

The Customs Journal

No. 639

April 20th, 1929

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.

REORGANISATION.

IT was stated in a recent issue of a contemporary departmental Journal that "the magic word 're-organisation' is again in the air," and there is ample evidence in support of this belief.

The larger associations in the department have again requested revision of salary scales, and there are rumours that in at least one quarter it has been said that re-organisation in other directions could usefully be made. It would be well, therefore, if the members of our own Association were to examine the whole situation in the light of present day conditions based upon the experience of recent years.

It cannot be denied that the grades which have benefited the greatest from previous re-organisation have experienced the effect of the higher pecuniary value placed upon their services. Reduction in number, caused mainly by the devolution of lesser duties to lesser grades, constitutes a not inconsiderable item that can be placed on the other side of the ledger. It is only natural, therefore, that the prevailing opinion in the same circles to-day is that better work, and the capacity of a grade in that respect, provides the soundest argument for an increase in remuneration. It is good that discussion on these lines should proceed.

The Preventive Staff have not forgotten the 1920-3 period. The bitter feeling caused by the smashing of hopes long cherished is still there. On that occasion we suffered from the effects of the scurrilous "economy" campaign, and not from any lack of appreciation or consideration on the part of the departmental chiefs. It is, however, no use dwelling upon the "might have been." The disappointment will not have been in vain if we have had the sense to profit by later experience. One of the very small crumbs that fell from the table was the increase in the number of supervising posts, and such was our hunger that they fell into our

stretched hands. To increase the supervising grades is a good thing in one respect. It means much to the fortunate few, and allows a little of the stagnant water to flow. At the same time, we must not blind ourselves to the fact that it certainly does not enhance the value of the work performed by all, and it is only by so doing that all can benefit. It is as well that owing to the particular circumstances prevailing at that time in connection with the inauguration of the C.P.M. grade, no adverse effect upon the duties carried out by the rank and file resulted from the above increase. On the contrary, the opposite has obtained. Supervision of the C.P.M.'s has considerably reduced that previously devoted to normal Waterguard work.

Big things have taken place since 1923. We have observed the modifications and "amendments" that have enabled an ever-increasing tariff to be successfully applied despite a reduction in the strength of the executive grades primarily affected by every Revenue adjustment. The foundation upon which such a structure has been built must contain as an essential element a confidence in the grade for better work. We say that this confidence has been deserved. We do not know whether the limit has been reached or not in certain cases, but we strongly assert that there is every justification for greater confidence in the Preventive staff.

We can at least be hopeful in the strength and justice of our case. Fundamental changes have come into being since the lean years. The importance and responsibility of the work that we perform has never, in our opinion, been properly appreciated.

That it calls for comprehensive knowledge and adaptable qualities cannot be denied, and upon the undoubted capacity of the grades concerned for additional duties and responsibilities—but we must desist!!!

CURRENT COMMENTS

THOROUGHNESS might not be a very strong characteristic of the present age, but we moderns can at least lay claim to highly developed powers for superficial observation, even if we are somewhat shaky as regards the conclusions we draw from the things we observe.

The publicity merchants are undoubtedly responsible for the growth of this new trait. We are moulded by our newspapers, and the newspaper men are foremost in this capacity for observation. It is, in fact, their sole stock in trade, and they make best use of it when they report just what they see, rather than when they attempt to present us with their conclusions.

But these newsvendors, expert as they are, sometimes fail to observe simple superficial facts, even when searching diligently for them.

A typical instance of this is in connection with the alterations, about to be made, in the accommodation for the examination of baggage at Victoria Station. References in the Press were numerous, but the one that was most wrong appeared in the shape of an article in a prominent London daily, and was written by a seemingly clever man. He had, it must be admitted, noticed that the Customs officers were well up to their work. He went badly astray, however, through anxiety to show the business superiority of a railway company as compared with a mere Civil Service department. He stated that delays in the clearance of passengers and baggage at Victoria Station was due entirely to the failure of the Customs to provide sufficient officers for the job.

Now it is a well-known fact that examination of baggage by the English Customs is about the speediest process on record, wherever it takes place. Had the writer of that article observed the first simple fact bearing upon his subject he would not have made so obvious a blunder. The fact he should have noticed is that at Victoria the average time for Customs clearance of a train load of some 800 or 900 pieces of baggage is twenty minutes—a whole army could not do the job more quickly.

