

# The Customs Journal

No. 654

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Fortnightly

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*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," 91 Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.4.*

*All matter for insertion in the forthcoming issue should reach the Editor on or before the Monday preceding the day of publication.*

## What Will The Commission Do?

WITH a Royal Commission investigating Civil Service problems, it is only natural that a considerable air of uncertainty should be pervading Service circles at the moment, and that there should also be much talk of revolutionary changes. It is perfectly natural also that the varying elements that comprise the Service should be approaching the problem of "what will the Commission do?" from a not altogether unselfish motive.

That, however, is by the way, and whilst we are not unmindful of the potentialities of the existing situation, it is human nature being what it is that causes us to give greater concern at the moment to our own particular problem of the Water-guard Re-organisation claim. This does not necessarily mean that we do not fully realise the importance of the Commission to the rank and file of the Service. The terms of reference are of themselves sufficient to prove this importance. It is our view, however, that in the main the questions that will be investigated by the Commission, and in connection with which there may be conflicting interests amongst certain Staff Associations, are identified with what may be described as general service classes.

The organisations catering for these classes have not been slow to realise the opportunity thus afforded them of advancing under ideal conditions the interests of their members in so far as certain

questions peculiar to themselves are concerned. One can hardly imagine a better tribunal for dealing with that vexed question of direct entry to the Executive Class, for instance. It is no wonder that there is alarm in certain quarters, but if you have nothing in the larder, you can console yourself at times with the knowledge that it will not be raided.

In the case of Departmental classes such as our own, the situation is rather different, and that accounts for the hesitancy as regards the Commission of Departmental Associations. It is safe to assume, however, that they are taking all precautions, and that preparations are being made not only to protect the interests of their members, but also to promote them if the opportunity presents itself. This is true of the Preventive Staff Association at all events, but as previously stated, we are mainly concerned with our Salary Claim.

Regarding this, there has been a doubt expressed as to the effect of the Royal Commission upon claims of this nature. For our part we cannot subscribe to this theory. There is the assurance on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Commission would not have such an effect, and in further support, if such be needed, we have not yet heard that the Industrial Court procedure, as far as Civil Service claims are concerned, has been suspended.

## CURRENT COMMENTS.

**B**Y this time the Royal Commission on the Civil Service will have completed the first full week of its investigation, and although the ground covered can yet be only very small, there will nevertheless be a general eagerness to learn something of what has transpired during these few days, so that some estimate can be formed as to the kind of issues that are likely to arise during the forthcoming months of inquiry.

It has been arranged that the meetings take place in the House of Lords Committee Room No. 1. Treasury evidence will be taken first, and then representations from the National Staff Side will be heard.

Evidence from other sources within the Service will be submitted in due course, but at the moment the scope and volume of this cannot be stated because a great deal depends upon what course the proceedings will take. Several large Associations have for some time past been busy preparing material with the definite object of giving evidence; and others are holding themselves in readiness to submit evidence should circumstances arise which would make this necessary or desirable. The P.S.A. is in the latter category, and therefore a close watch will have to be kept by our representatives upon the proceedings. It is not by any means improbable that at some stage of the Inquiry our interests will be involved, and we are prepared to act in accordance with the particular circumstances when that moment arrives.

\* \* \* \* \*

To discover methods of simplification in the construction of Civil Service departments will certainly be one of the most important aims of the Commission; and it seems almost inevitable that, when the Customs and Excise Department comes under examination, the question will arise of making a more economic use of the valuable training and experience obtainable in the Waterguard Department for the performance of practically any outdoor Customs work.

Of all the important regulations controlling the work of the Landing Officer it would be difficult to mention any with which the Preventive Officer is not expected to be acquainted for practical reasons. As a matter of fact the only difference between the duties of each grade is that the Preventive Officer in his performance of Waterguard work deals with small transactions as compared with the Landing Officer. On the other hand, the Preventive Officer has to apply these regulations under more difficult circumstances calling for immediate and accurate decisions.

\* \* \* \* \*

Under present circumstances the Waterguard performs all Customs work in connection with ships, crews, and passengers; and in certain

circumstances cargoes are also dealt with. The main task of dealing with cargoes is entrusted to those members of the Officer Grade appointed to Customs Landing and Shipping duties. The only argument that has yet been heard against the taking over of Landing and Shipping duties by the Waterguard is that the officers of that department are not sufficiently intellectual for this admittedly important work. That argument might have held good many years ago, but times have rapidly changed, and so also has the type of official employed in the Departments concerned. The fact is undeniable that in the Waterguard a practical knowledge is gained which enables an officer to understand all the regulations governing the performance of outdoor Customs work. In these days that is the argument which is more likely to carry weight.

