

The Customs Journal

No. 653

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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.

A PRESSING NEED.

A FEW weeks ago, we remarked upon the small number of candidates entering the examinations held for A.P.O.s, and drew attention to the urgent necessity of making the post of A.P.O. more attractive to young men of the type required. The time is rather appropriate when we could usefully dwell upon several other reasons why the remuneration of this grade should be considerably increased. At the moment we will content ourselves with one.

It is the minimum of the wage-scale that particularly interests every possible candidate for the position. Conditions of recruitment must exercise great influence upon the entire salary scale of the grade. Since the minimum scale of pay for the A.P.O. grade has been in operation, there have been far-reaching changes in the conditions of recruitment. Whereas previously, limited competition, followed later by reconstruction facilities for ex-service men, was in being, open competition is now the order of the day, and the age limits have been raised from 17-20 to 19-21 years. There

is no doubt that considerations such as these were responsible for the inability of the Official Side to discuss the initial pay question in 1923, when they promised that consideration would be given to the matter when normal recruitment conditions had been settled.

We suggest that the time is ripe for the necessary adjustment of the situation. The Service can do with the very best it can attract, and the greater the inducement, the more choice will be the catch. Heaven knows at the present time the inducement is not much "to write home about." £70, rising to £140 p.a., or to be more precise, 27/- by 2/- to 54/- per week, with the conditions of service that apply to the A.P.O. grade, such as employment day and night; the possibility of appointment to any port in the U.K.; and liability of transfer at any time, are items that place the difficulty of recruitment to the grade on such a plane that the advantages to be gained from the inevitable revision of the minimum wage cannot be ignored.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

THE Royal Commission on the Civil Service has already started upon its task. A preliminary meeting at which methods of procedure were discussed was held on October 14th.

On Monday, November 11th, the hearing of evidence will commence, and will continue throughout the week. The place at which the meetings are to be held has not yet been announced, but it has been decided that the proceedings shall be in public. This will, of course, necessitate a large room being used, for it is certain that there will be a great demand for admittance from both the general public and the Service.

* * * *

The Civil Service has had so much publicity of the wrong sort that there is every reason to welcome a public Inquiry where truth will at last have a chance to take the air; and where opportunity will be given for the servants of the State, freed temporarily from the din of howling journalists, to quietly convey to their fellow-countrymen and employers an accurate and clear account of conditions and methods under which the work of the Service is performed.

* * * *

In a recent article on the Civil Service, appearing in the *Sunday Express*, the writer displayed the usual high standard of intelligence that we have learned to expect from newspaper men. He had, all by himself, reached really important conclusions about the Service, and it was obvious that he had gone as thoroughly into the matter as could any Royal Commission. Having done this, and finding things in a terrible condition, he was, of course, quite entitled to be very rude to his fellow citizens in the Civil Service.

One of his discoveries was that the Civil Service was costing the taxpayer £240,000,000 a year. Also that Civil Servants do only about two or three hours' work per day; and that in spite of this the people in the higher branches succeed, during these very brief working hours, in controlling the British Empire, and thus usurp the authority of Parliament. He has found that politicians are so busy vote-catching that they have no time to learn anything about the art of government, and therefore have to go cap in hand to Civil Servants in order to keep up-to-date. His remedy for this state of affairs is to sack large numbers of these objectionable Civil Servants; the idea being that M.P.s would then have to "swot up" everything on their own. This is quite a simple solution, but there may be a snag after all, unless some suggestion is forthcoming as to how to swat the M.P. who will not "swot," but who insists that vote-catching is somewhat necessary to his existence. Anyway, that is a problem for the intellectuals of the great business world whose

keen brains can be brought to bear upon it with more or less success. Civil Servants may not enter Parliament.

Despite the shrewd conclusions of this gifted investigator it is probable that the Royal Commission will still carry on.

* * * *

In a recent case where an auxiliary postman was convicted of stealing postal packets, it was stated that the man's wages were 33s. 4d. per week, and that he had a wife and three children. He is now in prison.

Sir Ernest Wild, who had the case before him, said: "I have so many cases where men are getting wages upon which they cannot live, and at the same time they are entrusted with the property of the public. There is temptation here."

