarations placed upon it.

CURRENT COMMENTS

IT is to be hoped that before the "duty-free allowance" discussion disappears from the Journal pages there will be a lot more said upon this interesting topic. The gentlemen who have so far taken part in the discussion are certainly not wasting their time. The articles and correspondence which have appeared bring out the fact quite clearly that the regulations governing duty-free concessions are far from being simple. The last article by "Wenso" is particularly useful in this respect. Every Preventive Officer must carry in his head a full knowledge of the intricate details mentioned by "Wenso," so that it is always ready for instant application. Bearing in mind that these regulations are but a minute portion of the mass with which the Waterguard Officer must make himself acquainted, it is interesting to recall a description given by the authorities regarding Waterguard work in the year 1919. It is as follows:—"Its subject-matter is limited, and it runs on fixed lines though necessarily varying in type and value; it includes a very large amount of elementary and mechanical duties; the procedure is not left to the individual Preventive Officer, but is prescribed and defined in detailed regulations and instructions issued to him." Probably it was overlooked when this statement was made that the Preventive Officer is guided by the same "detailed regulations and instructions" as is the Officer employed on Landing and Shipping duties—and with a few more thrown in.

It is ten years since Waterguard work was so defined, but, in spite of great changes that have taken place, there are still some people who honestly regard it as a fair estimate. This, of course, is due to a lack of practical knowledge of the duties. Obviously, the only way to combat this is by open discussion. The subject-matter is unlimited, and it ought to be possible to keep the Journal columns alive with red-hot debates regarding the knotty points that are so commonly met with in everyday Waterguard work.

"Persevere" lives up to his pen-name so well, and writes with so much cheeriness, that it is hard to have to criticise adversely his ingenious staffing arrangements. It is, however, necessary that this should be done. He asserts in his last letter that a Preventive Officer could easily supervise double the number of A.P.O.s normally allotted to him for baggage examination under present conditions. This is an extremely unfortunate assertion. It must be obvious to "Persevere" that if his contention could be proved the Board would not wait for the abolition of duty-free concessions before taking the only logical action they could take, *i.e.*, reduce the number of Preventive Officers.

As a matter of fact the Liverpool baggage room is about the last place to start experiments such as "Persevere" advocates. The Preventive Officers are fully employed as it is, and any material addition to their work MUST mean an increase in staff.

The New Civilian has ceased to exist; and the Service does not seem unduly perturbed over this unfortunate fact. It is probable that as time goes on this unconcerned attitude will be reversed. In due course it will be borne in upon us that a Civil Service newspaper is really needed in these modern days of publicity. No doubt this truth is fully realised in several influential sections of the Service, and it would not be surprising if some move were made to start a new paper. There might, however, be some slight difficulty in deciding whose it would be.

The failure of *The New Civilian* was due to the fact that, although it was widely read, there were comparatively few people purchased copies. The practice of buying one copy for a whole office staff was too common. Competition from Association journals also played an important part. Editorship must have been most difficult under these handicaps, and all credit is due to those whose heroic efforts produced so bright and interesting a periodical, and who kept it alive so long.

Both *The Civilian* and *The New Civilian* had special connections with the Customs and Excise. For many years the old paper was edited by members of this Department, and when the new paper came into being Mr. C. A. W. Sanders was placed in control.

Up to date there have been five joint meetings of the Bonus Review Committee, but so far it has not been possible to reach agreement. Apparently the Staff Side proposals are not likely to be accepted in their present form.

It is understood that the Official Side would be prepared to discuss the question of stabilisation, taking the original Treasury offer as a basis. The Staff Side have decided to enter into negotiations on this question.

Before any agreement is reached, a conference of Executives of all affiliated Associations will be held for the purpose of deciding the course of action to be taken.

The Waterguard claim for retirement at 55 for the P.O. and A.P.O. Grades has now reached the stage of joint discussions on the Superannuation Committee of the National Council. Arrangements are being made for an official of the P.S.A. to be present during the discussions.

For those who have not followed up this item it might be mentioned that the claim is for optional retirement, without reduction of pension.

