

# The Customs Journal

No. 648

August 24th, 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.*

## The Major Question.

THE Council of the Association at the recent meeting decided upon a certain policy that should greatly help in prosecuting a claim for adequate remuneration for the lower grades of the Waterguard Department. We refer to the decision upon P.S.A. policy in connection with the C.P.O. grade.

It is our view that those whose task it is to advocate the claims of the rank and file of the Waterguard cannot complain of any paucity of arguments. We do not think that there is so class in the Civil Service whose range of duties is so vast, or whose conditions of service are so arduous. Despite these advantages, however, it has been difficult to secure the credit for the work, owing to the presence in the department of so many supervising officers.

One must accept the argument that in the valuation of the work of any individual or class, the supervision that the work is subject to, plays a vital part. It is in this connection that we have suffered. It is necessary before reaching conclusions upon supervision to first of all examine as closely as possible the whole of the circumstances connected with the work that is supervised. It is in this direction that, in our opinion, there should be close investigation before the work that we do is valued.

It is our belief that such investigation would primarily reveal that the work of the P.O. and A.P.O. grade cannot be assessed on the basis of the ratio of supervisory posts, and secondly that there is absolutely no justification for so many supervisors. What are the facts? Waterguard work does not commence at 10 a.m. and cease at 5 p.m. It also knows no limitation in area, and the most difficult situation any officer can be faced with is as likely to arise in "Littlecreek" as in London. Let us

then examine the so-called supervision. Some of us when on day duty in a large port will see something of the C.P.O. If we are on a fairly extensive station (and we have not yet found one that would not fulfil the description) we may meet him whilst actually on the job, and again we may not. If we are on night duty the supervision that is considered necessary is one visit per month between midnight and 6 a.m., and three between 6 p.m. and midnight—but day or night duty, it is the same work that we do and the same difficulties arise. It may be that we are stationed at a port that does not form the base of a C.P.O. We will then have the pleasure of a visit from him once a fortnight.

We are the same Preventive Officers (Assistant or otherwise) small creek or big port; boarding or rummage duty; on the baggage floor at 2 p.m. or in the stokehold at 2 a.m. We may see the supervisor once a fortnight or every day, but it does not affect the work that we do. We have always to perform our work on our own responsibility and based upon our own knowledge. If we can secure assistance from a supervisor in a difficult situation we are *most* fortunate. It invariably happens that this is impossible, and we have long discovered that the best plan is to deal with the matter as though the once a fortnight was applicable.

It is good to know that at last the Association is free to deal with the farcical situation that confronts us.

It can usefully draw attention to a remedy that will undoubtedly improve efficiency in the department, considerably increase the status of the supervising grades, and enable we of the lower grades to take the credit that even now, despite the circumstances, is rightly ours.

## CURRENT COMMENTS.

FOR the next five or six weeks there will be little for report regarding the larger issues affecting the Civil Service as a whole, and our own Department in particular. This being the vacation season most of the people whose responsibility it is to make the big decisions are away on holiday. It is, of course, quite the natural order of things, but there is not much doubt that some few P.S.A. members will, in their impatience for early results in the Salary question, be inclined to regard this inevitable delay as a reason for complaint. It is equally certain that the main body of members will take the reasonable view. As a matter of fact it is a notable feature of the present salary claim that the members generally are adopting an attitude of confident patience. Up-to-date facilities for distributing information have made it possible for the Association to convey to all Waterguard Officers full details of the form in which the claim has been put forward, and it is true to say that possession of the knowledge thus disseminated has given rise to a definite feeling throughout the Waterguard Service that on the facts of the case justice cannot be denied us on this occasion. Viewed in this light a few weeks' delay is not insupportable.

\* \* \* \*

The comparative slackness of the present period is the opportunity for Association officers to take a short spell of necessary rest. From now until the end of September the Headquarters Staff will be below normal strength, and it is hoped that members will bear this in mind and will endeavour to keep correspondence to a minimum.