A statement of this description coming from such a source carries added weight. But, whenever a plea of exposure to temptation is put forward in a salary claim, the authorities, instead of realising their own moral obligations, too often affect a pained surprise at what they are pleased to regard as bad taste on the part of the claimants.

In our own Department we have in the A.P.O. Grade a typical instance where full consideration should be given to the high degree of integrity required. Waterguard officers are continually surrounded by numerous temptations, and we are proud of the fact that we are implicitly trusted by the public with whom we come in contact. That pride will always exist, and the high reputation of the Department will be jealously safeguarded come what may, but there is a feeling that the authorities are rather inclined to trade upon this circumstance.

* * * *

The Sub-Committee of the Departmental Council, appointed to go into the matter of subsistence rates for those grades not covered by the National Council Agreement, will commence discussions on November 4th. The Official Side proposals are now available, and at the appropriate time full details and information will be conveyed to our members.

The Waterguard Grades to be dealt with by this Sub-Committee are: Chief Preventive Officer (Lower Section); Preventive Officer; and Assistant Preventive Officer. Other Waterguard Grades are provided for in the National Agreement.

* * * *

The Sub-Committee charged with the task of revising the method of issue and distribution of General Orders and Instructions to the Service has now completed its labours. It is expected that the report will shortly be available for the information of the Staff.

Another Sub-Committee, appointed by the Joint Committee of Customs and Excise Associations to deal with the question of promotion to the Officer Grade, has had its preliminary meeting on October 28th. The Grades represented were the Women Pension Officers, Officer Grade, Waterguard, and the Clerical Grades.

There will be plenty of time for this Committee to go fully into the subject, because there does not seem any prospect of further recruitment of the Officer Grade for a considerable time. The last open competitive examination was in March.

* * * *

The date of the examination for Preventive Officer has not yet been announced, but it is very probable that it will be not later than the middle of January.

As the time gets nearer the V.E.S. efforts are being redoubled in the interests of the pupils. A very interesting paper of helpful hints is being compiled as a final polish to those students who have been taking the courses. This, together with the special paper on oral questions, is likely to be extremely popular as providing for a long felt want.

* * * *

It is understood that a Customs and Excise Departmental Dinner is being arranged to take place in London in January next. There have been several functions in the port which have attempted to cater for the Department as a whole, but on this occasion it appears that adequate steps are being taken to make the affair fully representative. The Committee is to consist of members appointed from each branch of the Department. It will be of interest to our members to hear that Mr. Warno, Waterguard Superintendent, London, has been appointed to represent the Waterguard.

* * * *

The cost-of-living figure for October is 65. The figure for September was 64, and the rise is attributed to increased prices of eggs, milk and butter.

For some time it was doubtful if the Royal Commission would deal with the question of cost-of-living bonus, but it has now been decided that this matter will come within the terms of reference.

* * * *

The volume of correspondence on minor personal issues has increased so greatly of late that it becomes necessary for the Headquarters Staff to announce that it is impossible to give replies promptly. It should be understood, however, that the points raised by the individuals concerned are nevertheless receiving attention. At the present moment work on major issues claims a great deal of attention on the part of the Association officers.

PROSECUTIONS.

BRISTOL.

An interesting smuggling case was heard at the Bristol Police Court, on October 16th, when the wireless operator of the s.s. "Willaston," from Port Pirie was charged with concealing 3 2/16 lb. of Cav. tobacco.

Of special interest was the method adopted by the offender in concealing part of the goods in Sunlight Soap cartons. He had taken one packet of soap from a carton containing three similar packets, removed the wrapper, substituted tobacco for the soap and carefully re-wrapped and replaced it between the remaining packets. Two cartons were treated in this manner and then placed amongst clothing, etc., in separate trunks. The remainder of the goods was discovered in the toes of shoes, underneath bedding, and on the person of the offender.

Mr. E. J. Rich (C.P.O.), conducted the case for the Crown and sued for the full penalty. He submitted that it was a deliberate and ingenious attempt to defraud. The magistrates, after examining the "soap," observed that the discovery reflected great credit upon the officers concerned. The offender, who pleaded guilty, was fined £6 19s. (treble duty-paid value) or one month's imprisonment. The fine was paid.

The goods were discovered by Mr. R. G. Williams (A.P.O.), attached to the rummage crew under the supervision of Mr. A. Griffin (P.O.).