The new regulation regarding imported cats seems to be causing a good deal of amusement generally. Everyone agrees that cats are more likely carriers of disease than are dogs, but it is going to be a difficult job to stop them. There are few ships

without at least one cat, and on the big liners there are dozens of them. No one knows where they come from, nor when they will depart.

The only way in which the new Order could be made effective would be by confining all ship's cats in a safe place during the vessel's stay in port. Rounding them up would not be an easy task, of course; and the results of close confinement might be rather dreadful if they were disagreeable cats.

No doubt the authorities take the view that ship's cats do not usually stray very far from dockland. The new regulation is intended to prevent passengers or seafaring people from carrying cats home. It must be admitted that a certain amount of control really can be kept over this kind of thing.

The result of the September examination for Waterguard entrants has just been announced. Fifty candidates have been declared successful. This will be hopeful news for those A.P.O.s who are looking for transfers.

The question of transfers and removals is one which engaged the attention of the Executive at its last meeting. It requires very careful consideration. There are a good many cases of hardship existing at the moment, but until normal staffing conditions have been reached it is not possible to take any useful action in the matter.

At Fishguard the A.P.O.s seem to have a most unenviable existence. Night-work is almost continuous. The port itself is hardly the place that an ambitious young man would choose to live in. It seems unfair to keep young men buried in these outlandish places where there is no opportunity for getting real experience of Waterguard duties. It is likely that the Association will ask that the stay of an A.P.O. at this type of port shall be limited.

Coalfields Distress Funds.

At a meeting of the National Whitley Council for the Administrative and Legal Departments of the Civil Service, held on Thursday, the 20th December, 1928, a resolution was passed in the following terms:—

"The National Whitley Council express their profound sympathy with the measures which are now on foot for the relief of distress in the coalfields and would welcome any steps which might be taken to further the participation by members of the Civil Service in these efforts."

I am content that Civil Servants are all alike anxious to do their best to lighten the burden of distress that now presses so heavily on their fellow citizens in the mining areas. Gifts, no matter how small, of money or of clothing, will be most thankfully received by the organisations which have been established for relief purposes. Arrangements for the receipt of such gifts and for their despatch to appropriate organisations, will, I am sure, be readily available.

N. F. WARREN FISHER.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
December, 1928.

Imperial Service Medal.

Mr. PAT CRIMMINS.

In the presence of a number of his old colleagues, Mr. Pat Crimmins, (late Preventive Officer) was, on December 21st, at the Weymouth Custom House, presented with the Imperial Service Medal, in recognition of his 35 years' service.

The presentation was made by the Collector, Mr. B. C. Brambleby, who said that the medal was awarded in recognition of Mr. Crimmins' meritorious service. It did not rest with him, he said, to assure Mr. Crimmins that his services of over thirty years were satisfactory, since the award of the medal was itself incontestable evidence.

At the meeting when he retired, all Mr. Crimmins' colleagues expressed a high opinion of his merits, and the present occasion bore witness to the fact that the same appreciation was felt in the highest quarters.

In handing Mr. Crimmins the medal, the Collector congratulated him on the award, and hoped he would long be spared to wear it.

Mr. Crimmins briefly returned thanks.

Mr. B. T. JENKINS.

Mr. B. T. Jenkins, (P.O., retired), was presented, at the hands of the Collector, Mr. W. A. Gunn, with the Imperial Service Medal, in recognition of his long and faithful service in the Department. The Collector stated that the recipient was well worthy of the decoration.

Other members of the staff spoke of Mr. Jenkins' sterling qualities and genial disposition, mention being made of the fact that, until his retirement, he had filled the office of Vice-Chairman of the Local Whitley Committee ever since its inception.

Mr. Jenkins, in a very neat and witty speech, repented, and thanked the company present for their kind words and good wishes.

Civil Service Examinations.

Classes in connection with forthcoming examinations will recommence on Monday, 7th January, at the Millbank School, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Enrolment can be effected on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Classes will cover the following forthcoming examinations:—

- Shorthand Typists;
- Minor and Manipulative Grades—Entry to the Clerical Class;
- Typists;
- Clerical Class (open).

In addition, classes in Matriculation and Legal subjects are also held.

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*

GRAVESEND.

Mr. Grace occupied the Chair at a meeting held at the Labour Exchange on December 19th, 1928.