Press assistance in obtaining improved staffing conditions is very nice, but somehow or other it seems to be forthcoming only when there is no reason for it.

Another instance of failure on the part of newspaper men to observe important facts is the absence of Press reports regarding the great mass meeting of Civil Servants at the Albert Hall on 11th April in connection with the cost of living bonus. Probably the need for close attention to the matrimonial problems of film stars has caused some preoccupation of late.

Despite the claims of film stars, however, the Albert Hall Meeting was well worthy of report. Civil Servants are normally so placid and respectable that the fact of 10,000 of them leaving their firesides on a nasty, miserable, sleety night, for the purpose

of shouting out their resentment of the present bonus injustices, must be of much interest to an intelligent public. Yet the public have been told nothing about it.

The Hall was full to overflowing. The speakers had been well chosen as representing every phase of Civil Service opinion on the bonus question. The resolution was accepted by the meeting with great enthusiasm.

The Civil Service Confederation is to be congratulated upon the success of the arrangements; and also upon the promptitude with which a full report of the proceedings was supplied to constituent Associations.

* * * *

A writer in the "Sunday Dispatch" has attempted to emulate the great De Quincey in giving to the public a description of his imaginings whilst under the influence of the dread drug opium. His weird tale of getting past the Customs Officers at Tilbury Docks with two brass idols each stuffed with 80 pounds of opium is equal to some of De Quincey's most blood-curdling confessions.

The writer concludes with the confession that his medical adviser had warned him that his opium eating habits would lead him to the madhouse if continued. The Editor is cautious to publish "with reserve."

* * * *

The recent scare in connection with the small-pox cases imported by the "Tuscania" brings home very forcibly the fact that Waterguard officers run many grave risks of contracting all kinds of disease. These risks affect not only the officer himself, but also his family. Instances have occurred where infection has been carried home.

This is the penalty that has to be paid for the honour of being the "first line of defence." It is an important business to safeguard the public health, and the man in the street would have no doubt about that. But for some peculiar reason, duties which when performed in other departments are described as highly responsible, are, when performed by the Waterguard, referred to as "formalities." A psycho-analyst might explain this phenomenon.

* * * *

Previous reference has been made in these columns to the class that has been formed from members of the London staff for the purpose of receiving instruction in police-court procedure, at the Workingmen's College, Euston. The class has made excellent progress, and has had some very useful debates.

Recently a very interesting mock trial was held. The prosecution won the case, but the defence appealed against the decision. Later the appeal was heard, and a legal debate took place. The prosecution again won, but it was a very close thing. The prosecution had made a charge of

"harbouring and concealing." The object of the defence was to prove that that was no offence under the Act, and that intent to defraud the revenue must be proved by the prosecution. Concealment was admitted, but it was argued that the goods were to be landed in Norway.

In the first proceedings, the accused when under cross examination made a bad impression on the Magistrate, and his story that the goods were for Norway was not accepted.

In the appeal, the Judge upheld the Magistrate's decision, but stated that if the defence could have clearly proved that the goods were really intended for Norway he would have decided in favour of the defendant, in spite of the fact that there was concealment.

No doubt this decision will interest many officers throughout the kingdom.

* * * * *

News has just come to hand that the M.B.E. has been bestowed upon Mr. T. Forth, Waterguard Superintendent, Tyne Division. The ceremony was performed by the Prince of Wales on the 27th March.

It is a pity that the fact of this pleasant happening was not communicated earlier, because the last issue of the Journal was most appropriate for the announcement, in view of the fact that Mr. Forth was a member of the original Committee of the "Customs Journal."

In addition to his connection with the Journal, his Association activities in the old days have made his name well known in the Service. He is assured of hearty congratulations from the staff in general.

* * * * *

It is understood that the five candidates who were recently interviewed for promotion to the Upper Section of the C.P.O. Grade have all been successful.

London North Side Sports Club.

The club terminated the most successful season in its history with a carnival dance held at the New Harmonie Hall, East Ham, on April 5th. Month by month these social dances have grown in popularity, so that no surprise was occasioned when we registered a bumper attendance. The public has been quick to grasp the excellence of these gay gatherings, and we would welcome the presence of more of our ain folk. Much has been accomplished in getting together a band of willing supporters who have given their whole-hearted support throughout the session.