At the same court and on the same date, an A.B., of the s.s. "Trekieve," from Buenos Aires, was charged by the police under the Coinage Offences Act, with being in possession of twenty counterfeit coins resembling sovereigns of H.M. the King's Realm.

A remand was asked for in order that the facts of the case could be communicated to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The accused was remanded in custody.

The coins were discovered by Mr. H. S. Worner (A.P.O.), attached to the same rummage crew as above.

HULL.

On October 17th, at the Hull City Police Court, a sailor of the s.s. "Nora," from Pernau was prosecuted for concealing 4oz. of Cigars o.s., and 14 oz. of Tobacco o.s. The accused was fined single value and duty (17/7d.), and 19/- interpreter's fee. Mr. E. R. Norman (C.P.O.), prosecuted. The cigars and tobacco were concealed in the linings of the seamen's fo'castle and were discovered by Mr. F. A. Woodward (A.P.O.).

At the same Court on the following day, another seaman of the same vessel was prosecuted for concealing 5 lbs. of tobacco, o.s. Accused admitted the charge and was fined £3 13s. 6d. (single value and duty) and 10/- interpreter's fee. The tobacco was ingeniously concealed in the paint locker between the paraffin tank and the side of the vessel. Mr. F. A. Woodward (A.P.O.), attached to the rummage crew under Mr. R. A. Crooks (P.O.), was the seizing officer.

Mr. A. Cameron (C.P.O.), conducted the case, and the fine was paid in both cases.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office

Thames Chambers,

18, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.8.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

NEWPORT, MON.

Mr. Lyons presided over the meeting held at the Queen's Hotel on Wednesday, October 14th.

The following officers were elected:—Chairman, Mr. J. T. Lyons (P.O.); Local Secretary, Mr. E. T. Sandford (A.P.O.); Local Organiser, Mr. P. H. Gowan (P.O.); Local Whitley Committee Representatives, Mr. G. E. N. Griffiths (P.O.) and Mr. E. T. Sandford (A.P.O.); Joint Whitley Committee, Mr. C. W. J. Morgan (P.O.) and Mr. H. Willis (A.P.O.); "Customs Journal" Correspondent, Mr. W. A. Pragnell (A.P.O.).

Matters of local importance were dealt with, following which Mr. Griffiths gave a report of the Conference of the P.S.A. Council. Items arising from this were discussed, considerable attention being focused upon the subject of seizure rewards. The Council's action on this matter was supported.

The Small Port Guide.

The members are hereby informed that work in connection with the above is proceeding as rapidly as possible. The book is now being printed and it is hoped that copies will be available for sale at an early date. Full details will be published later, but any officer interested is advised to place his order with the Association District Officer. The price will be reasonable, and it is hoped that all members will support this effort to assist in a difficult aspect of Waterguard work.

Members who have notified the General Secretary that they require a copy will be provided therewith immediately they are available.

Royal Commission on the Civil Service.

The Royal Commission on the Civil Service held a preliminary meeting on 14th October to discuss questions of procedure.

It was decided that, unless in any special case the Commission otherwise directs, meetings of the

Commission for hearing evidence will be held in public. Meetings for the hearing of evidence will take place on Monday, November 11th, and the ensuing days of that week. A further notice will be issued as to the place and time of these meetings.

Any Association or organisation, or person who desires to submit evidence to the Commission should apply to the Secretary, Broadway Buildings, Westminster, S.W.1, who will inform them as to the procedure to be followed.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

TO OCTOBER 21st, 1929.

APPOINTMENT.

MAN-IN-CHARGE—

Cumbers, W. R.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER—

MacNicol, P., Glasgow.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER—

Beacher, J. W., London.

VACANCY.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER—

Liverpool, 29.11.1929.

Hidden Merit.

Why is it that some people seem to have, as we say, all the luck, while others never seem to have any?

Is it just fate, or is it something in ourselves that makes the difference between bad and good luck?

You will generally find that a person who is lucky never depends on his luck. He is alert, sensitive to change, ready to seize opportunity, adaptable, energetic and vital. If there are any chances going, he won't miss them. If opportunity knocks, he will hear. He has the will to go forward, to achieve, and when he comes out "on top" people say "lucky man."

