

The Customs Journal

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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 Trussillian 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.

DEVOLUTION.

IN our youth we used to sing a ditty that had for its theme the sayings of the wild waves, and recent whisperings in the Department have revived the old refrain in our memory. We do not say that the waves are talking about devolution.

We remember that during our youth we also read of the pagan practice of human sacrifice made to appease the wrath of the gods, or more frequently to extract favours from that source. We were not too young to observe that the old men strangely enough used to sacrifice a young maiden, or any other member of the community but themselves.

These random reflections, however, like the "flowers in the spring" have nothing to do with the wonderful word above, but we cannot altogether emulate the ostrich. There are some things in this Department of the Service that frequently give us cause furiously to think, and we often wonder how much longer it will be before mightier than we do some hard thinking.

During our normal spell a few weeks ago we had the good fortune to meet a colleague who had also travelled far, and whose purpose it was to examine some cement in bags. Truly he was a joyous fellow, but we must admit that the casual meeting made us thoughtful. We spent many minutes of the ensuing rail journey endeavouring to prove to our worthy self that cement in bags required for its proper examination qualities and experience that are not considered necessary in the examination of the varied receptacles that

enclose the personal belongings of Lady Soandso. We had to find scanty consolation in the fact that ours is a funny Department.

Really we often marvel at the things we can do, and consistently do, in the ordinary course of our duty. We can board a modern leviathan carrying a community equivalent to a small town, and represent H.M. Customs in all our glory. We can charge a person caught infringing the law, and prosecute the case in Court on behalf of the Crown but, . . . we cannot be entrusted with the examination of wooden dolls in cases. We are expected to know a good deal about dangerous drugs, and to prevent their illicit importation in baggage, but . . . we are not allowed to examine lard in cases. We can assess and receive duty on each and every variety of the goods enumerated in the tariff when imported in baggage, but . . . when the same articles are entered and so forth, we are not allowed to verify the particulars on such entry, and assess duty though the transaction be ever so simple in comparison. We can hold up a ship for some offence or other, and take the responsibility thereof. We must be acquainted with the law dealing with the carriage of wood goods in the winter, and be able to initiate proper action if this law should be broken but, . . . we are not thought capable of examining a consignment of wooden pegs imported in boxes. We can be Registrars of Shipping, Receivers of Wreck and Superintendents of Mercantile Marine. We can apply the important and involved enactments dealing with the importation and prohibitions concerning Cattle etc., but . . . the Merchandise Marks Act is to us but a name.

Some people seek devolution . . . why not Revolution?

CURRENT COMMENTS

THE change of Government has created an air of expectancy throughout the country. People of all shades of political opinion are awaiting developments, with mixed feelings of hope and fear. We have an entirely new and untried Cabinet, and one cannot help wondering if the nation's new leaders are men who can successfully tackle those serious problems which to-day call so loudly for vigorous attention.

It is difficult to get away from the selfish way of viewing the situation. The big business people fear for their profits; the working classes hope for better pay and conditions. The purely altruistic view is rarely to be found.

If the Government can give reasonable satisfaction to both labour and capital it will indeed have achieved something. There is obviously only one way in which any Government could have a measure of success in this direction, and that would be by stimulating the trade of the country. We can all agree to hope that this will happen.

Speaking of our own little sphere, already there is much speculation as to the effect of the new regime upon our pay claim. For some unknown reason there seems to be a feeling of pessimism. In the Customs and Excise as a whole there is a fear amongst the clerical grades that safeguarding duties may be abolished, and that this would lead to heavy redundancy.

Whilst there is certainly some ground for apprehension on the part of clerical staffs, there is not much cause to think that the new situation will adversely affect the Waterguard claim. The removal of safeguarding duties would not affect our staffing conditions in the least, and neither could it affect the merits of our claim for increased salary, because we have not based our claim primarily on additional work caused by the new duties imposed in recent years. We have used these, because of their complexity, rather as an argument that our successful performance of work in this connection is fresh proof that the value of Waterguard work generally has been always underestimated. We are hoping to get a truer valuation of ordinary Waterguard duties than has hitherto appertained. The ups and downs of the Tariff cannot materially affect a claim of this character.

