

The Customs Journal

No. 645

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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 preceeding the day of publication.

The Conference.

AS announced in another page the Association Council Meeting has been arranged for the 30th inst., and we have no doubt that in all Districts meetings will be arranged in order that effective discussion may take place upon the questions that the Council must decide.

It is fitting, therefore, that we should draw the attention of our Association readers to the importance of this meeting. The Council is the governing body of the Association, and it is the policy that is laid down by conference that governs Association action. It is surely not necessary, therefore, to enlarge upon its importance.

The procedure adopted at the Association Council meeting is one that enables discussion upon every matter that concerns the membership. The report of the Executive Committee is a full account of its stewardship, and on this report alone the Council has full opportunity to criticise, amend, and adopt policy. It would be practically impossible to discover any aspect of Association activity that is not covered by this report.

The full Council agenda, including the report of the E.C., is circulated in ample time to enable District meetings to discuss the same, and it is to be hoped that members who criticise Association policy will ensure that they attend. Criticism based upon

full knowledge of the facts, and honestly given, is a necessary ingredient to a successful Association. It is impossible for us to give even an outline of the issues that will arise at the meeting in London, and it may be that we would be unable to do so without indulging in partisanship. Such is not our intention at the moment. All we would like to ensure is that the maximum consideration be given to the vital decisions that must be made.

Whatever the problem may be, we appeal to the members to take the long and the broad view. The narrow one will never prevail. If the members in any District have a definite view upon any question arrived at after full and free discussion, it is simple then to instruct its representatives accordingly. If, however, there is doubt, and full trust is reposed in the representatives, these instructions should be of such a nature as will not hamper them in open debate. A fairly extensive experience enables us to give this assurance to the members. Whatever discussions may take place, and decisions arrived at, it can be safely stated that these decisions have been reached by honest men knowing all the facts and probabilities. It is upon mutual trust that progress is based, and we have yet to see the P.S.A. Council that is unworthy of such trust.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

THE final meeting of the Executive Committee, in the current year of Association work, took place on the 3rd and 4th July. At this meeting all the activities undertaken during the Committee's term of office were reviewed, and a full Report was adopted for the Annual Conference, which is now definitely fixed for the 30th July.

The business that has been transacted provides sound material for a very satisfactory Report, and there can be no doubt that the record of the year's work will be received with general approval. For several reasons the year 1928-9 will be looked back upon as a period of important achievement on the part of the P.S.A. Full realisation of the value of what has been effected might perhaps be somewhat slow in coming home to our members, but in future developments arising from the really sound advance that has been made must eventually result in a lively appreciation of the Association's efforts.

At the moment our chance of success in the Salary Claim is the all-absorbing item of interest, and it seems likely that this will overshadow the importance of several other matters to be discussed at the Conference. To improve rates of pay is, of course, one of the chief aims of the Association, but it must not be forgotten that there are other things to be fought for which are just as important as hard cash. Improved status, and better conditions of service, are just as necessary to the comfort and well-being of those of us who possess any degree of sensibility.

It seems improbable that anything definite on the Salary question will be forthcoming at the Conference. The time is really too short to permit of full consideration of the claim that has been put forward. Had our arguments been without substance we could have had a decision very quickly. Reasonable delay is not by any means an unfavourable sign. The situation requires patience.

* * * *

At the Executive meeting the Organising Secretary in referring to the present position laid stress upon the need to reach and maintain the hundred per cent. in financial efficiency. He urged each individual member of the Committee to broadcast the information that unless this standard can be maintained, there is the ever present danger that at some critical moment in the present negotiations, we will find it impossible to convene a representative meeting to discuss vital issues. The P.S.A. is unique in the fact that it has not a London Executive. Most of the Civil Service organisations can convene a meeting of a representative Committee within a few hours, and with little expense. In our case, however, it is necessary to bring people from all parts of the kingdom. The expense is heavy, and it is necessary to be always prepared with ready cash. The difficulties arising from this will be readily appreciated by any intelligent person. It is hoped that those members who have been careless regarding the payment of subscriptions will take the matter seriously, and be a little more generous with that small sixpence per week.

It is, of course, useless to make any appeal to those who have definitely made up their minds to batten on their colleagues.