London is particularly fortunate in having two Superintendents who are keenly interested in the social activities of their clubs and staff. Their spouses and families bring radiance to our midst, and we appreciate their presence and willing services.

Mrs. Warne presented a record number of valuable prizes, which were graciously given by Mrs. Fleet, Mrs. A. E. Howell, Mrs. Lowe (Senr.), Mrs. Lowe (Jun.), the Misses Miller and friend, Messrs. F. C. Warne, S. E. Romans and H. Lacey.

Our appeals for prizes for "lucky spot" have been gratifying. It was not our intention to give prizes at every dance, but so generous were our benefactors, that we were able to distribute a number of handsome gifts until the end. Some idea of the success of the club's undertakings may be gathered from the fact that over £60 has been spent on these socials, and on each occasion a slight margin of profit has trickled into the coffers of the club.

The committee and officials express their grateful thanks to the many donors of prizes, and to all who helped to make these functions the success they were.

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All communications relative to the supply of copies of this paper should be addressed to

The Secretary, Mr. P. SPEAR,

101 Upton Park Road,

Forest Gate, London, E7

Cardiff Cricket.

Following the District Meeting, as reported on another page, Mr. A. W. P. Densley occupied the Chair at a meeting to discuss the coming cricket season. The meeting was very well attended, and by the enthusiasm shown there is no doubt that the cricket team is in for a record season.

Last year's balance sheet was presented, and the club commences its year with £11 in hand.

The following officers were elected:—

PRESIDENT: Mr. G. Marr, Superintendent.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr. H. Howells, C.P.O.

CAPTAIN: Mr. S. Hill.

VICE-CAPTAIN: Mr. S. Bray.

SECRETARY: Mr. G. Warne.

ASSISTANT-SECRETARY: Mr. N. A. Ramsay.

COMMITTEE: Captain, vice-Captain, Secretary, Mr. Newing, and Mr. T. Gatheridge.

The subscription for the season was fixed at 5s. for each playing member.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Secretary for his past services, and to the Chairman.

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*

HULL.

The annual meeting was held at "The Metro-pole," West Street, on April 4th. The Chairman, Mr. A. Cameron, presided. The election of District officers resulted as follows:—

CHAIRMAN: Mr. A. N. Codd.
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. A. Cameron.
DISTRICT SECRETARY: Mr. R. A. Crooks.
DISTRICT ORGANISER: Mr. Chapman.
AUDITORS: Messrs. Beacher and Jordan.
LOCAL WHITLEY COMMITTEE: Messrs. Howard and Crooks (P.O. grade) and Messrs. Shooter, Codd and Westerdale (A.P.O. grade).

"CUSTOMS JOURNAL" CORRESPONDENT: Mr. Matheson.

Retiring officers were accorded a vote of thanks and appreciation.

After a lengthy discussion on the subject of promotion, the meeting resolved that it did not agree with the official view as to the non-allocation of marks as expressed at the informal interview.

Rotation of leave was discussed, and a motion approved of in the matter of Salt End.

The subject of donations to the Hull Royal Infirmary and the Children's Hospital from the staff was raised, and it was agreed to ballot the port on the matter.

CARDIFF.

A District meeting, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Warne (P.O.), was held in the Old Arcade Hotel, to consider matters concerning the Water-logged Staff at Briton Ferry.

Mr. Goldfinch carefully explained the duties, etc., of the staff now at Briton Ferry. A lucid discussion then took place regarding this matter, and finally a proposal (which was unanimously agreed upon) was made to put before the Whitley Council.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Goldfinch, also Mr. Bontel (Swansea), for their attendance, and to Mr. Warne for acting as Chairman, was accorded.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO APRIL 8th, 1929.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—
Crane, R. E. W., Halshead, W. C. N., Has-
kayne, R. W., Lee, J. A., Peers, J.

TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION:—
Madden, E. P., Unattached, Office of I.G.W. to
Holyhead, Chester.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Bailey, W. J., Middlesbrough, Sunderland to
Grimsby.

Mansell, A. A., Swansea to Llanelly, Swansea.
Rhodes, A., Liverpool to Hull.