\* \* \* \* \*

In any case there can be no doubt that if it could be proved that Waterguard Officers were capable of performing all outdoor Customs work it would mean that Customs staff organisation could be enormously simplified. Overlapping, so rife at present, would entirely disappear.

There would then be good reason for arguing that the Waterguard (with a less cryptic title) should be the training ground for all Customs officers. Against this the time-worn argument might be trotted out that the work of searching ships would deter entrants of a sufficiently high standard. Fortunately one need not bother to rebut that out-of-date contention. It would probably be urged also that if good-class recruits were obtained, they would not take kindly to the work of searching ships. Experience, however, is all against this argument. The detection of modern smuggling is sport for any intelligent young man, and the more intelligent he is the more zest there is for the game. But poor pay and indifferent prospects have a definitely dulling effect. In days of yore conditions such as these might have been valuable for their goading properties, but in these enlightened times it has been proved more profitable in all forms of employment to encourage self-respect, and thus to induce a high-spirited zeal. With all due respect to those ancients who can never see any good in a new generation, it can be asserted that entrants to the Waterguard under the new open competitive conditions show at least as much zeal as previous entrants. A more hopeful outlook than is presented by their present circumstances would, however, considerably improve their spirits.

\* \* \* \* \*

Association schemes for vocational education have during late years had a marked effect in

considerably raising the standard of departmental knowledge. This can be seen in the keenness of candidates going for the next examination for Preventive Officer. Requests have been made by many students, who have already taken the full courses of normal tuition, for special tuition in particular subjects. Every effort is being made by the V.E.S. officials to meet this demand, and though it means hard work, it is a very gratifying situation. That this demand exists speaks volumes in favour of the claim that Waterguard officers to-day fully realise the importance of a sound knowledge of all Customs regulations.

\* \* \* \*

It will be of interest to members to learn that Mr. D. E. A. Tucker, Assistant Preventive Officer at Dover, who was recently appointed to the post of Inspector-in-Charge at Tanganyika in British East Africa, has now left England to take up the appointment. Before leaving he called at the Association Headquarters and expressed a desire to remain a member of the Preventive Staff Association during his stay abroad. He also made arrangements for the "Customs Journal" to be supplied to him.

Mr. Tucker is an expert linguist, and this, coupled with the fact of his travel experience in other lands, and several years of practical Waterguard work, proved his ample qualifications for the post at Tanganyika.

He was a very popular man with his colleagues, and was also well appreciated by members of the Landing Staff in his locality, where he devoted a good deal of his leisure time to the teaching of languages to the Customs staff.

We send him best wishes for success in his new sphere, and trust that he will safely return.

\* \* \* \*

The annual dinner of the London Preventive Staff South Side Sports Club, held on the 30th October, was a great success. An unfortunate accident at the critical moment to the electric cooking apparatus in the kitchens where the dinner was prepared, threatened to mar the whole proceedings. By some miraculous means the handicap was overcome, and though the dinner was not up to the expectations of the Club Committee, the results were not at all bad. Any defects there may have been were amply compensated for by the very excellent programme arranged for the evening. After the dinner followed the first dance of the season, and this was adjudged by all to be a most excellent affair.

There were numerous visitors from other branches of the Customs and Excise, and most of them have expressed a desire to be present at future Waterguard functions.

Mr. F. C. Warac, who was in the Chair, excelled himself as an after-dinner speaker. Mr. E. W. Jones was present and, as usual, contributed his quota towards making the evening a success.

The Inspector-General, who had been out of town during the day on official business, succeeded in arriving just in time to respond to a toast to the Visitors. This was his first appearance at a Waterguard function since his appointment as Chief of the Waterguard. He was enthusiastically received, and took advantage of the opportunity to introduce himself in his new capacity with a few appropriate remarks.

A full account of the evening appears elsewhere in this issue.

\* \* \* \*

On Armistice Day the usual ceremony took place in the Long Room, London, at a few minutes to 11 a.m. Wreaths were placed by the various heads of departments at the base of the Memorial. The Chairman of the Board, accompanied by the Deputy Chairman, placed the first wreath. The Waterguard wreath was placed by the Inspector-General. The ceremony was followed by the two minutes' silence, which ended in the sounding of the Last Post, and Reveille.