As a matter of fact the outcome of the General Election is more likely to have a beneficial effect than otherwise upon our claim, because the position in Parliament now causes the proposal to set up a Royal Commission on the Civil Service to have much greater significance than when it was first made. Originally the two doubtful features in regard to the proposal were as to the possible composition of the Commission, and whether it could be a hostile inquiry. In the present circumstances there is reason to be optimistic on these

two points. The Civil Service is well represented in the House by men who thoroughly understand the question, and there seems every likelihood that this Royal Commission will be a useful body making a fair and unbiased investigation into Civil Service affairs. No one in the Service has need to fear an enquiry of this kind, and it should, in fact, be welcomed; more especially since it is improbable that the findings of the Commission would now be shelved.

There is no doubt that the Customs and Excise Department would come in for a fair share of attention. The obvious dissatisfaction that exists amongst the outdoor branches of the Department certainly suggests the need for inquiry.

The idea of centralising all Civil Service Association activity has been under consideration by the National Staff Side, with the result that a meeting of all the large Associations is to be convened with the object of discussing a proposition to create a central Headquarters capable of housing the principal Associations, and also other Service institutions such as social clubs and benevolent societies.

Whether this conference produces concrete results or not, there is one thing to be learned from it, and that is the growing need for the modern Association to be properly equipped with every office facility for the efficient conduct of all activities. Without this equipment an Association in these days is working under a severe handicap.

It is time that some of our members began to realise that the P.S.A. Headquarters office is no mere novelty, but is in fact an absolute necessity. Even with the facilities now provided it is with extreme difficulty that the Headquarters staff keep pace with the work. Statements to this effect which have previously appeared in the Journal have been regarded by certain myopic gentlemen as efforts at self advertisement on the part of the Association officials. Fortunately the bulk of our members are of too broad a vision to share this view. It is a matter to which the Council will have to give full consideration if they are wise. The appointment of an independent Committee to enquire into the method of Headquarters control would do a deal of good.

Reverting to the possibility of a central establishment for all Civil Service Associations, it is doubtful if such a scheme would be of much use to the P.S.A., unless it were possible to amalgamate with other analogous Associations and thus make it possible to provide full-time clerical assistance.

It must be admitted, however, that the idea sounds very good, and it will be interesting to see if anything emerges from the discussions that would

help us to solve some of our problems of organisation. We are certainly in support of any scheme that would aim at economy with improved efficiency in association activity.

The Annual Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation took place on Friday, June 7th. The report of the year's work indicated a sound and steady progress, but provided nothing spectacular for discussion. On the report of the Subsistence Committee of the National Council, however, there was a hot and lengthy debate. Several amendments were moved and lost before it was finally decided to approve the report.

The Treasurer's report was both interesting and encouraging to constituent Associations. It was pointed out that the Confederation expenditure had been substantially reduced during recent years, and that efficiency had been in no way diminished. The comparative figures quoted in this connection shewed clearly that, contrary to popular opinion, the cost of Confederation was definitely on the down grade.

It is understood that fifty candidates have been called for examination for promotion to the C.P.O. Grade. By the time these notes appear the written part of the examination, fixed for June 11th, will have been held, and it is hoped to be able to publish the questions in this issue.

This will probably be the last examination under the present method, as it seems unlikely there will be another before the early part of next year, and by that time the new method ought to be in operation.

Those A.P.O.s who are expecting to be included in the next batch for the Preventive Officer examination are advised to get down to their books if they have not yet started to study. Applications to the V.E.C. are already increasing, and it is evident that there are many who believe in the wisdom of being well prepared.

An examination has been announced for January

From time to time it has been urged in these columns that notification of all local Whitley meetings where Waterguard matters have been discussed should be sent to Headquarters. Too often does it happen that information as to important decisions on local committees comes to Beer Lane only through outside sources. This is most unbusiness-like, and is most unfair to the Waterguard representatives on the Departmental Council who are responsible for dealing with decisions reached on local Whitley Committees affecting the Waterguard.