The question of office accommodation at Tilbury Dock was discussed, and also Health Regulations and Quarantine duties.

Mr. Prisley was elected as A.P.O. representative on the Local Whitley Committee, and Mr. O'Connor as A.P.O. representative on the Local Joint Whitley Committee.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF TO DECEMBER 31st, 1928.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Kavanagh, M., Kirkaldy, Dundee to Glasgow.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Wright, G. W., Liverpool to Fleetwood, Preston.

PROMOTION.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Wood, W. H., Hull to Portmadoc, Chester.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT:—

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Sloane, J., Londonderry, Belfast.

DEATH:—

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Donaldson, T. D., Liverpool.

VACANCY.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Charlestown, Plymouth.

(An official residence is provided at a reduced rental, and there is an allowance of £20 per annum for performing Long Room work.)

Prosecution at Llanelly.

On December 5th, a fireman belonging to the Swedish steamer "Varing," from Bilbao, was charged at the local police court with concealing 2 gallons (4.95 pro.) of pure alcohol. He was fined single value and duty on the goods, £20 1s. 8d. The goods were found concealed under the engine-room boilers by Mr. A. G. Colburn, A.P.O., whilst acting under the supervision of Mr. W. S. Hunter, P.O.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Seavil, C.P.O.

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.

WHISKY.

Sir,—Reading one of George Borrow's books, I came across the following in Chapter CVIII and think it would be of interest to others. "Newport is a large town in Monmouthshire, and had once walls and a castle. It is called in Welsh, Cas Newydd ar Wysg, or the New Castle upon the Usk. It stands some miles below Caerleon ar Wysg, and was probably built when that place, at one time one of the most considerable towns in Great Britain, began to fall into decay.....Wysg or Usk is an ancient British word signifying water, and is the same as the Irish word uisce, or whisky, for whisky, though generally serving to denote a spirituous liquor, in great vogue among the Irish, means simply water. The proper term for the spirit is uisquebaugh, literally aqua vitæ, but the compound being abbreviated by the English, who have always been notorious for their habit of clipping words, one of the strongest of spirits is now generally denominated by a word which is properly expressive of the simple element of water."

Yours, etc.

"DETAIL "

Answers to Correspondents.

"PADDY."—You have asked a good question. Why so shy?

Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

The one hundred and first meeting of the Council was held in London on 19th December, 1928, the Chair being taken by Sir Francis Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

PROMOTION.

In response to a Staff Side motion that further promotions of "P" Class Clerks to the established Clerical Classes should be made forthwith, the Official Side stated that steps would be taken at an early date to promote a number not exceeding ten. The desirability of following exactly the previous procedure was under consideration.

REMOVAL EXPENSES.

The question of the rates payable for removal expenses in the case of "P" Class Clerks transferred on promotion was again adjourned.

DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCE.

It was agreed that the agreement on this subject effected at the previous meeting should for convenience operate from the date of the relevant

General Order, any particular cases which appear to call for special consideration being dealt with on their merits.

OVERTIME.

The question of payment of overtime to Departmental Clerical Officers for weeks in which a public or privilege holiday occurs was readjourned for further consideration by the Official Side.

LEAVE.

Subject to the conditions that in certain circumstances, e.g., transfer near the end of the leave year, it may not be possible to grant accrued leave, and that none could be carried over to the next leave year, it was agreed that Clerical Officers, Departmental Clerical Officers and Writing Assistants transferred from other Departments on promotion to these grades should be entitled to take arrears of private leave accruing from service in the previous Departments, provided that the inability to take accrued leave prior to transfer was due to circumstances beyond the transferees' control.

CUSTOMS OFFICIATING.

It was agreed that the arrangement whereby Officers in charge of Excise Stations officiate in contiguous Customs Stations should be adopted only as an emergency measure and for short periods.

SENIORITY RULES AND PRACTICE.

The Council confirmed a Committee disagreement on the proposed revocation of an official assurance given to certain Unattached Officers in the Entertainments Duty District that they should not be removed therefrom until appointed as fixed Officers in the same District. It was stated by the Official Side that the action taken in these cases was not, however, likely to be repeated.

INCOME TAX.