* * * *

A suggestion has been made that the National Staff Side should take the opportunity of a Labour Government to attempt to introduce compulsory membership of Associations, and to arrange for subscriptions to be deducted from salary. Those who have come into contact with the real shirker cannot but be sympathetic with the idea. Nevertheless, any move in this direction would be a remedy worse than the disease. The only thing to be said in its favour is that more money would be forthcoming as a result. Cash is, of course, a very important item, but there are other things of at least equal importance. There is, for instance, that spirit which enable the pioneers of staff organisation to win through without any financial backing at all. That spirit still lives, and it manages to attract a substantial amount of voluntary support. Under methods of compulsion it would gradually die, and Associations would become less virile.

Again, most members take a pride in giving voluntary support to their Associations, and it would be unjust to take from them this satisfaction, merely to rope in a few backsliders and undesirables who would probably cause more damage than the value of their subscriptions could balance.

* * * *

It is interesting to note that already several of the delegates to the Conference have received instructions from their constituents to argue the case for abolition of systematic rewards for seizures. That the Council will decide upon abolition for both grades seems rather unlikely, but there is a strong probability that a decision in favour of excluding Preventive Officers from these rewards will be reached.

At the recent London District meeting this subject was well discussed. A resolution for the non-participation of the P.O. Grade in seizure rewards was amended at the instance of A.P.O. representatives, and the result was that it was unanimously decided to press for the system of rewards to be revised so that only in exceptional circumstances would rewards be paid to members of either grade.

It is hoped that District Secretaries throughout the kingdom have taken notice of the advice given in these columns that this should be treated as a matter of importance for discussion at meetings. It is urgent that the opinion of the full membership shall be known in time for the Conference this month.

* * * *

The Vocational Education Section of the P.S.A. has, during the past twelve months, been making quiet but steady progress. It will be possible to present a highly satisfactory report to the Conference. The launching of this scheme was attended

with a certain amount of anxiety in regard to the financial side of it. Now, however, the struggling period has passed, and it is possible to say that the V.E.S. can stand upon its own legs. During the next month or two this position will be strengthened, owing to increased enrolments that can be expected in view of the forthcoming examination for Preventive Officer.

There can be no doubt that the V.E.S. has come to stay. The problem now is to devise some means to extend its operations in order to meet the demands of candidates for C.P.O. examinations. The tuition now provided under this head is evidently appreciated. Those who have taken the course almost invariably ask for more. At the moment it is, unfortunately, not possible to give more than one set of question papers. There is only one tutor, and he is kept very busy as it is.

* * * *

By the time this issue of the Journal appears the interviews in connection with promotion to the C.P.O. Grade will have been completed. Twenty-nine candidates were successful at the written test. Under the existing conditions all the candidates appear for interview.

Several took the opportunity to pay a flying visit to the P.S.A. offices. The general opinion as to the questions given at the interview is that they were very searching but at the same time quite reasonable.

There seems to be a deeply-rooted belief in some quarters that the examiners do not pass more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled. This is an entirely mistaken impression. It can be said quite positively that all those who satisfy the examiners as to their fitness for the C.P.O. Grade are placed on the successful list.

* * * *

On the evening of the 30th July, the first day of the Conference, all members of the Council will visit Gravesend by charabanc, for the purpose of attending a smoking concert which has been arranged to take place at the Clarendon Hotel. It is hoped that Mr. E. P. Madden, late P.S.A. President, will be able to attend this function in order to receive a presentation from the Association members. An invitation is extended to all Mr. Madden's Service friends who are able to be present. A very good programme is promised.

OBITUARY.

Mr. P. ASH.

It is with deepest regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. P. Ash, Senior Engineer on the Tyne, who collapsed and passed away suddenly at North Shields railway station on Friday, June 14th.

Prior to his remains being removed to Gravesend for interment a short service was held in Holy Saviour's Church, where every available colleague attended in uniform, among those present being Mr. Grantham (C.P.O.). Amongst the many floral tributes accompanying the coffin to Gravesend were two from the Waterguard and Launch Service Staffs at North Shields.

Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

The 107th meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on 26th June, 1929, the chair being taken by Sir, F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

PAY.

The consideration of the question of the starting pay of certain Departmental Clerical Officers promoted to the Officer Grade (Staff Side claim for removal of provincial differentiation in calculation of salary) was again adjourned.