And the man who never ceases to invite Fortune's smiles is generally the reverse of this. He is careless, indifferent to change, lacking in vitality, and timid of trying again after failure. He puts his want of success down to want of luck.

"Fortune," said Bacon, "is hidden merit." It is a truth to think over and profit by.

Daily Chronicle.

Oct. 10, 1929.

Civil Service Bonus.

The following correspondence has passed between the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

11th October, 1929.

CIVIL SERVICE BONUS.

Sir,—During the statement I made to you on behalf of the Civil Service at the interview you were good enough to accord to the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service on the 16th July last, I asserted that the Service was strongly opposed to the Civil Service Bonus being reviewed by the Royal Commission, and we understood that generally you were not disposed towards interference with current negotiations or the transfer to the Royal Commission of matters now remitted to Whitley machinery for treatment.

Subsequently, it was announced on your behalf that for the six months' period beginning 1st September last, bonus would continue to be assessed on the basis of a Cost of Living figure of 70.

The terms of reference to the Royal Commission appeared in the *Times* on the 1st instant, and a perusal of those led us to observe that the Bonus question is not specifically remitted to the Commission. Enquiries were accordingly addressed to the Treasury in order to confirm this view, but no further information has been procurable, and accordingly I am directed to approach you direct.

I shall be glad if you will be so good as to confirm that the Civil Service Bonus will be reviewed upon the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service and not upon the Royal Commission, and that the matter may be taken up immediately in view of the fact that the continuance of the bonus at the rate of 70 is only approved at present until 28th February next. Further, I have to urge that, pending the completion of such Whitley negotiations, the present rate of 70 will be regarded as a minimum rate, i.e., beyond 1st March next.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) W. EWART LLEWELLYN,

Chairman.

Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P.
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Treasury Chambers,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

16th October, 1929.

Dear Mr. Llewellyn,

I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to inform you, in reply to your letter of

the 11th October, that the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service have been so drawn as definitely to bring the question of bonus within the ambit of the enquiry, and that in these circumstances there would, in Mr. Snowden's opinion, be no advantage in resuming discussion of this subject on the National Whitley Council.

I am to add that at a later date Mr. Snowden would be prepared, if necessary, to consider the question of the rate at which bonus should be payable during the six months' period beginning 1st March, 1930, but that he would not feel justified at this stage in agreeing to any extension of the concession now in force.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) P. J. GRIGG.

W. Ewart Llewellyn, Esq., O.B.E.

Vocational Education Section.

C.P.O. COURSE.

Members who may be interested are hereby informed that the V.E.S. are continuing the very successful course that has been conducted to assist P.O.s studying for the C.P.O. examination. A new course has now been commenced, and whilst officers likely to be interested have been circularised, it is desired to bring the matter before the notice of any member who may be interested. Full details can be obtained from the Secretary, V.E.S., B, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

S. C. STEEL,

Sec., V.E.S.

Customs Journal

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of this paper should be addressed to

The Secretary, Mr. P. SPEAR,

101 Upton Park Road,

Forest Gate, London, E.7

BY THE WAY

* * * *

I have come to the conclusion that the claims of the C. and E. Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund are not sufficiently realised among the members of the Preventive Staff, and are not sufficiently pushed by those who are members of the Fund. Of the mean-spirited individual who asserts that as he is not likely to benefit by membership and therefore has no intention of joining, I have to say but little, and that is that although I have met one or two of this type, I rejoice that there are not many of him in the Service.

* * * *

The "Orphanage," as we generally term it, exists for the purpose of affording assistance to members of the Customs and Excise Service, their wives and children, who may be found deserving of help and are in distress through necessitous circumstances. Its funds are applied in the form of grants for various purposes, such as the assistance in the maintenance and education of children of deceased members of the Fund, the assistance of members' widows left in necessitous circumstances, etc.

The minimum subscriptions are very small and can be deducted from salary. In the case of Assistant Preventive Officers it amounts to 1/- or 1/3 per quarter, Preventive Officers subscribe 2/6 per quarter and Chief Preventive Officers 2/6 or 3/9. Non-members will readily understand that 100 per cent. membership would render our own Service Fund a really helpful organisation. I hesitate to use that admirable word "charity," although it would, in its real meaning, apply to the principles of a "help-one-another" society such as the Fund. There are many occasions when the Fund is appealed to by those who have never been members, but who might have been.