It would be very helpful if each Councillor undertook the task of keeping Headquarters in touch with all local Whitley happening within his area. He could have an understanding with the secretaries so that he could be kept supplied with all up-to-date information.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO JUNE 3rd, 1929.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Hughes, W. C.

The appointments of Messrs. V. G. F. Ashworth and W. E. Smith, notified in the Appendices to General Orders Nos. 30 1929 and 31 1929 respectively, have been cancelled.

MATE-IN-CHARGE :—

Hopgood, A.

TRANSFER.

ENGINEER-MECHANIC :—

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

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Lang, H. J. Hull to King's Lynn, Norwich.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

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

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT :—

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Blake, G. E. Liverpool.

DEATH :—

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Hale, T. A., Liverpool.

VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Stranraer, Greenock.

MATE-IN-CHARGE :— Liverpool.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Chatterton, W.; Russell, R.

PREVENTIVE MAN :—

Foley, E. A.

PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

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

Gibson, H., Maryport, Preston to Glasgow.

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

Seizures—Owned and Unowned.

As an item of interest to rummaging officers I have reproduced a copy of a clause I discovered in the agreement of a Canadian Vessel which was opened in Halifax (N.S.) a few months ago.

It would be of great assistance to us if it were possible to have a similar clause in agreements opened in this country; of course, with the necessary amendments to the smuggling regulations.

This is printed in red :—

"In the event of contraband goods being found secreted on board for the purpose of smuggling, the crew hereby agree that any fine imposed by the Customs shall be deducted from their wages. If no owner be found, the said fine to be deducted either from the wages of that portion of the crew belonging to the department in which the contraband goods shall have been discovered or from the whole of the crew.

A.G.F.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office

Thames Chambers,

18, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.5.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

Liverpool District.

At a Branch meeting on May 8th, the General Secretary and the Organising Secretary were present as the result of an invitation from the Liverpool members.

For a long time, Liverpool has been anxious to know exactly how the P.S.A. functions in all its operations, and there has been some doubt, due to misunderstanding, as to whether the Association was the most effective means for advancing the interests of both the P.O. and the A.P.O. Grades. In some quarters it was thought that separate Associations should be established.

It was to deal with this point that the Headquarters officials were invited to attend, and in order to encourage a full discussion in the matter, a resolution was formally moved and seconded: "That the P.S.A. is not worth while." This was a novel way of dealing with the subject, but it certainly served the purpose. There was a record attendance at the meeting, but, after the resolution had been moved there was a disinclination on the part of the members to voice their views until the General Secretary and the Organising Secretary had said their say.

The General Secretary dealt at length with the history of the P.S.A., and the causes of its coming into existence. He showed that since its inception the Association had worked along lines of clear policy, and it was made plain that this policy was consistently directed at breaking down ancient prejudices which operated against Waterguard interests. He described the methods that had been adopted by the P.S.A. in enhancing the prestige of the Waterguard. He laid stress upon the fact that the Salary Claim was the culminating point of activity in this direction; that it would have been futile to have brought the claim at an earlier date; and that it would have been impossible to have created the conditions that would give the Salary Claim a reasonable chance of success had we not been in possession of the facilities provided only by the united efforts of the P.O. and the A.P.O. Grades within the P.S.A.

The Organising Secretary dealt with the question of the cost of the Association. He disposed of many misunderstandings as to the expenditure of the subscriptions received from members. He outlined the progress of the P.S.A. from the point of view of organisation, and convinced the meeting that had the P.S.A. been in existence in 1922-23, there would have been a different tale to tell as regards revision of salary scales. He appealed to the members not to repeat the folly of the past, but to give full financial and personal support to the Association at the present time and so ensure that the Association machine would be working efficiently at this critical period.

Both the speeches were received with much enthusiasm, and the motion before the meeting was unanimously rejected.

Before the close of the proceedings, the members took advantage of the opportunity to put many

BELFAST.