\* \* \* \*

When Association activity gets into full swing again after the holidays, it can be anticipated that it will not be by half measures. The forthcoming twelve months gives every promise of being extremely eventful. Apart from Waterguard problems, which are themselves of great immediate importance, there is the Royal Commission looming up ahead. The vigour with which the present Government has started to "clean up," inclines one to the conviction that this Commission is going to be something exceptional. The Chancellor has proved how powerful is a combination of courage and ability against mere partisanship. He is in a strong position to deal with the Civil Service question, and is not likely to allow Press campaigns to warp his judgment. It can be expected that the task of the Royal Commission is intended to be complete and effective. That being the case it is urgent that all Associations keep very much on the alert, no matter whether the Commission is favourably disposed to Service staffs, or otherwise.

\* \* \* \*

It is probable that the first meeting of the new Executive of the P.S.A. will take place about the middle of October. By that time the members of

the Committee will have had ample time to have assimilated the programme laid down by the Conference. An examination of the Conference report which appears in this issue will shew that the Executive has been charged with a heavy and responsible job. It might be well to mention here that the published report is but a brief outline of the document which will be in the hands of all Councillors and District Officers by this time. Members must not take it for granted that having read the Journal they have learned all there is to know about Conference happenings. If they fulfil their duty of attending District meetings they will be rewarded by hearing some interesting accounts of the proceedings.

\* \* \* \*

Speaking of the Executive brings to mind the popular fallacy that one of the functions of the Committee members is to collect local grievances and to bring them to London for discussion when attending meetings. Sometimes new Executive members also have this idea, but it is very soon realised that the Committee is too much occupied with its proper function of carrying out Council instructions, and has no time to spend in usurping local Whitley functions.

Each Executive officer is expected to attend meetings fully equipped with a sound knowledge of the Association's general policy. He must be able to enter into debate upon the carrying out of that policy; and he ought not to be harassed by District resolutions wrongly intended for his instruction. His instructions come only from the Council.

\* \* \* \*

One of the matters remitted to the Executive, and which will not be easily disposed of, is the question of Assistant Preventive Officers' duties. Conference gave considerable time to the discussion of this subject, but could reach no definite conclusion owing to the limited information available in regard to the number of ports where the A.P.O. is prevented from carrying out his proper role of Assistant. It was quite evident that at some places the position of the A.P.O. is very unsatisfactory. The delegates representing these places were very emphatic about this. At the really busy ports there ought to be no problem, because the Preventive Officer on a tough station in these days is only too glad to have a live A.P.O. to assist him. If he can dispense with such assistance it means only one thing. On the other hand one can sympathise with the overworked P.O. whose assistant has but a dim notion of what it is all about.

The Executive will have to be very careful in the handling of this situation.

\* \* \* \*

Arising from a resolution on the Conference agenda that a brochure on the practice and procedure at advanced Small Ports be prepared and published

by the Association, it was announced that Mr. W. G. Thomson, president of the P.S.A., had only recently completed writing a small book of this character and had offered it to the Association to be published for the benefit of members. Mr. Thomson gave a description of the matter contained in his book, and finally the Conference decided to accept the offer, and at the same time expressed great appreciation of the very useful service Mr. Thomson had rendered to his Waterguard colleagues.

This book is now in the hands of the printers and there can be no doubt that when it makes its appearance there will be a great demand for copies. It will be the first volume of its kind, and will certainly be a great boon to candidates at the C.P.O. examination.

It will be some time before the book is ready, but officers who are interested are invited to send their names to the Association office now.

\* \* \* \*

London members are reminded that classes at the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, will commence in September. Old students who attended the Legal class last session have arranged to meet at the College on Saturday the 24th August, and to bring with them a number of the younger members of the Waterguard staff for the purpose of shewing them the many good things the College has to offer.

To become a student at the College costs but a trifle, and for this, in addition to the educational benefits obtained, one is entitled to take full part in the social life of the College. It is a really attractive place, with its well appointed library; concert hall; common room, where meals may be had at remarkably low charges; and various club rooms.

There is something to suit every taste in the way of social activity and there is a happy freedom from irritating restrictions.

The young men of the London staff are strongly advised to make a visit to the College. Any information required can be obtained from Mr. M. P. O'Flynn, Room 11, or from the Association office.