* * * *

On the question of membership, I have noticed something that will surprise many members who have subscribed for years, and that is the percentage of subscribers among the staff. It is very curious that as one examines the rising scales of salary one finds a higher percentage of membership, although it is obvious that the lower scales represent those who are more likely to call upon the funds.

In the case of C.P.O.s there is a membership of the Fund of 66 per cent., of P.O.s 63 per cent., and of A.P.O.s 46 per cent.

It is in the interest of such an organisation as the Orphanage that there should be as large a membership as possible of individuals who are not likely to require assistance, and that is a very plain reason why all higher salaried officials of the Department should subscribe. Regarding the lower paid, there is one reason, that they share with all, whatever the income. That is the will to ensure IMMEDIATE assistance to any of their brother officers or their dependents in the event of sudden necessity. Another reason, besides duty to their colleagues, is the duty they owe to their own dependents, or to those who may in later years become their dependents.

I feel sure that if the majority of our non-member officers gave this matter serious thought, a very few moments would suffice to convince them that we ought to send this percentage up to as near 100 as possible. The present low percentage is rather shocking when applied to such a clean and useful organisation as the C. and E. Orphanage.

* * * *

Forms of application for membership can be obtained from Mr. R. Johnson, the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, Room 9, Custom House, London, E.C.3, or the Editor of this Journal would be very pleased indeed to procure them and forward to applicants.

* * * *

Our readers will no doubt recollect that about four years ago Mr. C. A. W. Sanders launched an appeal to members of the Department to take collecting boxes on behalf of the Orphanage, and the manner in which this appeal was taken up has resulted in a welcome addition of £800 to the income of the Fund. This sum, together with the natural expansion of the Fund's ordinary income, enabled the members to authorise increases in the amount of the grants payable under the rules. These increases have, we know, appreciably relieved the burdens in many homes, and, for this reason, the Committee and the beneficiaries will always remain indebted to the originator of the idea and to those who supported it. Mr. Sanders, unfortunately, has felt compelled to give up this work, but the Committee are of the opinion the scheme should be continued, and have decided to send out during the present month a new appeal to the Staff to take collecting boxes on behalf of the Orphanage Funds. We hope there will be an extensive response to this fresh appeal.

P.A.R.

**Customs and Excise Orphans',
Widows' and War Memorial Fund.**

GOOLE PROSECUTIONS.

* * * *

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Monday, the 7th inst., when T. Morton, Esq., Vice-President, presided over a large and representative attendance of members.

A financial statement was submitted showing that during the quarter the income from subscriptions was £549, from dividends £165, and a refund in respect of income tax deducted at source from dividends payable in 1928-29 of £60. During the same period the Committee had disbursed in grants under the various rules a sum of £522.

The Committee were gratified to find that 38 members of the Department desired the privileges of membership of the Fund. All were duly elected.

The half-yearly report of the Visiting Committee on their visits to the homes of children on whose behalf grants are being paid under rule 23, was presented. The Committee reported that in every case the children were being properly cared for, and drew attention to several instances where the children had gained scholarships or had passed the matriculation examination.

At the Goole Police Court on October 3rd, the second mate of the s.s. Gwynwood from Ghent was fined £6 6s. 0d. (double duty-paid value and costs), for having concealed 2 lbs. 19 ozs. of tobacco o.s., and 30/100 proof gallon of geneva. The goods were found by Mr. R. E. Osborne (A.P.O.), under and between the hatches and the coaming of the after-hold under the supervision of Mr. J. Woodend (P.O.).

At the same court on October 11th, a fireman of the s.s. Hodder from Hamburg was fined £10 18s. 0d. (double duty-paid value and costs), for having unshipped the previous evening 12 ozs. of cav. tobacco, 8 ozs. of o.s. tobacco, 13 ozs. of cigars, o.s., 27/100 gallon (liquid) of a mixture containing spirits, 32/100 proof gallon of u.u. spirits and 11/100 gallon of proof brandy. The offender was intercepted shortly after leaving the vessel by Mr. Murphy (A.P.O.), while acting under the supervision of Mr. J. W. Smith (P.O.).