\* \* \* \*

Shortly afterwards the Departmental wreath was conveyed to the Cenotaph in charge of a Preventive Staff Guard of Honour, supported by a contingent of the Customs and Excise Special Constables, and accompanied by ex-Service representatives of the various departments. The party left the Harpy in Customs launches and proceeded to Westminster Pier, and from there they marched to the Cenotaph, where the wreath, consisting of the Customs flag in floral design, was placed by two Assistant Preventive Officers.

The organisation of the outdoor part of the proceedings was in the hands of Mr. W. H. Powell, A.P.O., as in previous years. He is once again to be congratulated on the admirable manner in which everything was carried out. In spite of the vast crowds along the route to the Cenotaph, the Customs party carried out their programme without a hitch.

To Mr. W. H. James must be given the credit for the successful organisation of the indoor programme. Mr. James is well known to many of us from the time when, as a member of the Officer Grade, he very ably carried out the duties of responsible positions in Staff organisations.

## Preventive Staff Association

*Head Office*

Thames Chambers,

13, 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

### The Small Port Guide.

Copies of the above will be available shortly, and members are advised to order a copy if they have not already done so.

In publishing this book the Association is supplying a long-felt want. It has long been recognised that a text-book of this description was required to complete the collection of Waterguard Instructions essential to the up-to-date Officer.

The book is a substantial one, and well bound. It covers practically the whole of small port procedure, and includes comprehensive chapters on Registry of Shipping, Light Dues, Board of Trade, Fishing Boats, Wreck, Royal Naval Reserve, and Customs. There is also an exhaustive list of schedules and returns, which will prove very useful to Small Port officers. The subjects are explained in simple language, and the value of the work lies in the ease with which its contents can be assimilated. The work will be found especially useful to students for the P.O. and C.P.O. examinations, whilst to officers liable to serve or relieve at Small Ports, it will prove a boon.

The price of the book is 4/- post free. The Author has unconditionally presented it to the Association, and it is being published at cost price. It is an effort to help the staff in a difficult phase of their work, and every member of the staff should respond by ordering a copy. Only a limited number are being printed, and supply at a later date cannot be guaranteed.

J. T. SUTTON, Org. Secy.

#### ORDER FORM.

Kindly forward.....copies of the Small Port Guide, for which I enclose £            s.            d.  
Postal Orders, etc., should be made payable to the C. & E. Preventive Staff Association and crossed.)  
Name .....  
Address .....

Forward this form to the Org. Secy., C. & E. Preventive Staff Association, 13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.8. Orders already made need not be repeated on this form.

### HARTLEPOOL.

A well attended meeting was held on November 6th at West Hartlepool, members being present from Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

A very full report of the P.S.A. Conference was given by Mr. W. A. Colwill, followed by a number of questions which were satisfactorily answered. Arising out of the report a resolution was carried protesting against the employment of Coast Preventive men on the examination of any kind of baggage.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

TO NOVEMBER 14th, 1929.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Humphries, S. B., Trimbleau, G. E.

ENGINEER MECHANICS:—

Golding, E. A., Liston, T., Neale, W., Pigg, C. E.

#### TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, Upper Section:—

Lambert, G. E., Gravesend, London to London.  
Shearman, W. P., Grimsby to Gravesend, London.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section:—

Goddard, W. F. L., Unattached, Office of I.G.W. to Holyhead, Chester.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Angus, A. P., Peel, Douglas, Isle of Man to Glasgow.  
Burge, B. J. A., Heysham, Preston to Hull.  
Platten, H. S., Southampton to Folkestone, Dover.  
Rugg, G. H., Cowes, Portsmouth to Southampton.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Beglin, J. E., Barrow to Whitehaven, Preston.  
Charles, A. H., Middlesbrough, Sunderland to Campbelltown, Greenock.

#### PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section to Upper Section:—

Madden, E. P., Holyhead, Chester to Grimsby.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE, Lower Section (Unattached):—

Jeffrey, W., Hull to Office of I.G.W.

Section:—

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Waters, J., Glasgow to Oban, Inverness.

#### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

#### RETIREMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Bissenden, W. L., London, Trench, F. W., Gloucester, Newport, Mon.

MATE-IN-CHARGE:—

Gardner, W. H., London.