An individual case of starting pay of a South-borough entrant was discussed and adjourned. It was reported that seven other individual cases were being discussed in the appropriate Committee.

PROMOTION.

The Council re-adjourned the Staff Side motion to appoint a Special Committee to consider and report on the promotion of Clerical and Allied classes in the Department.

LEAVE.

Local disagreements on the exclusion of a period of pressure from the summer period of leave available to Departmental Clerical staffs of Collectors' Offices led to a general discussion on the possibilities of avoiding the need for such restriction. Both sides will examine the problem prior to the next meeting of the Council.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

The Staff Side having lodged a memorandum, as promised, now furnished instances illustrative of the points involved. It was understood that an Office of Works representative would attend the next meeting.

REDUNDANCY.

The Staff Side undertook to reduce to precise terms their resolution, already agreed in principle, that redundancy in the Junior Clerical complements of Headquarters Offices should apply without distinction to the most junior members of the Grade, unless volunteers are available and that each office be regarded as a unit for this purpose.

OTHER MATTERS.

A schedule of suggestions which had been forwarded to the Board by The Suggestions Committee, with notes of action taken, was presented to the Council.

A number of decisions advised by Sectional Grade, Local and Office Committees were considered by the Council, with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in London on 24th July, 1929.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office

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18, Beer Lane,

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Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

HULL.

The quarterly meeting was held at Minerva Pier on July 5th, Mr. A. N. Codd presided.

Resolutions for the coming annual conference were discussed. Reference was made to the delay in the issue of uniform caps, and fears were expressed at the possibility of falling back to our former grievance.

The District Secretary placed before the meeting the result of the ballot on the subject of subscription to the Hull Royal infirmary and Children Hospital. The D.S. was appointed Hon. Treasurer and Secretary.

The question of the supply of runnige tools to A.P.O.s was discussed, and a notice of a suitable resolution to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting was given.

GRIMSBY.

To the Small Port District Secretaries.

Gentlemen,—As you are probably aware, the agenda for the next Conference will shortly be circulated to the Districts.

Should you be holding your meetings in the third week of the month, as suggested in the "Customs Journal," I would, as previously intimated, be pleased to have your views upon any of the subjects down for discussion.

I am anxious that the small port members shall have a voice at this meeting, and will do my best to express your opinions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

D. R. CRONIN (A.P.O.)

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

to 1st JULY, 1929.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Ainsworth, J. C., Kierab, L. E.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Jones, R. L., Fishguard, Swansea to Liverpool.

Kemp, W. S., Stranraer, Greenock to Liverpool.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Saxton, C. S., Newport, Mon. to Milford Haven, Swansea.

Wasp, R. A., Milford Haven, Swansea to Southampton.

ENGINEER MECHANIC:—

Cherry, J. J., Blyth, Newcastle to Liverpool.

PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Elrick, J. F., London to Scilly, Plymouth.

Gibson, H., Maryport, Preston to Glasgow.

Oak, H. C., West Hartlepool, Sunderland to Fishguard, Swansea.

With reference to General Order 82 1928, the following Assistant Preventive Officers have been selected by the Board for promotion to the Officer Grade, subject to the assent of the Civil Service Commissioners to the issue of the necessary Certificates of Qualification:—

Mr. S. E. D. Ball, Dover.

Mr. T. J. A. McGlennon, Glasgow.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT:

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Blake, G. F., Liverpool.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Orwin, W. D., Port Talbot, Cardiff.

Wandless, H., Hull.

DEATH:

SENIOR ENGINEER:—

Ash, P. G., North Shields, Newcastle.

VACANCIES.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR,

Unattached, Office of I.G.W. 16.8.1929.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER,

Upper Section, Swansea. 14.8.1929.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER,

Sunderland. 18.8.1929.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER,

*Stranraer, Greenock.

*(An allowance of £35 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., is assigned.)

Presentation to Mr. C. H. Slade.

On Tuesday, July 2nd, the Long Room and Waterguard officers of the Port of Falmouth assembled to bid farewell to Mr. C. H. Slade on the occasion of his promotion to upper section C.P.O. at Harwich.

Mr. H. Slater (Surveyor) regretted the removal of Mr. Slade, who was held in great esteem throughout the District, and referred to the unity which existed between the Long Room officials and Mr. Slade.