## PROSECUTIONS.

### SWANSEA.

At the Swansea Police Court on August 7th, two engineers of the m.v. "Lochvie" from Rotterdam were jointly charged with knowingly concealing thirty-six bottles (4.47 proof gallons) of spirits. The offenders admitted buying the Spirits at Rotterdam to supplement the ship's allowance.

Evidence was given by Mr. A. L. Matthews (A.P.O.), who discovered the goods underneath the plates of the starboard side of the engine room, under the supervision of Mr. A. S. Roper (P.O.).

The stipendiary ordered the offenders to pay the single duty paid value, totalling £20 3s. 9d. The fine was paid.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. W. J. Lympney (C.P.O.).

A fine of £50 was levied on the vessel.

## Erin's Courtesy.

From time to time one sees references in the Press to H.M. Customs, and often to officials of that Department, and although at times, according to viewpoint, the references take a disparaging turn, on the other hand they frequently voice the joy of travellers returning after long absences who are glad at last to deal, or be dealt with, by the English Customs Officer. I say "English" advisedly, for too often do people use that word when in their hearts they mean "British." We are very glad indeed, however, that our colleagues in Ireland are not forgotten, and an article in the "Observer" has set us thinking of our many absent friends who, before transferring to the Green Isle, served side by side with us in various ports in Great Britain. In his article, Mr. Ian F. D. Morrow deals with an absence abroad of ten years and mentions the return to Dublin: "the mist, still hiding the summits of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains, swiftly dispersing before the golden rays of the rising sun to reveal the bay-fulness that is Dublin Bay." His tribute to the Customs, "where the traditional Irish courtesy that still survives all other changes made a pleasure of what is usually a vexatious delay," will be read with satisfaction on both sides of the Western Channel, for it was written by one who was prepared to find a different Ireland than the one he left.

The traditional Irish courtesy will always be maintained by Ireland's Customs.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO AUGUST 12th, 1929.

### TRANSFERS.

#### PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Rowe, C. A., Grangemouth, Edinburgh to Plymouth.

### PROMOTIONS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION (UNATTACHED):—  
Lympney, W. J., Plymouth to Office of I.G.W.  
ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Naish, R., Barry Dock, Cardiff to Grangemouth, Edinburgh.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

#### DEATH:—

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Mumby, L. W., Rye, Dover.

### VACANCIES.

#### PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Barry Dock, Cardiff.

Glasgow. 1.10.1929.

Rye, Dover.

\*(An allowance of £30 per annum for performing Long Room work is assigned.)

#### ENGINEER:—

North Shields, Newcastle. 1.9.1929.

# PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

## Annual Council Meeting Report

The Seventh Annual Council meeting of the Association was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C.4, on July 30th and two following days.

The following Officers and Councillors attended the meeting:—Mr. W. G. Thomson, President; Mr. M. J. Merron, General Secretary; Mr. J. T. Sutton, Organising Secretary; Mr. W. H. Powell, Assistant Secretary; Mr. W. E. Standing, Editor, "Customs Journal."

**Area Councillors.**—Mr. T. O. Hughes, P.O., and Mr. P. Spear, A.P.O. (London); Mr. R. O. Kewley, P.O., and Mr. A. E. Farmer (Liverpool); Mr. G. E. N. Griffiths, P.O., and Mr. A. W. P. Densley, A.P.O. (South Wales); Mr. B. J. Herrington, P.O., and Mr. S. A. W. Beer, A.P.O. (South Coast); Mr. G. W. Grace, P.O., and Mr. J. A. O'Connor, A.P.O. (Gravesend and Harwich); Mr. P. W. Howard, P.O., and Mr. J. Shooter, A.P.O. (Hull); Mr. W. A. Colwill, P.O., and Mr. L. N. Cumberlidge, A.P.O. (Tyne); Mr. W. A. Manson, P.O., and Mr. J. Johstone, A.P.O. (Scotland).

**Additional Councillors.**—Messrs. F. E. Crowe and G. T. Coady, P.O.s, and Messrs. D. R. Cronin and P. A. Richardson, A.P.O.s.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman (Mr. W. G. Thomson) referred to the important matters that would have to be dealt with by the Council, and the urgent necessity for a clearly defined policy.