At a district meeting held on June 5th at the Cabin Cafe, Belfast, under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. G. Flynn, the following local and district officers were elected:—

Chairman, Mr. H. R. Ards (P.O.); Vice-Chairman and "Customs Journal" correspondent, Mr. J. G. Flynn (A.P.O.); District Secy., Mr. F. Nightingale (P.O.); District Organiser, Mr. P. A. Richardson (A.P.O.); Local Whitley Representatives, Messrs. Nightingale and Flynn; Local Auditors, Messrs. J. Barrett (P.O.) and A. E. Arnott (A.P.O.).

A resolution was passed that "The Northern Ireland Staff view with disfavour the present position of our elected Councillor to the Conference, and we insist on having direct representation for the Belfast District at all Council meetings, instead of having only an independent representative."

Matters of local importance occupied the rest of the meeting, and a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring and re-elected officers.

Examination of Preventive Officers.

Candidates for promotion to the rank of C.P.O. were asked last Tuesday to write a report to the Board on one of the following subjects:—

1. Discuss how far the present Regulations, under which the Waterguard deal with the Shipment, as Stores, of Bonded and Drawback goods, safeguard the Revenue, showing in detail the possible frauds which these Regulations are designed to prevent, and state what (if any) amendments in this respect are, in your opinion, desirable.

2. In the event of an aerodrome being established at some spot, within the limits of a port, for use by seaplanes bringing passengers from foreign, state what the main duties of the Waterguard in respect of the seaplanes and passengers would be, and discuss in detail what arrangements should be made for carrying out those duties.

3. Express your views on the present Regulations dealing with yachts arriving from foreign and state whether, in your opinion, the Standing Instructions concerning them require modification, and (if so) in what respects.

The time allowed for answering the questions was 1½ hours.

questions to the Association secretaries, in connection with Association activity. These were all answered satisfactorily.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Secretaries for their attendance, and it was promised by the members present that every effort would be made to remove the apathy that has existed in Liverpool for some time past.

(NOTE: Through inadvertence this item was omitted from the previous issue).

Waterguard Sectional Committee.

REPORT OF MEETING.

22nd May, 1929.

Chairman - A. S. LUPTON, Esq.

Vice-Chairman - J. MERRON, Esq.

In order to give the fullest possible consideration to the numerous items on the agenda it was found necessary to convene the meeting for 11 a.m.

Uniform—Issues to New Entrants.—The Staff Side in seeking that the first issue of uniform be ante-dated to the previous general issue and not, as now obtains, post-dated to the succeeding issue stated that Waterguard Officers contrived eventually to have two jackets for use, one on rummaging duties and one on Baggage duties.

The question was adjourned for further Official Side consideration.

Training of I.P.O.s.—The Staff Side seek the withdrawal of this reference.

Applications for Transfer.—The Chairman said the proposals were not intended to vary the existing agreement regarding Assistant Preventive Officers appointed to Allowed Small Ports on promotion, or the rules and practices as regards the transfer of officers to their home ports.

In agreeing to the proposals the Staff Side asked that seniority should be the deciding factor in the selection of applicants for transfer but consideration should be given to cases of hardship arising from domestic circumstances and to officers stationed in undesirable places.

Supply of Handbags to Preventive Officers.—The Vice-Chairman explained that the request was not for a personal or general issue but for issues to Stations as required. The bag would be used for conveyance of documents, blue books, measuring tape, spring balance, samples, etc.

The question was adjourned to enable both sides to make enquiries as to the number of handbags involved in the proposed issues.

Seizure Rewards.—The Staff Side asked for further adjournment in order to examine the detailed statistics supplied by the Official Side.

Waterguard Pocket Journals.—The Chairman said that in the interests of the Staff themselves apart from other considerations the retention of the Journal was necessary.

The Vice-Chairman explained that the Staff Side would not press for the abolition of the Journal but would seek some mitigation of the pin-pricking that arose in some cases from the examination of Journals.

The Chairman stated that after full consideration of the matter in 1921 specific instructions were embodied in General Order 101 of that year. The Official Side undertook to consider whether these instructions could usefully be amplified.