#### DEATHS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Gordge, E. E. J., North Shields, Newcastle.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Crothers, E. H. W., Cardiff, Potter, J., Southampton.

## OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Finlay, W. J., Preventive Officer.

Machamors, W. J. K., Engineer-Mechanic.

## VACANCIES.

## PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

\*Heysham, Preston.

†Peck, Douglas, Isle of Man.

London, 10.12.1929.

Poetsmouth, 14.12.1929.

## MALE-IN-CHARGE:—

London.

\* (An allowance of £30 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., plus £10 per annum for Registry of Shipping work, is assigned).

† (An allowance of £25 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., plus £10 per annum for Registry of Shipping work, is assigned).

### Royal Commission on the Civil Service.

Meetings of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service for the hearing of evidence were held in the House of Lords Committee Room No. 1, at 2.30 p.m. on 11th November, and at 10.30 a.m. on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th November.

Evidence was due to be heard on the above dates from the Controller of Establishments, Department, H.M. Treasury, the Civil Service Commissioners, and representatives of the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Administrative and Legal Departments of the Civil Service.

### Presentation at North Shields.

A large number of the staff at North Shields were present at the Custom House on Friday, November 25th, when an old friend and colleague, Mr. R. S. Purves, late engineer at the port, was presented with a tangible reminder of the esteem in which he is held. The presentation took the shape of a gold Albert and pendant, with a silk umbrella for Mrs. Purves.

Mr. Moss (W.S.), occupied the Chair, and after reading a number of letters from old colleagues who, although unable to be present, wished to be definitely associated with the business of the gathering, gave a brief résumé of Mr. Purves' forty years of arduous service.

Mr. Nicholson (Male-in-Charge), in conveying the best wishes of the Launch Service to "Bob" and his wife, referred to the time when Mr. Purves and he were shipmates during the 24-hour day era. Mr. Charlton and Mr. Ferguson, of the Launch Service, also spoke, while Mr. Reilly (P.O.), spoke in appreciation on behalf of the Preventive Staff.

In making the presentation, Mr. Grantham (C.P.O.), predicted many happy years, enough, he hoped, to wear the links of the chain very thin.

Mr. Purves thanked his late colleagues for their good wishes and gifts. He could not, he said, have wished for better comrades, and it was with regret that he had severed his connection with so many old friends in the Service.

### Sports Club's Annual Dinner in London.

The third annual dinner of the London South Side Cricket Club at New Cross on October 30th marked the close of this Club's third cricket year. This year the club team has figured in the C. & E. League, and although occupying, at the close of the season, a very lowly position in the League table, this has not in any way deterred from the enjoyment of some very keen and interesting games. One of the best "sports" in the team remarked that position in the League table matters very little, for somebody must appear at the bottom.

The fine sportsmanlike spirit of the club was referred to by Mr. Warne (W.S.) who, as President of the club, occupied the chair. In giving the toast of The Club, he spoke of many pleasant afternoons and evenings during the past cricket season. He ventured the opinion that it was time the North and South Side Clubs came to some arrangement of amalgamation, a remark that met with some applause. Amalgamation, he said, need not curtail the existing social activities at present in progress on both sides of the river.

Mr. Baldwin, the Secretary, replying for the Club, voiced the appreciation of the Club members of the hearty co-operation of many friends during the season. Regarding the question of amalgamation, discussion would be initiated at the next meeting.

Mr. Merron was proud to be able to toast The Visitors. The number of visitors was growing, and the Club very much appreciated the presence of the ladies, not only at the dances, but also at the cricket matches.

Replying to this toast, Mr. Woodford, who was meeting the London Staff socially for the first time as Inspector-General, was not sure that he should be counted as a visitor. He certainly did not feel like one. Speaking for the visitors, however, he was sure that they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. He himself had been looking forward with pleasure to this evening, as had Mrs. Woodford, and he mentioned her disappointment that circumstances had conspired to prevent her attendance.

He felt to some extent an interloper (cries of No!), but he was proud of being an interloper in the Waterguard. He was not exactly a stranger. He had old associations with that section of the C. & E., and had memories of the old Gravesend "Dolphin" nearly fifty years ago. Mr. Woodford supported the Chairman's suggestion of one sports club for London, and looked forward to the day when an agreement would exist between what are now two separate organisations. Play is a great essential to life, he said. It brings out the best side of a man. He is already President of that excellent organisation, the Chess Club, and he hopes to take as much interest in the play as in the work.