The prosecutions in both cases were conducted Mr. E. P. Whettingstall (C.P.O.).

FILL IN THIS FORM NOW.

The Secretary (V.E.C.),
Preventive Staff Association,
13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

Please enrol me for Preliminary Course
Intermediate Course (delete Courses not required) in Waterguard
Advanced Course

Departmental Regulations. Postal Order payable to P.S.A., London, value.....(insert amount), enclosed.

Name

Address

Tutors:—Messrs. Angus, Finley, Gardiner, Lake, Sheehan, and Thomson.

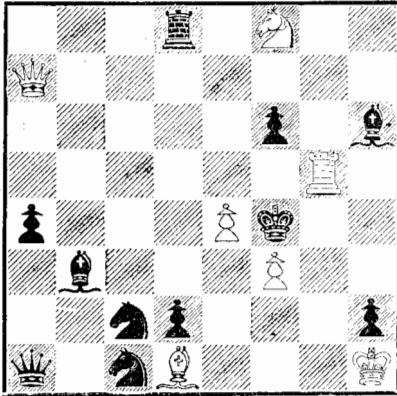
Please indicate Tutor desired, and choice of Tutors will be given as far as possible.

Fees: 10/0, 15/0, and 20/0 per term respectively.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 41.



White mate in two.
By E. HALLIWELL.

Key to No. 40: R-K3.

Chess Club, Woolwich, Royal Arsenal, O.F.
Luncheon Club, Royal Arsenal. (Mondays.)

HOW CHESS IS PLAYED (continued).

This position illustrates "checkmate":—
8, 8, 4q3, R2Kt4, 3PKP2, 8, 4k3, 8.
The white K is in check from the Q. If it was black's move, and if a K could be taken, the Q might take him. The logical conclusion of a win would be the capture of a K, but, by a curious convention, the game stops when such capture, if permitted, would be inevitable if each player made one more move. Let us see if the check from the Q could be warded off or stopped. Can the K get out of check? The Kt cannot take the Queen, nor can any other white man, nor can any white man come in between the Q and white K (the R could but for the Kt), nor can the K move anywhere, for the two vacant squares in front of him are as much attacked by the Q as is the square on which he is. If he went to B5 he would still be in check; the squares to right and left of him are blocked by his own men, the squares Q3 and B3 are guarded from him by the black K, while K3 is doubly controlled (by the black K and Q). The white K is therefore checkmated and white has lost the game.

Correspondence Play Rules.—Will members who have not yet received their copies please write to the Hon. Sec., Elm Bank, Edmund Street, Holyhead.

Kent County Club Correspondence Match.

Our opponents:—

1. Rev. W. E. Evill, Canterbury Chess Club.
2. Mr. E. H. Byrne, Dartford Chess Club.
3. Mr. H. Vine, Lewisham St. Mary's Chess Club.
4. Miss L. Eveling, Kent Ladies' Team.
5. Mr. A. Nash-Williams, Ramsgate Chatham House School Staff.

Concert and Presentation at Southampton.

A large gathering of officers met at the Alexandra Hotel, on October 24th, to bid farewell to Mr. H. S. Platten (P.O.) who is proceeding to Folkestone on transfer.

Mr. J. P. Hausey, M.B.E., (W.S.), presided, and presented to Mr. Platten an electric radiator as a token of remembrance from the staff. Mr. Purdye (C.P.O.), Mr. Hough (P.O.), and Mr. Jones (A.P.O.), spoke on behalf of their respective grades, and all testified to the high esteem in which Mr. Platten was held and to his work in furthering social activity amongst his colleagues.

Mr. Platten was much impressed by the cordiality of the farewell and thanked all for the handsome gift. He made reference to the fact that on this day Mr. Gorge (P.O.), late of Southampton, and one of the most enthusiastic and talented of social workers, had been laid to rest, and in response to his suggestion the gathering stood in silence for a brief interval to honour the memory of the deceased.

Vocal, instrumental, humorous and novelty dancing contributions by members of the staff made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On the previous Thursday, a smoker had been held, and, although not quite so well attended, had proved very successful. On this occasion, Mr. W. Belsom (A.P.O.), was presented with a case of cutlery as a wedding gift from the staff,