Pending Staff Side consideration of written replies to points raised at the October meeting, further representations were made concerning comparatively heavy deductions called for at short notice from certain lower-paid grades in December. Explanations were given, and measures for relief of the immediate burden arranged. The Official Side will also consider the desirability of issuing a general notice concerning facilities for spreading payments over the whole year.

OTHER MATTERS.

It was agreed to substitute the word "visit" for "month" in item 21 of Schedule I of General Order E. 1922 (Table Water Manufacturers).

A number of decisions advised by Sectional, Grade and Local Committees were dealt with, the meeting being distinguished by the high proportion of settlements of outstanding items. Results have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 23rd January, 1929.

"THE NEW CIVILIAN."

It is with very profound regret that we have to announce that *The New Civilian*, the Civil Service Weekly, has ceased publication. The issue dated December 26th, 1928, contained the notice that the long and useful career of *The New Civilian* had come to an end. A great deal of Civil Service history is contained in the files of *The New Civilian*, and *The Civilian*, as it was formerly called, and fortunate indeed are the possessors of the complete file.

The following extracts are taken from the last issue of *The New Civilian* :—

"The passing of 1928 coincides with the passing of *The New Civilian*, for with this issue we cease publication. The Civil Service thus loses its 'accredited organ'—the only all-Service journal covering all grades and all interests, and the only weekly paper on the clerical and administrative side of the Service. Sixty years of Service history are chronicled in the files of the *Civilian*, for the paper was founded as long ago as 1869. In the campaign for the recognition of Service trade unionism and the right of collective bargaining, in the long struggle against Treasury and Departmental autocracy, and in all the leading issues of Service politics during the past six decades, the *Civilian* has played a prominent and not unworthy part.

"Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, the General Secretary of the Association of Officers of Taxes, reminds us that the grievances of the Taxes Clerical Staff in the olden days would never have been exposed had it not been for the existence of the *Civilian*. 'Twenty-five years ago,' he writes, 'the *Civilian* was championing the cause of a small, ill-paid, and ill-used body of Tax Clerks. . . . There is only a handful left of the pioneers of the early days, but their eight thousand colleagues know their Service history sufficiently well to regard the *Civilian* as one of the instruments of success.'"

*—*Pressure on space compels us to hold over the remainder of these extracts until our next issue.*

THE FREE ALLOWANCE.

Another article on this subject by Mr. W. M. Sheehan will appear in our next issue.

Customs Journal

∴ ∴ Terms of Subscription ∴ ∴

Payable in advance

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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

E. P. MADDEN, Esq.

AN APPRECIATION.

IF evidence were needed to prove the consistent generosity of Waterguard men in doing honour to any colleague who has earned their special regard, it can be found in abundance in the pages of the "Customs Journal," where one may read accounts of the numerous gatherings that have taken place from the year 1903 onwards. These functions are for the most part unpretentious little affairs, but it is obvious that what they lack in magnificence is amply made up for in hearty sincerity. Almost invariably the occasions have been partings: on retirement; promotion; or on transfer to another port.

In the case of Mr. Madden, our late President, it is promotion that removes him from our sphere, but, the bulk of our members still refuse to regard that as a parting. It is agreed, nevertheless, that the occasion is appropriate for telling him how much we appreciate his faithful service during those long 25 years of active Association work.

It was in 1903 that Madden commenced his Association career. He was made district secretary for Gravesend. Since that time he has on different occasions occupied every possible official position within the Association.

As Parliamentary secretary in 1909, he was foremost in the fight against the non-inclusion of the Waterguard in the Hobhouse Inquiry. He vigorously opposed acceptance of the offer of a Departmental Inquiry, but, when out-voted in this, he applied himself with equal vigour to the task of representing staff views at the Departmental Inquiry which was eventually held in 1911.

Shortly after this event he was elected General Secretary of the Preventive Men's Association. It was an organisation badly in need of organisation. The stock-in-trade was a dilapidated cash book, shewing a few coppers on the credit side; one hectograph, badly warped; and two ancient typewriters, much the worse for wear. All these things were unearthed after a struggle.

His first job was to find out who were the members, and where they could be found. This was done with the aid of the bent hectograph; and thus it was that for the first time a membership register was started.