Mr. Woodford felt that the occasion provided an excellent opportunity for him to say a few words to the Staff, and he craved the indulgence of the Chairman for this purpose. In expressing his admiration for the efficient manner in which the work of the Waterguard Staff is performed, he said he was positive, having now come into close contact with this work, that there was certainly no room in

the Department for slackers and shirkers. He confessed to a deeply-rooted antipathy to persons of this type in any walk of life. On the other hand, he always appreciated effort and straightforwardness, and he wanted to say that he had much sympathy with the officer who, whilst applying himself to his job, fell into an occasional mistake. This was always possible in the kind of work performed by the Waterguard, and he desired it to be understood throughout the department that his attitude towards such errors would be one of great consideration so far as he himself was concerned.

Mr. Woodford went on to say that it was his intention to get to know his staff both socially and officially, and it was his great wish and ambition to put the Preventive Staff in the position that was rightly theirs. He claimed that his long association with the Waterguard gave him a special understanding which would assist him in achieving his ambition.

Mr. Steers, captain of the cricket team, gave the toast of The Chairman, and assured him that the Club appreciated to the full the support he had given during his first year as President. The toast was accorded musical honours.

The dance that followed the dinner was enjoyed by all, as are all the South Side dances. It was the first of the series of dances at the New Cross Palais, and we are assured, if this be taken as an augury, of a thoroughly enjoyable season.

The next dance will be on Tuesday, Nov. 26th.

## OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. E. J. Gorge, P.O., while on leave at his home in London, on the 25th October.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents, wife and children in their bereavement.

Mr. Gorge was promoted to Preventive Officer in May, 1928, and was 33 years of age.

Among the many wreaths at the funeral in London on November 24th was one from the Staff at Southampton. Mr. Dutton attended to represent Southampton.

Friends and colleagues throughout the Service will have learned with regret of the death of Mr. E. H. W. Crothers, A.P.O.

Mr. Crothers had been ill for a period of six weeks, during which time his vitality was slowly sapped away. When he died on October 18th, "Ted" was only 34 years of age, but his years of service were full of changes. He served in Liverpool and Grimsby, and in Ireland during the commencement of the Free State.

Mr. Crothers' name appeared on the list of A.P.O.s called for the next P.O. examination.

At the funeral on Tuesday, 22nd October, a number of his Cardiff colleagues attended in uniform to pay their last respects. Mr. H. Howell, C.P.O., and some of the Preventive Officers were also present. Floral tributes were received from many quarters as a last token of remembrance. Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to Mrs. Crothers in her sad bereavement.

It is with regret that we have to record the death

of Mr. John Potter, A.P.O., who passed away on Saturday, 26th October, 1929. Many colleagues attended his funeral at Hollybrook Cemetery, including Mr. Purroye, C.P.O., to pay their last tributes to their colleague.

Six A.P.O.s acted as bearers, and a floral tribute was sent from the whole Staff. He leaves a widow and three children, to whom our sympathies are extended.

CLIFFORD—On October 30th, 1929, Priscilla Ruth, aged 18 years and 7 months, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Clifford, of "York House," High Road, Gorleston.

Miss Clifford had been under medical care for some time. Her condition became grave in June last, and she suffered considerable pain until the time of her death. She was a promising musician and had shown marked ability.

Great sympathy, in which we join, has been extended to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford in their bereavement. The C. and E. Staff were represented at the funeral, and among the floral tributes were sent one from the Lowestoft staff and one from the London officers at present at Lowestoft, as well as several from individual officers.

It will be remembered that Mr. Clifford is awaiting his appointment as 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.*

### AMENDMENT SLIPS.

Sir, Though only an officer of two years' service and consequently of little G.O. and Code experience, I yet feel I must say what great assistance to both neatness and speed would be felt if our Code and G.O. amendments had a margin of gummed edge, thereby doing away with that snuffy, sticky gunk pot.

Yours, etc.,

"4711."

### UNIFORM.

Sir, As there are various subjects under consideration in respect to the Waterguard, it would appear to be a suitable time to give some consideration to the uniforms now supplied to the Preventive Staff.

As Officers are brought into direct contact with all classes of the travelling public, as well as with the crews of vessels of all nations, I submit, as a suggestion, the following alterations to the uniforms of the P.O. and A.P.O. grades.

That the P.O. grade have a narrow ring in addition to that already in vogue, and that the A.P.O. grade of, say, over five years' service, be supplied with a ring as at present worn by the P.O.s.