The transfer of Mr. F. Ledson from Eastham, Manchester to Liverpool, notified in the Appendix to G.O. 19 1929, has been cancelled.

PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, LOWER SECTION TO
UPPER SECTION:

Boyle, C. A., Plymouth to Dover, Ipswich.
Hargreaves, T. E., Holyhead, Chester to Man-
chester.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER,
LOWER SECTION (UNATTACHED):

Guggard, W. F. E., Gilly, Plymouth to Office
of I.G.W.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:
Hawker, W. G., Teignmouth, Plymouth.

VACANCIES.

Mat-in-Charge, Weymouth, 8.4.1929.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER: Liverpool:—

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Arcison, H., Chief Preventive Officer, Upper
Section.

Laing, G. S., Preventive Officer, Lower
Section.

Ostle, W., Preventive Officer, Lower Section.
Whyte, J., Preventive Officer.

Williams, H., Chief Preventive Officer, Lower
Section.

London North Side v. Gravesend.

NEXT WEEK'S MATCH.

The last match of the season will be played at Gravesend on Wednesday, April 24th. The train leaves East Ham station at 3.19 p.m. Kick-off is timed for 5 p.m. Arrangements are being made for party tickets at 1s. 5d. return from East Ham to Gravesend. After the match a tea and social will be held. It is hoped that a large party will avail themselves of these arrangements, and that all desirous of making the journey will send in their names to the Hon. Sec. not later than Monday, April 22nd. Ladies are especially invited.

Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

THE 104th Meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on 20th March, 1929, the chair being taken by Sir F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

CONTROLLING GRADE SALARIES, POSTS, ETC.

An agreement was recorded altering the salary scale of Higher Collectors and Superintending Inspectors from £900-25-1,600 to £925-25-1,500, and that of 1st Class Inspectors and Collectors from £800-25-850 to £800-25-900; adding one post of Superintending Inspector and five posts (one temporary) of 1st Class Inspector to the Chief Inspector's Office, and abolishing four posts of 2nd Class Inspector; and varying the Controlling Grade establishments in respect of London Port, Glasgow, Bristol, Hull, Brighton, Grimsby, Ipswich, Newport (Mon.), Worcester, Norwich, Portsmouth, Swansea, Weymouth, Dunfries, Cardiff, Dover and Southampton.

The agreement was reached on the understanding that consideration would be given to Staff Side proposals respecting the salary scale of the 2nd Class Controlling Grade, and that the Official Side would table detailed proposals respecting consequential changes in Collections, showing the effect on other grades.

SPECIAL REMUNERATION.

It was agreed that in view of the abnormal conditions which have obtained in the Women Pension Officer Grade, the following payments be made to Women Pension Officers (including Temporary Women Pension Officers) who were employed in this Department continuously from 1st July, 1926, to 31st December, 1928, viz., in the case of Officers employed in England and Wales, £25; and in the case of Officers employed in Scotland, £12 10s. 0d., subject to suitable adjustments in cases where Officers have served in both countries.

It was further agreed that this payment would be regarded as full settlement of all outstanding claims for additional remuneration.

PROMOTION.

At the request of the Staff Side, the Council adjourned consideration of Staff Side proposals (a) to appoint a Special Committee on the question of promotion of the Clerical and allied classes, and (b) to appeal to the Clerical Class all "P" Class Clerks now serving in the Department.

ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAYS, ETC.

It was agreed that Departmental Clerical Officers who are required to attend on Sundays or outside the authorised hours of public business on week days may be credited with an attendance of two hours or the actual time attended, whichever is the greater. The two hours minimum will not, however, apply if the attendance commences or terminates within two hours of the authorised hours of public business. In such cases the attendance is

to be treated as if it continued to the commencement or from the termination of the authorised hours of public business, as the case may be. Where more than one special attendance is given, there will be no title to a greater credit than if the attendances had been continuous.

The above provisions will apply to disappointments.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND EQUIPMENT.