The minutes of the 1928 meeting were adopted as a correct record. Several matters of minor importance were raised upon the minutes, but as most of the items were covered elsewhere upon the agenda, the meeting quickly commenced to discuss the Report of the Executive Committee.

Before the written Report was discussed, the General Secretary gave an oral report upon several matters not directly covered by the Executive Report, and referred to the salary claim. Unanimous approval of the W.S.C. Staff Side statement upon the claim was intimated by the Council and the Association Secretaries were congratulated upon the work done during the year.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE.

#### Waterguard Claims. Hours of Attendance.

After some discussion upon the possible ambiguity of the reference on this matter upon the W.S.C., it was agreed to add to the Council's instructions upon week-day hours:—

"The weekly aggregate to be 44 hours."

#### C.P.M.s Employed on Baggage Duty.

The Council were informed that the Official Side had definitely stated that in their opinion the work

performed by C.P.M.s in this connection was inferior to that normally performed by A.P.O.s on baggage duty.

#### Failed A.P.O.s.

A motion that A.P.O.s who have exhausted their chances of promotion should have preference for clerical posts in Waterguard Offices was successfully amended and adopted as follows:—

"That the office positions undertaken by A.P.O.s be, wherever practicable, reserved for officers who have exhausted their chances of promotion."

A motion that the matter be referred to the Districts was defeated, and it was remitted to the Waterguard Sectional Committee.

#### Promotion to Officer Grade.

A resolution was adopted:—

"That the conditions of promotion to the Officer Grade from the Waterguard shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee."

#### Subsistence Allowances—Per Noctem Rates.

Considerable discussion took place upon the National Whitley Council Report in this connection. The Council noted that Whitley discussion would take place upon Waterguard Rates, and that the Report in the main was favourable to P.S.A. aspirations. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee, and Messrs. Merron and Sutton were elected as P.S.A. representatives on the proposed sub-committee.

The Report was adopted.

### ORGANISING SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORT.

#### Staff Strength.

The Council were informed that the strength of the P.O. grade had been maintained. There had not been the large increase of the A.P.O. grade that was anticipated, but there was every reason to believe that the actual strength of the grade would be increased during the coming year.

Dealing with membership, the Organising Secretary stated that whilst the figures showed an increase over recent years, there was still considerable room for improvement. He anticipated that efforts being made to improve the backward districts would enable a more satisfactory report next year.

#### Finance.

The Organising Secretary drew attention to the increased amount of subscriptions paid, and to the fact that the expenditure had been greatly reduced

as compared to previous years. This was due partly to the wise policy in purchasing up-to-date equipment for Beer Lane (the Gestetner had saved more than treble its cost), and partly to the stringent economy in force. The new contract for the "Customs Journal" had greatly helped, and had justified the prophecies made regarding reductions in cost. The net result had been to increase the balance brought forward by over £50.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted.

#### "CUSTOMS JOURNAL" REPORT.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted.

Arising from the Report, the Council agreed to the following motion:

"That the possibility of the Conference Agenda being published in the "Customs Journal" be discussed by the E.C."

#### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SECTION.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted.

The Council noted with satisfaction that the Section was now self-supporting, and that over 90 per cent. of the £20 advanced by the Association had been repaid.

The Executive Committee's resolution:—

"That the Central Committee of the V.E.S. shall comprise two members, one of whom shall act as Secretary," was agreed.

A motion giving the E.C. authority to dispose of any balance accruing from V.E.S. finances at the end of the 1929-30 financial year—the existing percentages being continued—was also agreed to.

#### DISTRICT RESOLUTIONS.

##### Amalgamation With Analogous Grades.

After an exhaustive discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution proposed by the Hull and South Wales Districts:—

"That this meeting is in favour of the E.C. taking immediate action regarding amalgamation with analogous grades."

Motions to limit the scope of the resolution to the Waterguard Superintendents and Inspectors Association and the Chief Preventive Officers Association were defeated.

##### Uniform.

All resolutions dealing with this subject were referred to the Uniform Sub-Committee of the Waterguard Sectional Committee (Staff Side).