The Surveyor made the presentation, which consisted of a Duofold fountain pen and pencil subscribed for by the officers in the Falmouth District.

Mr. Slade, who was taken by surprise, expressed his thanks to all who had subscribed, and regretted leaving them.

Other officers who endorsed the remarks of the Surveyor included Messrs. Reeves (Departmental Clerk), W. P. Pickard and S. L. Tregaskes (P.O.s), H. Edwards (A.P.O.) and W. Jenkins (Engineer Mechanic).

Customs and Excise Preventive Staff Association.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The twentieth meeting of this Committee was held at the Association Offices, London, on the 3rd and 4th July, 1929.

In the Chair, Mr. W. G. Thomson (President).

Members present:—Messrs. J. Merron, J. T. Sutton, W. A. Colwill, S. E. D. Ball, A. W. P. Densley, A. F. Farmer and W. H. Powell.

The imminence of the Annual Conference had the natural effect of limiting action on such matters that could, with advantage, be deferred for full discussion by the Council. As an instance of this, on the question of Amalgamation with other Grade Associations, the replies from the Districts were insufficient in number to justify immediate action in any particular direction. The matter is remitted to the Conference.

The draft Annual Report was considered, amended and finally adopted for circulation.

A very exhaustive and detailed discussion took place on the Annual Financial Statement of Accounts. It is clear from the position disclosed by the accounts, that whilst the Association can claim tremendously increased efficiency and equipment as compared with, say, 1922, and can also boast of a considerable reduction in actual cash spent as compared with that year, the small margin as between income and expenditure at present is insufficient to ensure the creation of a sound working balance. Increased income is essential. An appeal to Councillors will be made asking for intensive campaigns in their respective areas.

The Organising Secretary was congratulated on the clarity of the Accounts (which now include the "Customs Journal" and V.E.S. Accounts), and on the result of his activities towards increased membership.

The General Secretary in his report outlined many local matters on which assistance had been given, and sought instructions on the various matters now before the Waterguard Sectional Committee. A meeting of that Committee may take place before the Conference.

On the question of the issue of overcoat material other than that to which informal agreement had been reached, it was decided to press for the issue of the agreed material.

The G.S. reported action taken in respect of the position of three ex-messenger A.P.O.s whose names had not been placed in the Seniority list in conformity with the agreement of 1923. This had now been rectified.

The General Secretary also referred to the position of the Assistant Secretary in consequence of the forthcoming examination for Preventive Officers ships. He explained that every endeavour would be made, after the Conference, to relieve the A.S. of as much of his work as possible.

The lateness of the Conference was attributable to the pressure of work on the Secretaries arising from the Salary Claim and the many other matters

engaging their attention. In this connection, the General Secretary stated that of necessity many items of correspondence had suffered unavoidable delay. He hoped correspondents would appreciate the position.

The date of the Conference was agreed upon as the 30th and 31st July, and the 1st August.

Arrangements are being made to implement the wishes of the members by presenting Mr. E. P. Madden (late President), with a token of appreciation for "long and valuable services rendered." This will take place at Gravesend on the 30th July.

W. H. POWELL.

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.

DEVOLUTION.

Sir,—I was very interested to read the recent editorial headed "Devolution." To my mind, the instance you mention of overlapping that occurs in this department and the employment of Officer Grade upon work that can easily be performed by P.O.s, adequately sums up the farcical situation that exists to-day.

The proposal made by the C. and E. Federation for the devolution of superior work to the Officer Grade as an argument in support of increased remuneration is an open secret. To any close observer of the signs, it is the only line of action that will materially enhance their prospects. It would be interesting to know whether any proposal of devolution from that grade has been made to the "powers to be." It is my view that this aspect of reorganisation would prove interesting to any searcher for economical adjustments.

The duties of the P.O. Grade bear comparison with any duty carried out by the Landing Officer. The grade is frequently employed upon work that requires the "qualities and experience" necessary for the full performance of landing and shipping work. The two grades of P.O. and Officer are at present dock, station or port, and much overlapping is the inevitable result. Dual protection may have its advantages, but it is difficult to see them when it always means double control. The great disadvantages are apparent to any practical officer of either department.

To one not imbued with departmental prejudice, and not inclined to uphold a system merely on account of its antiquity—the position is absurd, and should be exposed. In this direction be increased pay, better conditions, and more promotion. Close investigation may also prove to the Treasury a considerable saving, and they are not exactly averse to this.