The item was adjourned.

Examination for Promotion to Preventive Officer.—The Staff Side proposed that the examination be on a qualifying basis, the qualifying mark being fixed.

The Official Side explained that the examination was already on a qualifying basis and the qualifying mark was fixed at 66% of the aggregate marks for the written and oral tests, with the proviso that 225 marks out of 400 must be obtained in the oral test.

The Staff Side suggested that the qualifying mark be 66% of the written test plus 225 at the oral in order to prevent the possibility of overweighting at the oral test.

The item was adjourned.

Examination for Promotion to Chief Preventive Officer.—The Staff Side put up seven proposals to amend the present system of promotion to C.P.O. Grade, including a proposal that promotion should be in order of merit at a qualifying examination; candidates should have two chances; that six months' notice of examination be given; and that the call-up be in strict order of seniority.

The Chairman said the Official Side were in agreement with the idea underlying the proposals, and subject to slight modifications he thought agreement could be reached on most of them.

The matter was adjourned for further consideration on both sides.

Physical Disability and Promotion.—Agreement was reached on the Staff Side proposal that Officers suffering from physical disabilities be not debarred from sitting at examinations for promotion, the question of their physical fitness to be left to the decision of a subsequent medical examination.

Overtime Cases.—It was agreed that overtime be paid on the basis of actual time attendances in the cases reported from Harwich and Gravesend.

Consideration of the basis of payment on overtime in connection with the case in London was adjourned after discussion.

Launch Service—Regrading of Ratings.—The Staff Side proposed that the titles "mate-in-charge" and "steersman deckhand" be altered to "master" and "mate-in-charge"—both grades to be on the established list. The new grade of mate-in-charge to be placed on a salary scale of 37s. by 1.6 to 42s. (basic). Acting pay to bear definite relation to the minimum scale of the superior grade.

In presenting the proposals the Staff Side sought primarily to bring the grade of steersman deckhand into line with the normal avenues of promotion and to secure remuneration commensurate with the responsibilities involved.

The Official Side replied they were of the same opinion on the question of titles as in 1921, viz., that the term "master" on Customs launches would be inappropriate. As regards the conditions of service of the steersman deckhand grade the Official Side could not agree that a deckhand who steered the smaller launches as his normal duty was in a different category from a deckhand on a larger launch.

The item was adjourned.

Launch Service—Vacancies.—The Staff Side proposed that vacancies in the established grades should be filled without undue delay by the next senior man on turn for promotion.

The Official Side explained the normal procedure which necessarily occupied some time, and pointed

out that not infrequently the candidates declined promotion, thus subscribing considerably to the delay.

Launch Service—Unestablished Service and Pension.—The Staff Side proposed that unestablished service prior to promotion to established rank should count towards pensionable period. They contended that the unestablished duties were analogous and in some cases continuous owing to lengthy spells of acting prior to promotion.

The Official Side stated that the unestablished period must be continuous and identical in order to qualify for continuity of service for pension. The cases quoted could not be regarded as conforming to these conditions.

The item was adjourned.

Waterguard Reorganisation.—The Staff Side made the following proposals:—

Revision of Salary Scales.

Asst. Preventive Officer	£125 by	£7 10s.	to	£200.
Preventive Officer	£250 by	£10	to	£400.
Chief Prev. Officer	£500 by	£20	to	£600.
Watgd. Supts. (2nd Class)	£625 by	£25	to	£700.
Watgd. Supts. (1st Class)	£750 by	£25	to	£800.

Revision of Hours of Service.

"8 hours per day with 4 hours on one day (when possible on Saturday)."

Revision of Overtime Rates.

" $1\frac{1}{2}$ time rate on excess of the normal daily spell of duty of 8 hours or 4 hours as the case may be. Double time rate on Sundays and Public Holidays. A minimum (credited) attendance of 4 hours."

Revision of Leave Scales.