##### Promotion—P.O. to C.P.O.

Hull withdrew the resolution upon this subject dealing with non-allocation of marks. The Liverpool resolution, amended by request, was unanimously adopted. After considerable discussion, the motion reads as follows:—

"That this meeting agrees with the modified proposals and decides to leave the matter with the Staff Side of the W.S.C."

A motion in the name of the Hull District, calling for another chance in the new scheme of officers who failed to secure promotion under the old system, was amended to read "a second chance," and as amended, adopted by the meeting.

A further motion:—

"That numbers be substituted for names on examination papers," was also agreed to.

##### Seizure Rewards.

This subject was thoroughly discussed. The Liverpool resolution was withdrawn in favour of that from the London District as follows:—

"That the Association press for the non-participation of Waterguard officers in systematic seizure rewards, those officers being placed on the same basis as the Officer Grade, i.e., rewarded at the discretion of the Board when the circumstances justify."

In support of this resolution, the morality of the existing system was questioned. It was also argued that the principle underlying systematic rewards was one detrimental to the aspirations of the grades.

Support for the motion came from the Districts containing Baggage ports, where the largest percentage of rewards was received.

An amendment to limit the resolution to the P.O. grade was defeated.

The Council adopted the London resolution practically unanimously, there being only two votes against.

##### Salary Claim.

A resolution from the Tyne District stating that in the event of revision of salary scales, endeavour be made to secure assimilation as though the new scales had always been in force, was adopted.

The Executive Committee had initiated District discussion upon the effect of the C.P.O. grade upon the aspirations of the executive grades. A London resolution upon the subject received the maximum attention and was unanimously agreed to. The motion reads as follows:—

"That this Council is of the opinion that the present constitution of the C.P.O. grade is detrimental to the aspirations of the C.P.O., P.O., and A.P.O. grades, and that the Association should press for the considerable diminution of that grade."

##### Allowed Small Ports.

A resolution from Scotland upon this matter was defeated.

The Dover resolution, suggesting the advisability of the Association publishing a booklet upon Small Port work, was adopted. It was then intimated to the Council that the President of the

Association had recently completed a brochure upon this work, and had unconditionally presented it to the Association.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed.

#### Tours of Electoral Areas.

A Dover resolution upon this matter was referred to the Executive Committee.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The Executive Committee's amendment to Rule 4, paragraph 2(c) (Additional Councillors), was adopted.

Amendment to the same rule from Hull was defeated, also motions calling for direct representation for certain Districts. Upon the question of representation, the Council was assured that early consideration would have to be given to the matter.

The Executive Committee's amendment to Rule 4, paragraph 2(d), extending the right to vote at the Council meetings to the additional Councillors, was agreed to.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES.

President: Mr. W. G. Thomson.  
 General Secretary: Mr. J. Merron.  
 Organising Secretary & Treas.: Mr. J. T. Sutton.  
 Assistant Secretary: Mr. W. H. Powell.  
 Editor, "Customs Journal": Mr. W. E. Standring.  
 Secretary: Mr. P. Spear.  
 V. E. Section, Central Committee: Mr. S. C. Steele and Mr. W. R. Foster.

#### Executive Committee.

Mr. G. W. Grace, P.O. (Graysend Area).  
 Mr. A. W. P. Densley, A.P.O. (South Wales Area).  
 Mr. A. E. Farmer, A.P.O. (Liverpool Area).  
 Mr. J. Shooter, A.P.O. (Hull Area).  
 and the Officers.

#### Waterguard Sectional Committee.

Messrs. Merron and Sutton, P.O.s.  
 Messrs. Densley, Farmer and Shooter, A.P.O.s.  
 (Mr. Powell is S.S. Secretary of the W.S.C.)

#### C. & E. Joint Committee.

Messrs. Merron and Sutton, P.O.s.  
 Messrs. Spear and Powell, A.P.O.s.

#### Civil Service Confederation Council.

Mr. Sutton, P.O., and Messrs. O'Connor and Powell, A.P.O.s.  
 Mr. Merron is a C. & E. Group representative on the C.S.C. Executive.)

#### Suggestions Committee (1 representative).

Mr. T. O. Hughes was elected. (Mr. Merron is a permanent member of this Committee.)