After getting the P.M.A. into a reasonable state of organisation, he tackled the problem of closer co-ordination with the Preventive Officers' Association. Disgusted with the results of the 1911 Inquiry, and realising that the fiasco was entirely due to lack of co-ordination on the part of the staff representatives, he determined to remove this handicap for future occasions.

In 1913 the F.O.A. were won over. They consented to the setting-up of a provisional Council of the Waterguard Federation. Madden drew up the draft constitution which was presented to the provisional Council in March, 1914.

It was at this meeting that A. E. Howell came on the scene, and Madden was so impressed by the energy and ability with which this young man criticised the draft constitution, that he proposed his election to the post of first General Secretary of the Waterguard Federation, and also to General Secretary of the P.M.A. Howell was elected to

both these posts, and Madden became President of the P.M.A.

The Madden-Howell combination resulted in the P.M.A. becoming a remarkably virile organisation, in spite of very great difficulties in keeping members together, and it is significant that the Preventive Man Grade was the only grade in the Civil Service, outside the Post Office, to secure an increase of money during the years just prior to the introduction of the cost-of-living bonus.

It is noteworthy, also, that Madden successfully took up the cudgels on behalf of those Civil Servants who were in the unfortunate position of having been dismissed for joining the fighting forces without permission, or who had resigned for this purpose. He fought so well for them that, in spite of strong opposition from certain quarters, he eventually succeeded in getting the Civil Service Federation (now the Civil Service Confederation), to take up the case. The happy results of this are well known.

After promotion to the rank of Preventive Officer in 1918, he commenced a campaign for a "brighter" P.O.A. It was certainly needed, because it was obvious that the Waterguard would shortly be facing a critical period, when it would be important that the P.O.A. should be equally well organised with the P.M.A.

He became President of the P.O.A. in 1922, and was elected to the executive of the Waterguard Federation. At about the same time he edited the "Customs Journal." One of the several sub-committees upon which he served was set up to deal with the proposals for fusion of the two Associations. There is no doubt that his labours on this committee afforded him more satisfaction than any of his numerous Association activities, because he saw that the fruits would be the realisation of the things he had aimed for ever since the disastrous 1911 Inquiry.

Unfortunately, although fusion became an accomplished fact, the reform came too late to have any material effect upon the great fight of 1923. Had the new P.S.A. been in existence but two years earlier there would have been a different tale to tell.

The great disappointment of the Reorganisation terms did not damp Madden's ardour. He became one of the live wires of the Preventive Staff Association, and redoubled his efforts towards strengthening the bonds of the now united staffs, firmly believing that only in this way can the Waterguard become really effective in negotiation.

In due course, our old friend Hall, who, as President, had so ably guided the P.S.A. through the first critical years of its existence, had to leave us on his retirement from the Service. Madden became his successor. It was unanimously recognised as a most fitting appointment.

And so it is that "E.P.," as head of the sound and well-equipped organisation he had worked so strenuously to establish, concludes his twenty-five years of continuous activity on behalf of his Waterguard colleagues.

The P.S.A. Council have decided quite rightly that our recognition of this splendid record shall be made in no mistakable fashion. To this end every member is to be afforded opportunity to associate himself with the movement to make a suitable presentation to Mr. Madden.

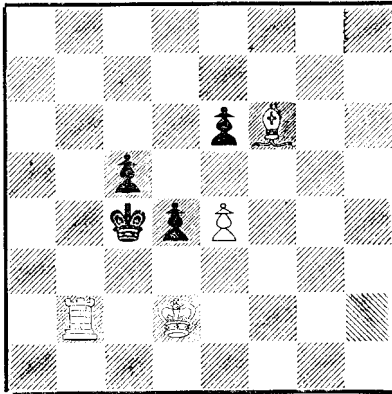
May the response be worthy of the best Waterguard traditions in these matters.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club

The backbone of any Club is the number of its permanent patrons.

PROBLEM No. 30.



By W. A. SHINKMAN, U.S.A.
White to mate in four moves.

Solution to No. 29.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. B—R8. | 1. P moves. |
| 2. Kt(Q3)B5 | 2. P moves. |
| 3. Kt—Kt7. | 3. K×Kt. |
| 4. Kt—Q6. | |

CHESS CLUB.