Asst. Preventive Officer	21 days.
Preventive Officer	28 "
Chief Preventive Officer	36 "
Waterguard Supts.	48 "

The Staff Side presented a lengthy statement in support and expressed the hope that the claims would receive full consideration on the merits of the work performed. Whilst the Staff Side had instanced increases in Waterguard work since 1923 their main point was that the work had always been undervalued. Many comparisons were cited.

The Chairman assured the Staff Side that the claims would receive very careful consideration. At this stage he would only comment briefly on some of the points with a view to clarifying the issue.

After a lengthy discussion, in which questions were asked and answered and explanations given, the item was adjourned for further Official Side consideration.

Monthly Pay for A.P.O.s.—In view of the preceding item this question was adjourned *sine die*.

Coast Preventive Men.—The Official Side modified the statements in respect of "itineraries" and "baggage examination" made at previous meetings.

Office Cleaning.—The Staff Side raised a point on the question of dusting and cleaning Waterguard Offices.

The Official Side undertook to look into the situation.

H. A. PARKER

W. H. POWELL

Secretaries.

Civil Service Confederation

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 3rd June, 1929, at Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster, when Mr. George Chase (President) presided over an attendance of twenty-two.

A telegram was read from the Council of the Executive Officers' Association of the Irish Free State conveying congratulations on the election to Parliament of Mr. W. J. Brown, and it was unanimously agreed to send letters of congratulation on behalf of the Executive Committee to Mr. Brown and to the six Members of Parliament connected with the Union of Post Office Workers.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee it was agreed that the assistance of the Confederation be given to the Warehouse Supervisors' Association in connection with a claim for increased annual leave on behalf of certain classes in membership of the Association.

It was reported that, following upon the recent settlement with the Treasury, a meeting of the "P" Class Clerks' Committee of the Confederation had been held to consider various matters arising from the settlement, and it was decided that a statement be issued by the Confederation for the use of constituent organisations setting out the action taken by Confederation in connection with the negotiations leading up to the settlement. It was also agreed that the "P" Class Clerks' Committee be authorised to proceed with a deputation to the Treasury on the subject of the exception of "P" Class Clerks from payment of Unemployment Insurance contributions if in the opinion of the Committee it was deemed desirable to take such action.

A report of the first meeting of the recently appointed Higher Grades Committee of the Confederation was presented to and adopted by the Executive Committee.

Lengthy consideration was given to the subject of the proposed Royal Commission on the Civil Service, and, after considerable discussion, the following decisions were arrived at:—

- (1) That the Confederation Representatives on the National Whitley Council be instructed to accept, and not resist, the carrying into effect of the announcement that a Royal Commission on the Civil Service would be appointed;
- (2) That the Confederation Representatives be instructed to take steps to ensure as far as possible that representations on any All-Service issues dealt with by the Royal Commission shall be made by a single body on behalf of the Service as a whole, and not by sections or individual organisations;
- (3) That in the event of the appointment of a Royal Commission on the Civil Service, the Confederation is in favour of a Commission of the ordinary type, i.e. a Commission of enquiry whose recommendations might or might not be accepted by the Government of the day, and not a Commission whose recommendations would be accepted in advance by all parties concerned as mandatory.

(4) That, immediately on the announcement of the terms of reference and personnel of the proposed Royal Commission, the General Purposes Committee of the Confederation should be summoned to examine the question and submit a report to the Executive Committee suggesting the method by which the various subjects likely to come before the Royal Commission should be dealt with inside the Confederation.

The Executive Committee had under consideration a Report of the Subsistence Committee of the National Whitley Council, as agreed by the Staff and Official Sides of the Committee, in the form to be submitted for approval of the National Staff Side at its meeting on the 6th June. At the meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 6th May, 1929, after hearing a verbal report on the proposals of the Subsistence Committee, a resolution had been adopted that the Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side should seek to rescind the decision taken by the National Staff Side for the adoption of the Report. Having given further consideration to this matter, the Executive Committee decided that the decision of the previous meeting be rescinded.