What is the Association doing in this matter? Are they leaving it to that mythical body, the Royal Commission, we heard so much about during the election?

Yours etc.,

UPANDONG.

The Responsibility of the A.P.O.

By D.R.C.

The keen and intelligent interest which most members of the Waterguard are taking in Association matters must be very encouraging to those who are conducting affairs, and is a healthy sign of the virility of our Association.

Readers must have noticed that the leading columns of the "C.J." have of late been filled with those fundamental issues which affect the Waterguard as a whole, rather than those which concern individual classes of entrants, or the minor injustices of the Service. The salary claim, the future expansion of Waterguard activities, co-operation within the P.S.A., and co-ordination with outside Associations, promotion, and the responsibility of A.P.O.s—these are things which affect every member of the Waterguard, and are only indirectly connected with the minor inequalities that exist amongst us.

The reason for this is not far to seek. The present moment in the Waterguard is more vital than, perhaps, most members realise. The salary claim is before the Board, and they have before them a more detailed knowledge of our work and its difficulties than ever before. They have discussed with our representatives our claims and aspirations for expansion and development and our desire for wholehearted service. The outcome of this may easily lead to an enquiry, the result of which may be of such a revolutionary character, as to present to us opportunities which, if taken, would place us on an equal footing with any other branch of the Service. We have, as our officials have so often reminded us, nothing to lose from such an enquiry: we welcome it and are sure every member will respond with eagerness to any opportunity that is offered.

We do not wonder that at such a time members should be willing to subordinate their personal handicaps and to unite their efforts in creating an atmosphere of co-operation and helpfulness. One of the most vital issues which face the Association is the question of the responsibilities of Assistant Preventive Officers. In many minds there appears to be a certain ambiguity of thought upon the matter, and in certain quarters a resentment towards the idea, that, perhaps, a re-statement of the problem might help us to a clearer conception of what is involved, and a realisation that the idea is not so impracticable or nebulous as it may appear.

It certainly is a problem that needs the greatest care in handling, for if the claim was overstepped, the consequences, as stated in the "Customs Journal," would not be relished by the A.P.O. themselves. The A.P.O. of to-day is the potential P.O. of to-morrow, and the Service itself would but suffer if an increase of the responsibility of one grade was made at the expense of the other. We could not, in the nature of things, countenance anything that would tend to decrease the number of P.O.s. Our aim to-day must of necessity be to increase the number of P.O.s., to extend the range of their activities, to increase their number by increasing the scope and nature of their responsibilities, whether by the inclusion

of Landing and Shipping duties if offered to us, or by any other channel that presents itself.

On the other hand, the detrimental effects of the present system must be obvious to all. At the present rate of promotion—sixty every two years—it will be some six years before the early post-war men are finally disposed of, the 1923 class another eight to ten years waiting for their chance of being called up, and for the latest entrant, there is the dismal prospect of eighteen years hanging over his head like a judicial sentence of imprisonment. As stated in the salary claim, only a small number of post-war entrants can hope to receive promotion before the age of forty.

To accept the official view that a man, until middle life, is a mere carrier of dipsticks, tape and documents and to deny his responsibility for any actions he performs, is morally bad for the man himself; infers a very low estimate of his intelligence and stands condemned of itself. Small wonder that so few men are attracted to the Waterguard as a career and that the Board have difficulty in obtaining recruits.

We state repeatedly that a P.O. needs reliance, resource and initiative, yet we fail lamentably to foster or encourage these qualities in our A.P.O.s. Such a system of tyrannical injustice that for forty years forces a man to be a nonentity, a mere person of no account whose individuality must be suppressed, and yet still be championed and extolled as an ideal training ground for men who will need recourse to resource, would be farcical if it were not for the tragedy of it.

The greatest tragedy of all is seen in the lives of the failed A.P.O.s. Often through no fault of their own, cast like flotsam aside, drifting helplessly, they have but little to encourage them, no responsibility; and it is responsibility that makes a man. The large number of letters that appear in the "C.J." from these men is testimony to the fact that they desire to be included in the scheme of things.