The Staff Side proposed that a Special Committee be appointed to consider and report upon what additions and amendments, if any, to existing general agreements on office accommodation and equipment are desirable. Written intimation had already been given that it was desired to cover the following points:

- (1) Improvement of the primitive accommodation requirements laid down in such measure as the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act.
- (2) Prevention of the authorisation of operations and processes before satisfactory accommodation is provided.
- (3) Method of dealing with the temporary authorisation of premises for revenue purposes.
- (4) Disapproval of basement and railway arch accommodation.
- (5) Qualification of present standard scale of floor space.
- (6) Provision of counters and space for the public in Landing and Shipping and Waterguard offices.
- (7) Improvement of present scale of floor space for offices on exporters' premises.
- (8) Improvement of present scale of floor space for weighing boxes, and universal provision of bins for quay weighing.
- (9) Provision of separate accommodation for Watchers and Messengers.
- (10) Definite provision of retiring rooms in certain circumstances.
- (11) Improvement of the standard of artificial lighting.
- (12) Regulation of heating arrangements.
- (13) Improvement of scale of sanitary accommodation.
- (14) Use of air shafts and electric fans for ventilation.
- (15) Regulations for periodical redecoration.
- (16) Definite allotment of work to Cleaners; official supply of cleaning materials, use of vacuum cleaners.
- (17) Provision of separate lockers, clothes-drying racks, and floor covering in Waterguard offices.
- (18) Provision of facilities for preparing meals for staffs employed on night duties.
- (19) Provision and maintenance of fire appliances and relevant instruction and drill.
- (20) Improvement of office equipment and furniture.
- (21) Reduction of open storage of books and papers.
- (22) Sterilisation of telephones.

It was also notified that the Staff Side would urge that a representative of the Office of Works should be associated in the discussion of certain of these points.

After consideration of the desirability of appointing a Special Committee for this purpose, the motion was adjourned.

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS.

The Official Side announced that the Inland Revenue authorities were now able to state that every effort would be made to issue notices of assessment before 31st December annually.

The Staff Side undertook to co-operate in securing that annual returns of income should be promptly furnished by the staff generally.

OTHER MATTERS.

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

The question of discussing District schemes in Local Committees was re-adjourned.

The Staff Side gave notice of a motion concerning procedure in the transfer of Clerical Officers between Headquarters offices in the event of redundancy.

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

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 24th April, 1929.

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.

EX-SERVICE MEMBERS, 1923-5.

Sir,—My contribution to a recent issue of the "Customs Journal" re the 1923-25 ex-Service men has met with a great deal of adverse criticism. I am quite willing to admit that the subject is a highly controversial one, and that anyone rash enough to have his views published in the correspondence columns of the "C.J." is a fair target for all members of the grade, but I am not willing to admit that anyone has the right to become offensively personal in his comments like the racing tipster who signs himself "S.E.D.B." I should like to point out that I personally, and the great majority of 1923-25 entrants in this area, are 100 per cent. Association members, and so are not affected by the slur implied in the last three lines of his article, or should I say, "course special."—

Yours, etc.,
"C.T.K."

THE FAILED A.P.O.

Sir,—In reply to "A 1924 Entrant," I am glad he admits that there is some truth in my letter regarding the above-mentioned subject. He surely, however, condemns his own argument by stating

that the failed A.P.O. is an illustration of the survival of the fittest. The figures he quotes regarding the clerical class may appear glaring, but our topic is the A.P.O.

May I ask our friend one question regarding the "survival of the fittest"? Does he really think that if an A.P.O. appeared before the examiners, answered questions correctly and made an excellent show, he would be turned down? Enough said.

In reply to "Pincher," "Nerves," you know, is an old excuse. Assuming you had the regulations at your finger tips, as a good many do when called up, you would feel and say, "I don't care what they ask me, I am confident." If, of course, you were only half trained and not sure of yourself, you would feel and say, with a tremble, "I wonder what they will ask me."

This is the cause of the nerves. You say there is a reason—there is also a moral in these few notes.—Yours, etc.,

"A Preventive Officer."

Points from the Regulations.

Sir,—The article by "Reasonable" in the last issue of the "Customs Journal" would have been far nicer had the writer refrained from the usual method of our correspondents and left out the sarcastic remarks contained in his last paragraph; for even though his last sentence is an endeavour to excuse his words of sarcasm, nevertheless they still remain so.

I quite agree with his opinions of 1, 2, 3 and 5. As regards No. 4, on what authority do we search a licensed tobacconist's without a writ or search warrant?

Regarding No. 6, would not the carter be an agent of the storedealer, and therefore under the terms of the storedealer's bond under obligation to produce stores to an officer of Customs, or give the notice in writing under paragraph 6, Vol. 1, Part 6?