#### OTHER BUSINESS.

The Council adopted a motion giving the E.C. instructions to consider the advisability of obtaining official definition of the precise scope of the duties of the A.P.O. grade.

Under this heading the Council also dealt with the following matters, and referred them to the Executive Committee:—Rummage Allowance, Work and Wait Rule, Special Leave for Association purposes.

J. T. SUTTON,  
 Organising Secretary.

### Southampton Prosecution.

At the Borough Police Court, Southampton, recently, Mr. A. W. Purdy, (C.P.O.), appeared for the Commissioners and pressed for treble value and duty in a case of illegal importation and concealment by a member of the crew of a yacht. The goods in question were 36 bottles of whisky, 13 bottles of brandy, 1 bottle of gin, 10 bottles of liqueur, 76 bottles of wine, 11 bottles of perfumery and a quantity of cigarettes. After hearing the case, the Chairman informed the defendant that the Bench considered the case as a very serious one. He would have to pay treble value and duty, amounting to £142 18s. 3d., and 4s. costs.

The officers concerned in the seizure were Mr. Sherlock (P.O.), and Messrs. Ford, Newings and Northfield (A.P.O.s).

#### HARTLEPOOL.

At a special Court on August 15th, the donkeyman of the steamer "Wallend," from Ghent, was charged with concealing six bottles of whiskey, two bottles of brandy, 5½ lbs. of tobacco and 120 boxes of matches. The goods were discovered hidden in the stokehold by Messrs. L. G. G. Staniland and E. T. Leedham, A.P.O.s working under the supervision of Mr. W. J. Berryman.