It is submitted that this alteration would be attended by very little expense, and would have the effect of giving more standing to the officers concerned when dealing with passengers or ships' crews, and particularly so in the case of officers having dealings with Navy vessels.

Yours, etc.,

"1929."

## Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

The 110th meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on 23rd October, 1929, the chair being taken by Sir F. L. C. Flood, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

A letter was received from Mr. N. Thompson, C.B.E., F.S.O., acknowledging the expressions of regret at his retirement from the post of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

It was announced that Mr. F. N. Roberts had been appointed Official Side Secretary in succession to Mr. H. S. Marshall, to whose services appreciative references were made by both sides of the Council.

### LEAVE.

It was agreed that 21 days' leave should be allowed to Temporary Women Pension Officers instead of 18 days as at present, arrangements being made for the current and future application of the new scale.

The Council adjourned Staff Side proposals respecting special leave with pay on marriage or bereavement, and travelling expenses on return from non-adjunct leave to attend court proceedings.

### REDUNDANCY.

Renewed consideration was given to the rules proposed by the Staff Side for regulating transfers of Clerical Officers redundant at Headquarters. The Official Side stated various qualifications which would have to appear in any agreed formula, and after further discussion the subject was re-adjourned.

### OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

It was reported that draft proposals on certain points had been made on behalf of the Official Side, and were under consideration. It was arranged that any further proposals might similarly be communicated, so that, when resumed, formal discussions might cover the whole subject.

### "P" CLASS CLERKS.

The Official Side stated that the Board hoped to make a further number of promotions from the "P" Class very shortly.

### WIDOWS' PENSIONS BILL.

It was announced that the Ministry of Health had requested the help of the Customs and Excise Department in connection with the proposed extension of widows' pensions. If the proposals materialised a considerable amount of investigation into the tide to pension would be necessary in many cases. The earliest opportunity would be taken to discuss the matter with the Staff Side.

### OTHER MATTERS.

The Council approved schemes of work for a further number of Excise General Stations in various Collections. A few points of disagreement reported by Local Committees in this connection were referred for informal discussion. In regard to the staffing of certain sections of the Statistical Office the Official Side stated that they hoped to be able to make definite proposals at an early date.

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

Referring to the work of the year concluded at this meeting of the Council, the Chairman remarked that during this period the Council had recorded no less than 230 agreements, and only 8 disagreements. This was a proportion which compared very favourably with that of previous years. In all cases disagreements reported to the Council had been converted after discussion into agreements. During the past few months considerable progress had been made in re-constituting the Excise Stations. Earlier in the year the constitution of the Promotion Board panels had been extended to provide for the ease of promotions to the Officer Grade and from the "P" Class to the Clerical Grade. Progress had also been made in setting up centres for Collection Unattached Officers. Quite recently, agreement had been reached on the principle of Common Seniority Lists, and the methods of compiling such lists had been settled in detail. The report of the Special Committee on the latter question was regarded both here and in other quarters as a very valuable contribution towards the solution of some of the difficult problems involved in the question of Common Seniority Lists. On the whole he thought that the Council was entitled to credit for a useful year's work, which afforded a good example of the working of the Whitley system.

The Vice-Chairman described the year as having yielded a good harvest so far as the work of the Council was concerned. He said that the Staff Side were pleased again to hear a favourable opinion of the value of Whitleyism in this Department. They attached special significance to this at the present time, as while they might possibly be able to suggest some improvement and extension of the existing Whitley machinery, they realised that occasion might arise elsewhere for them to plead against its abolition, and they trusted to be able to rely in this matter on the support of the Official Side. The Vice-Chairman concluded by saying that the Staff Side believed the value of the Whitley system in this Department to be as great as, if not greater than, in any other Department, and that this was due to the spirit in which the Board had always met them.

## London South Side Sports Club.

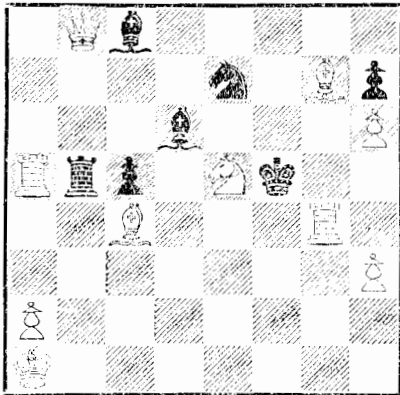
The annual general meeting of the South Side Sports Club has been arranged for November 19th, at the St. Katherine Dock Hotel, at 6.30 p.m. There will be a heavy agenda, and all members have been urged to be present punctually in order to commence business in good time.