Liverpool.—City Café, 24, North John Street.
Edinburgh.—Civil Service Institute, Albion Street.

Solution to the Xmas Poser.

1. B(Kt1)—B2, B(B4)—Kt5; 2. B—Q4, B—R7;
3. B(B1)—Kt2, B(Kt4)—B5; 4. B—R4, B—Q7;
5. B—B5, B—Kt8; 6. B(Kt2)—R3, B(B5)—Q6;
7. B(R4)—Kt3, B(Q7)—B6; 8. B—B1, B—Kt4;
9. B—Q5, B—R8; 10. B(Q1)—Kt3, B(R4)—B6;
11. B(B5)—R3, B(Kt8)—Q6; 12. B—R2, B—Q5;
13. B—Q2, B—R5; 14. B—R5, B—Q8; 15. B(R3)—Kt4, B(Q6)—B7; 16. B(R2)—B4, B(Q5)—Kt7;
17. B—B5, B—Kt8; 18. B—Kt5, B—B8.

How Chess is Played. By the Hon. Sec.

All you that at the famous game
Of Chess desire to play,
Come and peruse this little book
Wherein is taught the way.

I have heard of a few officers stationed at small ports who desire to learn how Chess is played. I am therefore endeavouring to show how, through the columns of this Journal, and hope that it will be useful. If the articles are kept there should be a complete work on Chess at your disposal in, I hope, an easily understood language. Some people think "Chess is a very hard game to learn," but I hope that this idea will be taken out of your minds if you will only take moderate care in following the articles;

Cup Contest, 1928/9.—Semi-Final. F. G. Boodle, Dover, beat R. E. Dudley, London.

Round 2 (playing):—

A. R. Deans, Dover, v. S. W. H. Hargrove, Eastham.

A. Hardie, Ayr, v. B. R. Clark, Weymouth.

The winners of the above matches meet in the semi-final.

London Collections Dinner and Dance.

Approximately 375 guests, including some members of the Preventive Staff, were present at the third Annual Dinner and Dance of the London Collections at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, on Saturday, January 5th. The growing popularity of this annual event was evidenced by the fact that more than double the number attended this year as compared with 1928. The members of the Board were present, and the Chair was taken by Mr. W. J. L'Amie.

An excellent dinner having been disposed of, the health of the King was proposed by the Chairman, who expressed the sympathy of the gathering with His Majesty in the trying ordeal through which he has been passing.

The toast of the Customs and Excise Department was proposed by Mr. Peter Curry in an extremely able and witty speech. His reverence for the Department was undoubted. He had no intention of describing the C. and E., for he was convinced that it was beyond description. No words of his could add any lustre. No one can paint the lily. He was proud of Chaucer's connection with the Custom House, although he quite agreed that Chaucer was not altogether famed because he was in the Customs Service. He felt sure that Chaucer had transferred Customs Officers into the Canterbury Pilgrims, and had also lifted a female character from the Custom House. Much amusement was aroused by the remark that the possible difference between the indoor and outdoor service was that the indoor man seems busier than he is, while the outdoor man is busier than he seems.

The toast was replied to by Sir Francis Floud, who said that he spoke for his colleagues on the Board as well as for himself when he expressed appreciation for the confidence shown in them by the staff. He stressed the fact that the present Commissioners have entered the Service through the open door of competition and not, as in the old days, by association with some noble family. He had been impressed by everything he had seen during the past eighteen months, especially in the adaptability of the members of the staff. There is nothing the members of the Customs and Excise cannot do. The fine democratic spirit was mostly due to the great organisations to which the individuals belong. Sir Francis paid a glowing tribute to the journals of the Department. He reads them with interest as they appear, and is evidently struck by the way the journals carry out their work for different sections of the Department without any sign of enmity

to each other. We were particularly pleased to hear these references from the Chairman of the Board.

Mr. G. A. Finch replied to this toast on behalf of the staff.

Mr. Cunningham, emphasising his strong point of brevity, proposing the toast of the Visitors, said that the really important people present were undoubtedly the ladies.

Mrs. L'Amie and Mr. W. S. Hunter replied.