As the alternative to producing the stores is not to be made where the vessel is due to sail within 24 hours, the carter, being the storedealer's agent, breaks the terms of the bond; therefore a full report of the case should, in my opinion, be made to the C.P.O. or Collector. But the question of forfeiture remains, doesn't it, as does a larceny charge? Therefore, I would be inclined to detain goods for further directions, show short shipment, and ascertain the carter's name and private address, etc.

Some of us are very glad that somebody like "Reasonable" is taking such an interest in these things, and this gives rise, naturally, to the suggestion, why should he not take over the columns once run by "Scrutator"? I am sure you and he would receive the thanks of a large majority of our members.—Yours, etc.,

"2"

Cost-of-Living Bonus Review Campaign

ALBERT HALL DEMONSTRATION,

11th APRIL, 1929.

Following upon the breakdown of the negotiations on the Cost of Living Bonus Review Committee of the National Whitley Council, the National Staff Side decided to make representations direct to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in support of the demand for an improvement in the Cost of Living Agreement of 1920, and a request for the reception of a deputation was sent. No definite reply has yet been received, although the Staff Side has been informed that the matter is awaiting the attention of the Chancellor.

In support of the Staff Side demand, the Civil Service Confederation decided to hold an All-Grades Demonstration at the Albert Hall in order to give an opportunity for the manifestation of the feeling of the rank and file of the Civil Service on the all-important question of the Bonus. The Demonstration was accordingly held on the evening of Thursday, 11th April, 1929, and the fact that the Confederation had accurately gauged the extent and intensity of the existing feeling on the subject was proved beyond all question by the overwhelming success of the meeting, the huge Hall being packed in every part by an audience which displayed the utmost enthusiasm.

Mr. George Chase, President of the Civil Service Confederation, who presided, reviewed the negotiations with the Official Side, and read a letter from the Civil Service Federation of the Irish Free State, expressing warm approbation and hearty support of the objects of the meeting.

A resolution was moved by Mr. W. J. Brown, a member of the Executive Committee of the Confederation and General Secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association, in the following terms:—

“This Demonstration of Civil Servants of all Grades, having heard the report on the Staff Side’s negotiations with the Official Side on the question of Civil Service Cost of Living Bonus, confirms the action of the Staff Side in asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer to receive a deputation to press for the acceptance by the Government of the Staff Side’s Cost of Living Bonus programme, i.e.—

- (a) the stoppage of further drops;
- (b) the extension of the area of full compensation to £160;

- (c) the restoration of the Super-cut;
- (d) stabilisation.

The Demonstration informs the Government that the Civil Service is no longer content to acquiesce in a settlement which denies to Civil Servants reasonable compensation for the rise in the cost of living, which keeps large sections of the Service below the poverty level, and results for other sections in standards of life definitely worse than those of pre-war days, and calls upon the Government to meet the claim of the Staff Side.”

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. W. H. James, a member of the Executive Committee and ex-President of the Confederation, and supported by Mr. G. H. Barson, the Honorary Secretary of the Society of Civil Servants, and by Mr. C. W. Gibson, L.C.C., a member of the Executive Committee of the Confederation and Sub-Divisional Organiser of the Workers’ Union, was carried unanimously, a great shout of “Aye!” ringing through the Hall in response to the Chairman’s call, and not a single dissentient voice being heard.

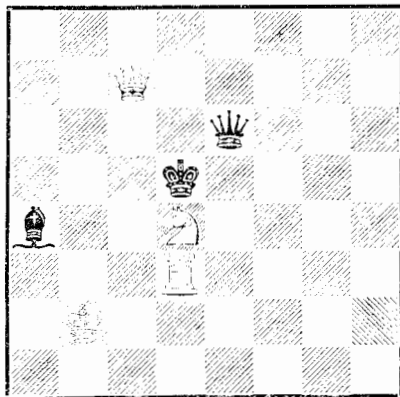
The Confederation feels that its action in taking the initiative in this matter, and providing an opportunity for the expression of rank and file feeling on the Bonus question, has thus received ample justification, and that the revelation of Civil Service opinion on the matter has been so unmistakable that its existence can no longer be denied. The attendance at the meeting was not confined to London—representatives came from as far away as Portsmouth—and telegrams of support from Civil Service Organisations, both inside and outside the Confederation, were received from all over the country. The Confederation also received the official support of the Society of Civil Servants and the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

The stewarding arrangements, which worked admirably, were undertaken by the Civil Service Clerical Association, and were in charge of Mr. C. Holock. Thanks are also due to the Organist, Mr. H. C. J. Churchill.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 36.