True, in many cases, Assistant Preventive Officers do assist their P.O.s in many of the intricate details of his work, and that Preventive Officers are anxious to utilise the services of the lower grade, yet the responsibility for all actions ultimately rests with the P.O. himself. Grant that we cannot delegate to the lower grade authority that would undermine that of the executive officer, yet at the same time some measure must be given.

This problem can be solved satisfactorily to both parties. A large proportion of the volume of work, mostly of a clerical nature, now performed by the Preventive Officer, could without detriment be safely entrusted to an assistant. The responsibility for keeping and signing records such as the Arrival and Sailing Sheet, the Pier-head Book, the Record of Arrival of Vessels to be reported to the Board, information to the Police on the subject of dogs on board vessels, the compilation of files, is to suggest but a few of the many duties, all of which the A.P.O. could keep and be personally responsible for.

At London, some months ago, a resolution was passed that, owing to the volume of work now performed by the Preventive Officer, the Council shall

immediately appoint a special sub-committee to devise a scheme to transfer certain minor duties, from the P.O.s to the A.P.O.s, thereby affording the latter some measure of responsibility.

One does not in the scope of this article wish to state definitely what should and what should not be entrusted to the A.P.O. The details of that should be left entirely to a sub-committee, but sufficient has been said to show the urgency of the claim that this resolution should not be shelved but dealt with forthwith.

Those are the lines along which a satisfactory solution can be found. It leaves the P.O. untrammelled and free to aspire to greater service. It breaks, for the A.P.O., the prison bars of his confinement, and offers to those about to enter the Service a career of self-respect and usefulness.

The Customs in Fiction.

By VULCAN.

Recently the Marquess of Donegall, writing on the American attitude towards the British Customs, expressed his opinion that the "hard" cases are mostly the fault of the passengers, and that he had "always found the officials to be courtesy itself." This is not the view taken by the majority of writers. Since Sherlock Holmes first shewed to the reading public what "asses" the official police were, one of the tricks of detective story writing is to have the brilliant amateur's cleverness made more scintillating by the muddle-headedness of the officials also dealing with the case. This seems also to be true of the Customs Service, for should a modern novelist by any mischance get one of his smuggler characters into custody it is always a secret service official, "No. 33" or "Capt. Dash," that gets him—never by any chance the Customs officer. This is a device adopted by American novelists who will give the credit to the "border patrol," "immigration inspector" or "prohibition enforcement officer"—any one, in fact, but to the body of men who are in real life responsible for putting the finishing touch to the smuggler's career. How is this attitude explained? The reasons can be placed on a physiological basis, one of the main themes advanceable being disillusionment. The public of this country being rather conservative minded, picture the Customs Officer as a bewhiskered old salt-hide, armed to the teeth, ready of course for one of those romantic encounters on some remote beach. When, however, it returns from its conducted tour, it meets a set of men not very much different from itself, save for a uniform, it seems at once that old whiskers and his beach are merely figures of fancy, and, being disillusioned though still romantic, prefers to have its sleuth work done by Major Dash or Captain Blank. The smuggler the public never meets, and therefore he keeps his halo of romance. Another reason is that to the travelling public a Customs

examination is most distasteful. You can't support a force, even fictionally, that insisted that you pay duty on your two bottles of brandy when returning from your trip to Paris, can you? Certainly not! So please, Mr. Novelist, we don't want to read any stories where these Customs men come out trumps—Mr. Novelist finds it pays to please his public. Therefore the favourable publicity given to the Customs is confined to the terse accounts of Police Court proceedings. Sometimes, however, one stumbles over little stories that prove that all the "deeds" are not on the Customs side. A little incident related in the Strand Magazine of January aptly illustrated that point. Mr. Scott, the writer, is dealing with the salvage of the Belgian "Elizabethville" by the Italian "Artiglio" and he relates that the grab amongst other things fished up a dozen copper lavatory tanks which, on being moved, rattled. One of these tanks was opened forthwith, and a lot of little lumps of copal gum dropped out. He states "the crew had evidently been smuggling it, perhaps in the belief that it was amber." This of course would have been one of the many incidents of which the public never hears where the smart would-be smuggler again failed to score.

Presentation to the Collector of Customs and Excise, Hull.