The Executive Committee placed upon record its appreciation of the services of Mr. W. H. James, formerly President of the Confederation, on his retirement from membership of the Executive Committee after eight years' service thereon, and also its appreciation of the services of Mr. George Chase on the completion of his first year's Presidency of the Confederation.

KNOTTY POINTS.

By W. M. SHEEHAN.

In connection with the pilfering of Bonded Stores, we must decide whether the law is *framed* in such a way as to allow fraud with impunity, or whether the sections of the C.C. Act provide for penalties. "Reasonable" appears determined to make it easy for a person who would disregard all attempts of the Customs Authorities to prevent smuggling by pilfering. The extraction of goods from a place of security, the breaking of official seals, or the failure to implement the conditions in connection with documents and transit, are all matters of no importance because duty is secured by Bond. If such an interpretation of the law on the subject is correct, it is difficult for one to see why the authorities go to so much trouble in connection with the shipment of stores. It would be more economical, from an administrative point of view, if the goods were merely released on bond without any other formality, and trust to the goodwill of the persons taking delivery. Then if they were not duly produced at shipment, all that would be required would be to recover duty under the Bond. There is no reason why officers should be employed merely to report dishonest carters to their employers, and of course, the taping and sealing of such goods is so much waste of time—the awe-inspiring Bond covers everything.

The law has, however, been more intelligently devised than that a person may defraud the revenue with impunity, as many a dishonest storeroom dealer and

carter has realised. It is not the intention of the C.C. Act that any dutiable goods should be allowed to get about the country unless all the legal provisions in connection with the importation, the payment of duty, etc., are strictly complied with. One is not allowed to dodge behind a Bond form to secure goods, and any action which may defy the provisions of the C.C. Act, or tend to nullify the regulations laid down for the security of goods under Customs supervision, is met with by the necessary legal sanctions.

Section 186 of the C.C. Act is the authority for dealing with any case where goods liable to Customs duty have been illegally removed from a warehouse or place of security. Goods produced for shipment are in a place of security, and with official seals on them, and it is illegal to remove or tamper with them. Not only from a point of view of larceny—that depends upon the disposition or intention of the owner or agent—but from a Customs standpoint. By the extraction of such goods, the Customs laws in connection with the security of goods and transit are set at defiance. It is provided in section 218 of the C.C. Act that the fact of a Bond being in existence *shall not be pleaded or made use of* in any proceedings for the recovery of penalties under the Customs laws. Section 115 is the authority for the forfeiture of goods illegally removed. When the goods are liable to Excise duty, proceedings may be taken by the Board under the Excise Acts.

The case quoted by "Reasonable" would require further explanation. If the exported spirits had not been *unshipped* there is no provision in Section 186 for proceedings. Therefore, if the persons who got possession of spirits shipped for exportation, during salvage operations, had not actually unshipped or removed them from the vessel, Section 186 would not apply. Rather galling for the seizing officers, nevertheless! Further the exporter's bond as far as those spirits were concerned would *not* be in force—the certificate of shipment would have cleared the exporter's liability. In any case, Section 218 would have had nothing to do with it.

In regard to Vol. I, Part IV, Par. 9, my suggestion that the paragraph was written by a different author was meant to convey that *grammatically* the sentence in question has the same meaning as that in Vol. I, Part V, Par. 16. If the duty (singular) in "other articles" (plural) exceeds 1½, duty must be charged. There seems to be no need to insert the word "aggregate" in the sentence as it stands: "other dutiable articles" if the duty does not exceed 1½. It is beyond the scope of any officer to pass over Revenue, however small, even if, as "Reasonable" suggests, it expedites the examination of 700 passengers.

Accident to Mr. Marr.

We regret to learn of a serious accident to Mr. G. Marr (W.S. Cardiff) who, while on a visit to Brussels, was knocked down by a tramcar in that city. He was taken to hospital, according to a press account, suffering from a fracture of the skull.