White to mate in three.

SOLUTION TO No. 35a.

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| 1. Q—B8+ | 1. K—K8 |
| 2. Q—Q6 | 2. K—B7 |
| 3. Q—B4+ | 3. K—K8 |
| 4. Q—Q4, etc. | |

1928-9 TOURNEY SCORES.

SECTION I TO ROUND 3.

F. G. Boodle, Dover, 3; A. Hardie, Ayr,* 2; R. E. Dudley, London, S. H. Matthews, Irvine, 1; E. T. Sandford, Newport²; W. W. Bishop, Holyhead, 1.

* One game continuing.

SECTION III TO ROUND 5.

(1) W. E. Morrison, Dover, 5; (2) B. C. Reilly, 4; W. Taek,* H. H. Gray, Dover, 3; J. Terry,* Liverpool, 2; J. Hoare,* Weymouth, 1; A. F. Mathers,* Swansea, and O. M. Williams, Ayr, 0.

* Score in 5th Round not to hand.

HOW CHESS IS PLAYED—continued.

The Queen is the most powerful of the pieces. She can move at one move like a Bishop, or if she prefers it, like a Rook, backwards, forwards or sideways to the extent of the board or place where capture is made. Thus in Problem No. 36 the White Queen can move into the white square above her, or to any of the six squares below her present position, or one or two squares to her left, or to any of the five squares to her right (these would be moves made as a Rook), or she can move as a Bishop to any of the black squares on the diagonal from the black square above the Bishop to the black square above her on her right, or to any black square from the black square above her on her left on the diagonal of black squares down to the bottom right hand black square.

You now know the moves except two, which will be explained later. We will now go on to the object of the game, starting with the meaning of Check.

(To be continued.)

CUP CONTEST, 1928-9, FINAL ROUND.

White: Mr. A. Hardie, Ayr.

Black: Mr. F. G. Boodle, Dover.

White opened with the K and Q's Pawns. Black replied with the first moves of the Caro Kan defence. Then followed an exchange of Pawns. The play in this game will be given in the Journal as it proceeds.

PRESENTATIONS.

Mr. R. SHARPE, C.P.O.

At the Waterguard Office, Plymouth, on March 1st, the presentation of a Parker Duofold writing outfit was made by the staff to Mr. R. Sharpe, C.P.O., on the occasion of his promotion to the position of Waterguard Superintendent and his removal to London.

Eulogistic speeches were made by several members of the staff. The presentation was made by Mr. W. A. Stone (P.O.). Mr. Sharpe in his reply expressed regret that promotion meant severance with the port, and expressed the wish that at some future time he might meet all the staff again.

Mr. C. PARKER, A.P.O.

At the Plymouth office, on March 15th, the presentation of a clock, suitably inscribed, was made to Mr. C. Parker, A.P.O., on the occasion of his transfer to London. A number of speeches, humorous and otherwise, were made by his brother officers, Mr. Parker replying in similar strain. The presentation was made by Mr. Lewin, P.O.

Mr. F. W. GOODING, P.O.

On March 19th, at the Custom House, Methil, the officers of the port bade fare-well to their colleague, Mr. F. W. Gooding, upon his departure for Boston, and as a token of their esteem presented him with a Parker Duofold fountain pen, with a box of chocolates for Mrs. Gooding.

Mr. W. J. G. Harvey (C.P.O.) presided, and Mr. C. B. Smith (P.O.) made the presentation, which was an occasion for an expression of genuine regret from all present that they were losing a colleague of the finest type, an officer who at all times did his bit manfully, and whose cheerfulness was proverbial.

Mr. Gooding in reply stated, amid laughter, that he was seldom at a loss for words, but on this occasion he was. He thanked all for the kindness shown to both him and his wife, and assured the company that the friends they had made during their stay in Methil were of the best, and sincerely hoped that they would remain as such.