Tuesday next, November 26th, is the date of the next South Side Club Dance. It will be a carnival dance, and will take place at the New Cross Palais de Danse.

## SPORT AND SOCIAL.

## Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 42.



By PHILIP H. WILLIAMS.  
White mate in two.

Key to No. 41, Q B2.

## HOW CHESS IS PLAYED.—(Continued).

**Divergent Check.**—Properly speaking, only the K is "checked," but the term "divergent check" is sometimes used to describe a move which gives a check to the K, and at the same time attacks another man, (especially a valuable one). Example: 5 K2; 8; 8; 2 Q5; 5 K2; 8; 8; 8, if it is a black's move, he plays the Knight to his K3, attacking both the K and Q. The Kt cannot be taken; the K must move to get out of check, and then the Kt takes the Q. There is nothing more dangerous in chess than allowing one of your opponent's men to attack, or "fork" two of your men by one move.

Equally dangerous is what some have called the "check penetrant," when a piece of yours (a B, Q or R), attacks one of your opponent's men through his K which is put in check. Example: 8; 8; 8; 5 q2; 8; 3 k4; B7; 8. White having move, moves B—Kt 1, giving check; this gains the Q; for black K, must get out of the B's line, and having done so, the B captures the Q.

**Checkmate.**—One of the greatest beauties of chess turns on this mode of finishing the game—by checkmate, not by simply capturing men. A skilful player may sacrifice (*i.e.*: seem to throw away), half his men, in order to bring about a checkmate. In this position, 1q, 4 bk; 5 r 4; 5 P 1 K; 8; 6 Q 1; 8; 8; 8; white can win by sacrificing his Q; he moves his Q—Kt 7 check, the only way for black to get out of check is to take Q with R, whereupon the P takes the R and gives checkmate; the black Q and B looking on, outdone by a simple Pawn. What matter to lose your Q if you win the game?

I have said before that two Kings can never stand on adjoining squares. If you have grasped the meaning of "check" you will understand why they cannot. The checking power which each King has over an adjoining square keeps the other King off that square. A King can never move into a square that is commanded by an enemy piece. Therefore, a King cannot move into a square adjacent to the square occupied by the hostile King.  
(To be continued.)

## 1929/30 TOURNAMENT SCORES.

## Section I.

Mr. F. G. Boodle, Dover, beat Mr. W. W. Bishop, Holyhead and Mr. W. E. Morrison, Dover, overboard.

Mr. Dudley, London, beat Mr. Bishop; Mr. Bishop beat Mr. Morrison, overboard.

## Section III.

Mr. W. R. Hughes, Holyhead, beat Mr. J. A. E. Brownlow, Liverpool.

## Presentation at Grimsby.

To bid farewell to Mr. W. P. Shearman (C.P.O.), now transferred to Gravesend, the Grimsby and Immigration Staffs met together on November 2nd at the office of the Preventive Staff. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. R. J. Girling, F. E. Crowe, J. H. Cowell and D. Cronin, expressing sincere appreciation of Mr. Shearman during his term of office at the port as C.P.O. At the conclusion, Mr. L. L. Stewart, the Chairman, asked Mr. Shearman to accept from the Staff, as a mark of their esteem, a solid leather suit case. In replying, Mr. Shearman referred to the pleasant time he had spent in Grimsby as their C.P.O., and of the wholehearted loyalty he had received from the staff.

## Farewell Dinner to Two London Colleagues.

Pinot's Restaurant, London, was the scene on Thursday, Nov. 7th, of a delightful little informal function in the shape of a dinner, at which the guests of honour were Mr. S. E. Romans (C.P.O.) Mr. H. Miller (P.O.), who are retiring from the Service.

Among those present were the two London Superintendents, Mr. E. W. Jones and Mr. F. C. Warne. Altogether there were 30 present. The dinner was of an enjoyably democratic nature, and although no speeches was the order of the evening, nearly everybody had something to say, and never was such flagrant disregard to regulations used to such good purpose. The guests were subjected to a running fire of good wishes and appreciative comment, and the evening was one of the pleasantest of its kind we have attended. With Mr. Lake as master of the piano, songs were rendered during the evening by Messrs. Griffiths, Standing and Warne to an appreciative company.