The toast of The Chair was given by Mr. A. Russell, and the Chairman (Mr. W. J. L'Amie) was presented with a solid silver inkstand. In reply, Mr. L'Amie spoke in extremely warm terms of the Committee of which he was the Chairman, and emphasised the great amount of enthusiastic work that had been put in by the members of that Committee to make the evening the success it was.

Mr. A. J. Dyke afterwards accepted, on behalf of the Customs and Social Sports Club, a perpetual trophy, a large silver cup, presented by the Collector and Staff of London Central Collection. In accepting the trophy, Mr. Dyke made mention of the previous cup presented to the Sports Club by the Chief Preventive Officers' Association.

Between the speeches an excellent programme was given by Miss Winifred Allen (soprano), Mr. W. H. James (baritone), Miss Ida Williams and Mr. Eric Ross (entertainers at the piano), and Mr. Lesley Weston (entertainer). At the piano was Mr. W. H. Mitchell, who also took a leading part in organising the dinner. Messrs. H. H. T. Davies and W. H. James acted as M.C.s for the dance, music being provided by the Desmond Dance Orchestra under the direction of Mr. J. O'Malley.

Presentation at Bristol.

Mr. F. J. LUNDBERG.

A case of pipes was presented to Mr. F. J. Lundberg, (P.O.), on the occasion of his promotion to the rank of C.P.O.

Unfortunately, time did not permit of the presentation being made locally. The Bristol Staff would have much preferred the opportunity of expressing their good wishes for Mr. Lundberg's success in the future, and of thanking him for his incessant endeavours in the past of promoting a healthy feeling of comradeship among his colleagues.

Mr. Lundberg not only possessed sound official qualities, but also ability for good organisation in connection with the social life of the staff. He usually took the wheel, and his manner of handling social functions was deserving of the greatest admiration.

In a neat postal reply, Mr. Lundberg thanked the Bristol Staff for their very thoughtful and kind present, and said that when engaged in the blowing of the smoke, he would visualise, through the curls, the very pleasant memories of the time spent in Bristol, and his happy association with the staff.

London South Side Sports Club.

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the South Side Sports Club was held at the St. Katherine Dock Hotel on Thursday, December 6th, 1928, when the usual interest and enthusiasm was displayed. The venue selected by the Committee for this meeting was necessary in view of the steady and continued growth of the Club since its inception. It is the proud boast of the Committee, and particularly of the Club's Treasurer, that we now engage the same hall for our general meeting as do the London Branch of the P.S.A.

After the minutes of the previous general meeting had been read, adopted and discussed, the meeting settled down to the task of disposing of a heavy and interesting agenda. The first and most important item then discussed was the Treasurer's financial report. Mr. Ferguson, that ever-worried and worrying official, amplified every detail in the report, and eventually sat down beaming with delight after finally announcing the Club's balance in hand to be £25 7s. 6½d. The discussion and adoption of the report naturally placed everyone in a happy mood, the result of which was some sound constructive criticisms and suggestions on the remaining items of the agenda.

The arrangements that the Committee had made for the forthcoming social events were explained, and every member undertook to do his bit in helping to make these events even more popular and successful than ever. Many members expressed their admiration for the splendid arrangements that were made that resulted in our last successful dinner. The Treasurer took the opportunity at this moment to read one or two letters that had been received, all expressing appreciation of this annual event. The Committee were empowered to re-engage last year's cricket ground at Eltham in the event of their failure to secure one more central. Instructions were also given to the Committee to open a football and a swimming section, and in view of the approaching swimming season, and in order to attract as many new members to this particular section as possible, it was decided that any non-member desiring to join this section only of the Club could do so at an annual fee of 2s. 6d. All present Club members, of course, have the use of all sections at their annual Club fee. The Secretary, Mr. G. H. Baldwin, is the man that all swimmers in London should write to for information of the new sections.

Another item which brought forth a good deal of discussion was that which proposed the extension of the Club's membership to all P.S.A. members in the London area. A fair amount of healthy criticism was levied at this proposal, but after debate it was agreed that the membership is to be opened to all P.S.A. members in the London area, and this is where the Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Ferguson, will be pleased to hear from any intending new members.

By the way, the Committee hope to shortly announce the arrangements for an intended "smoker," the date of which has been provisionally fixed for March 1st.