A very enjoyable smoking concert was held at the City Hotel, Hull, on Thursday, June 27th, when over eighty members of the Customs and Excise Department assembled to bid farewell to Mr. J. P. Cross, O.B.E., Collector of Customs and Excise at Hull, and to present him with a five-valve portable wireless receiver on the occasion of his removal to Glasgow. Mr. W. H. Adams, Assistant Collector, occupied the chair and was supported by Messrs. F. E. Gordon (Water-guard Superintendent), E. T. S. Cooper, G. B. Molohan, W. B. Swaine and A. J. Taylor (Surveyors).

Mr. Cooper in making the presentation mentioned that 180 members of the Hull Port and Collection had subscribed to the gift, and, with many other speakers of all grades who followed, referred in eulogistic terms to the sterling character and outstanding qualities exhibited by Mr. Cross during the three years that he had been in Hull.

Mr. Cross, who was accorded musical honours, tendered thanks for the gift and denied most of the virtues attributed to him, maintaining that his one desire had been the efficiency of the service as a whole.

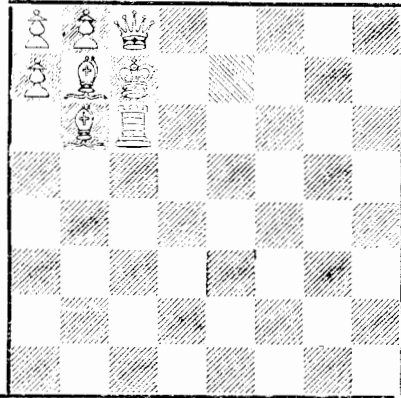
An attractive musical programme from talent provided exclusively by the Staff was arranged by Mr. W. F. Mahony, A.R.C.O. A memorable evening terminated with "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

HOW CHESS IS PLAYED BY
CORRESPONDENCE.—Cont.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

A PUZZLE BY "ANONYMOUS," No. 37a.
(BLACK).



(WHITES).

How many moves can YOU do it in?

Only the top nine squares on left of board to be used, thus pawns cannot move. Puzzle:—Get King into vacant square in the least number of legal moves possible without allowing him to move into or occupy the centre square. It can be done in 26.

CUP CONTEST FINAL. FURTHER MOVES.

21. P—Q36 QR—QB1
22. KR—K1 K—Kt1
23. B—Q2 Q—KB3

Election of Officers.—Members are informed that all Officers of the Committee retire annually after each season, any nominations for these offices should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary immediately. If no nominations are received, present officers will be returned as "unopposed."

You describe or write down a move thus:—first, you put down the name of the man you move, then the word "to" (supposing it is a simple move without taking anything followed by YOUR name for the square to which you move it. Thus if you as white, begin the game by moving the Queen's Pawn two squares, you express it thus: "Pawn to Queen's Fourth" or move shortly "P—Q4." There is no need to say "QP—Q4," as only one pawn can move to the square named. Put all that is necessary to make your meaning quite clear—and put no more. To be continued.

Hull Prosecutions

At the Hull City Police Court on June 20th, a fireman of the s.s. Lodz from Danzig was fined £25 and costs or six weeks' imprisonment for concealing 35½ lb. of tobacco (o.s.). The goods were discovered by Messrs. C. V. Murphy and W. S. Outram of Mr. W. F. Bugler's crew, concealed in the stokehold underneath a layer of cold ashes which had a top covering of hot ashes.

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

At the same Court on June 21st, the galleyman of the s.s. Lodz was charged with concealing 11 lb. of tobacco (o.s.). The goods in this case were concealed under a bottom drawer in the offender's room, and were discovered by Mr. A. B. Nobbs under Mr. A. H. Manning's supervision.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. J. Kieran, C.P.O., and offender was fined £6 19s. 9d. and costs or 30 days' imprisonment.

1928/29 TOURNAMENT SCORES.

Section III.

No.	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total Points
1	W. E. Morrison	-	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
2	B. C. Reilly	1	-	1	0	1	½	*1	1	5½
3	H. H. Gray	0	0	-	*1	1	1	1	1	5
	J. Terry	0	1	*0	-	1	1	1	1	5
5	W. Tuck	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	1	3
6	A. F. Mathews	0	½	0	0	0	-	*½	1	2
7	J. Hoare	0	*0	0	0	0	*½	-	*1	1½
8	O. M. Williams	†0	†0	0	0	†0	†0	*0	-	0

*Adjudicated. † Game resigned owing to sickness.