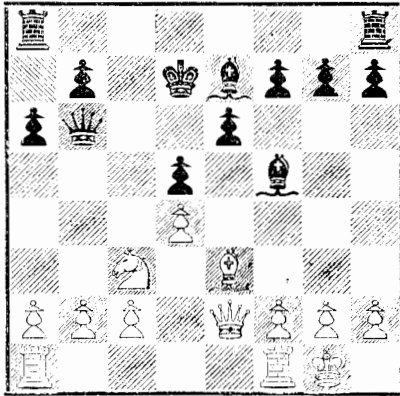
Mr. Marr was taking his leave prior to retiring on superannuation. His many friends and associates will trust that he makes a speedy recovery.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

CUP CONTEST FINAL.

Mr. F. G. BOODLE, Dover.
(Black)



(White)

Mr. A. HARDIE, Ayr.

Position after Black's 12th move.

<i>White.</i>	<i>Black.</i>
13. Kt—QR4.	O—B3.
14. P—OK3.	P—OK4.
15. Kt—B5ch.	B×Kt.
16. P×B.	KR—K1.
17. P—QB4.	K—K2.
18. P×QP.	KP×P.

HOW CHESS IS PLAYED BY
CORRESPONDENCE.

You must now learn how to name the squares; we can then make good progress. Each file (row of squares straight from player to player) is named from the pieces standing on it when game commences. Thus the file at the extreme left of the board is the Queen's Rook file (QR file); the next is the Queen's Knight file (KKt file) and so on towards the right; the middle files being Queen's file and King's file. The files keep their names however the pieces are moved about.

THE SQUARES.—Each player names the squares from his **own side of the board**; e.g.: White calls the square on which his QR is set up, his Queen's Rook's square (QR1); the next going up the board his QR second (QR2); the next QR3, and so on up to QR8.

Black reckons in the same manner but **from his own side of the board**. Thus his QR1 is White's QR8, his QR2 is white's QR7, etc. So that in making a correspondence move for an opponent, you always reckon his move from his own side of the board, and your own move from your side.

Exercise for practice.—Place on your board the following men for White (each on the square which White so names).

Rooks at QR1 and KB1, K at KK1, Pawns at QR2, OK2, QB2, Q4, KB2, KK2 and KR2, Knight at QB3, Bishop at K3.

For Black, teach on the square Black so named):

Rooks at QR1 and KR1, Pawns at QR3, OK2, Q4, K3, KK2, KB2, KR2, King at Q2, Bishops at K2, and KB4, Queen at OK3.

Verify by diagram of Cup Contest game above. NOTE:—Each Pawn is named from the piece on the file of which it is standing at the time being, *but*, if for example, a King's Pawn were moved on to the next file to the right, it would then be described as King's Bishop's Pawn, even though the original KBP were still on the same file.

(To be continued).

CRICKET.

May 25. Ynyswen C.C. 82; Cardiff Waterguard 66. A keen, fast game, the first experience of the club on a matting pitch. E. Lindley 38 runs, and 7 wickets for 30 runs.

May 30. Cardiff Waterguard 46; Cathedral R.C.C. 30—5 wickets. Match drawn owing to bad light.

June 1. Cardiff Gas Works C.C. 51; Cardiff Waterguard 107. S. Bray 45 not out. S. T. Gatheridge 5 wickets for 16 runs.

June 8. Glyn C.C. 60; Cardiff Waterguard 9. The home team added 43 runs for the 4th wicket and then lost 6 wickets for 11 runs.

YOUTH MEETS ITS WATERLOO AT
CARDIFF.

A challenge was issued by the new entrants and taken up by the older members of the Waterguard Staff, whereupon a match was played at Penarth on the evening of May 27th.

The "Sprites" batted first and reached the respectable total of 62 runs. This was due mainly to S. Bray 27 and A. H. Sweet 19 not out.

When the "Cripples" went in to bat it seemed that time would beat them; but so well did S. T. Gatheridge (A.P.O.) play for his 41 not out that the game was won with 8 wickets intact.

New Entrants 62. Married Staff. 65 for 2 wkts.

Mr. Atwell P.O. (Penarth) and S. T. Gatheridge A.P.O. bowled well—taking 3 wkts. each for 12 and 15 runs respectively.