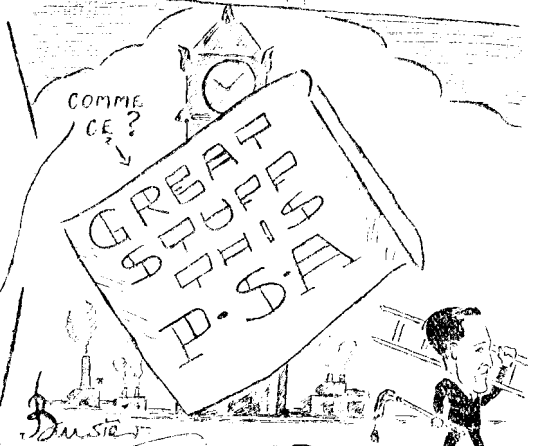
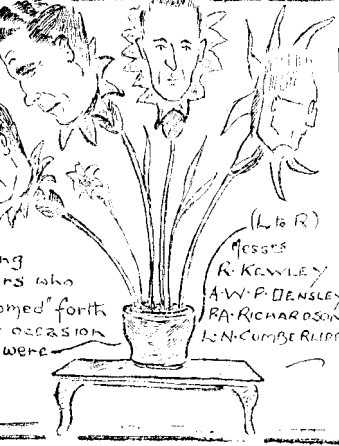
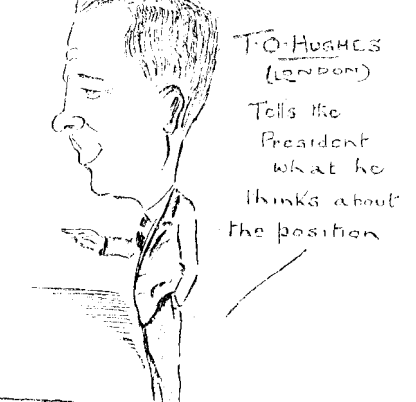
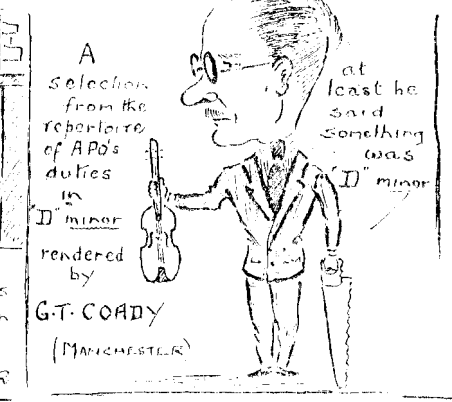
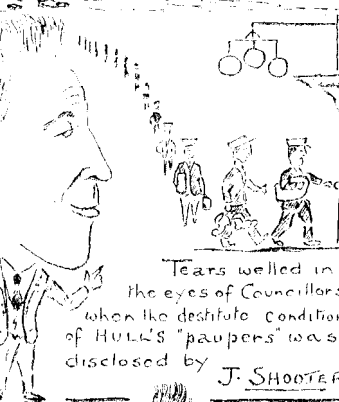
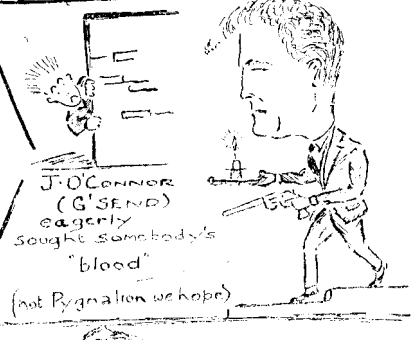
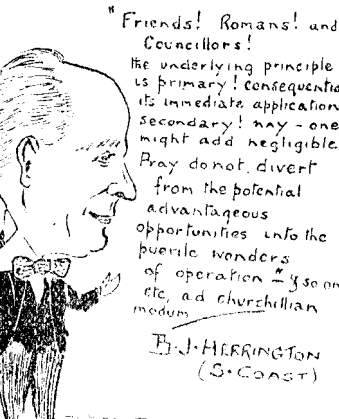
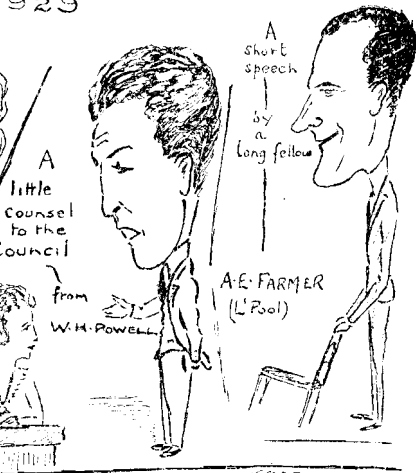
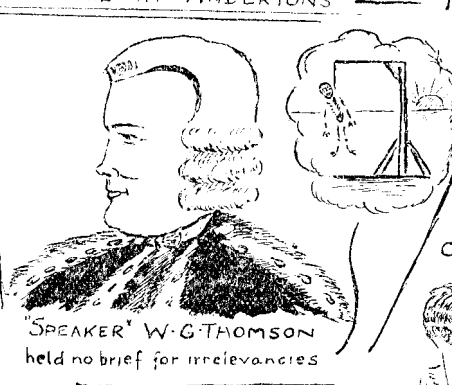
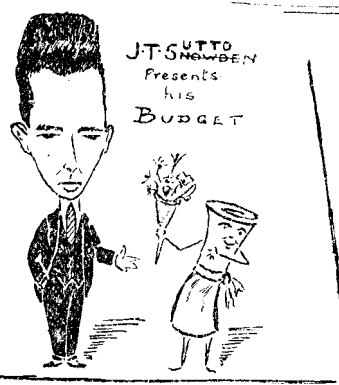
Mr. H. Dowland (C.P.O.), who prosecuted, explained that the bottles, etc., were found in the bilges under the stokehold, and showed how the officers, in order to reach them, had to enter the bilges by means of a small door about 2ft. square in a corner of the stokehold which opened to give access to the valve cocks.

When ordered to pay £26 3s. 3d., the defendant asked for time to pay, but as his ship was due to sail in the morning he was ordered to find the money that day. The alternative was three months' imprisonment.

#### HULL.

A fireman of the steamer "Seefoss" from Hamburg, was charged on August 14th with concealing 1.85 proof gallons of U.U. Spirits, 1.00 proof gallons of Rum and .290 gallon of Liqueurs. The goods were discovered in the bunkers by Messrs. Every and Oliver, A.P.O.s, of Mr. Howard's crew.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Baker, C.P.O., and resulted in the offender being fined £15 1s. 7d. and costs, or fifty-one days' imprisonment.



## Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

The 108th meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on 24th July, 1929, the Chair being taken by Sir F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### PAY.

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

### ALLOWANCES.

It was agreed to increase the rate of lodging allowance payable to Second Class Inspectors under General Order 75/1925, paragraph 46, to 45s. per week.

It was agreed, after protracted committee investigation, that it was undesirable for the present to proceed with the general introduction of fixed allowances for travelling and subsistence expenses in Districts and Stations. Certain such allowances now payable in town Districts and Stations will remain undisturbed.

It was agreed that preliminary instructions should be issued applying as from 1st September, 1929, the terms of the National Whitley Council's recent agreement on subsistence allowances to classes specifically covered by the agreement. A special Committee was appointed to report on the application of the agreement to all other classes within the Department. It is thereafter intended to issue comprehensive instructions to the Service.

The Council discussed and adjourned a committee disagreement on the Staff Side claim that allowances awarded to Deputy Superintendents of Mercantile Marine should be counted for purposes of pension and overtime.

### SENIORITY.

The Council adopted an agreed seniority list of all Departmental Higher Clerical Officers, one case being excepted and reserved for further consideration.

### PROMOTION.

The Staff Side proposal to appoint a Special Committee on the promotion of Clerical and Allied Class was adjourned *sine die*.

The Official Side stated that it was hoped to make further promotions from the "P" Class within a reasonable period.

It was agreed that Waterguard Officers suffering from physical disabilities should not be debarred from sitting at examinations for promotion, the question of physical fitness being left to the decision of a subsequent medical examination.

### REDUNDANCY.

At the Staff Side's request, consideration of rules in this connection for Clerical Officers at Headquarters was re-adjourned.

### VACANCIES AND TRANSFERS.

New rules governing the advertisement of vacancies, applications, and transfers in the Waterguard were agreed to by the Council, and will be the subject of a General Order.

### LEAVE.

The Staff Side proposed that emergency leave with pay up to a maximum of six days should be granted to all officials upon the occasions of the death of a near relative or upon marriage. A decision was deferred.

### OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND EQUIPMENT.

A representative of the Office of Works was present and participated in a discussion on that section of the Staff Side's adjourned proposals which relates to the lighting, heating, cleaning and furnishing of offices provided by that Department. The subject was fully considered before being re-adjourned on the understanding that further conversations would probably be held before it came again before the Council.

### UNITS OF WORK.

An agreement was effected relating to the extra work specially involved in connection with the 1928-29 re-scheming of general and pension stations.

### BEET SUGAR FACTORIES.

It was agreed that for the forthcoming "campaign," beet sugar factories should be regarded as time attendance stations.

### OTHER MATTERS.

The Council recorded agreement on proposals for the staffing of the Collectors' Offices at Belfast and Dover, and of the sub-office at Holyhead. Consideration of a disagreement concerning the Plymouth Office was adjourned. An interim agreement established the number of Senior Chief Clerkships in the London Port Office as five.

The Council confirmed a number of committee agreements covering individual cases of starting-pay and allowances.

Three Local Committee disagreements on the exclusion of certain weeks in the summer from the period available for the leave of Departmental Clerical staffs in Collectors' Offices were adjourned, the general subject being under consideration.

Sundry reports of Local Committees were referred back for elucidation or for the formal registration of decisions.

A large 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.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in London on 25th September, 1929.

**A DREAM.****(WITH KNOTTY POINTS).**

After reading the Staff Side Statement in respect  
of claim for Salary Increases.

By "GEN."

I sat alone in deepening gloom  
Within that sombre Watch House room,  
And pondered with much perturbation  
On G.O., Code and Regulation.

And, as the embers grew more bright  
And nearer approached the night  
There entered one, a stranger he,  
Who made a lowly bow to me.

He spoke,—“ Pray pardon this intrusion  
But, to arrive at some conclusion,  
I seek advice and ask your aid  
As I'm bewildered, I'm afraid.”

I said, “ My dear sir, be seated;  
I need no longer be entreated  
To help a fellow in distress,  
There only is one answer—Yes.”

“ My mission, sir,” he said, “ is this,  
And not one point I wish to miss;  
Pray tell me, for I'd like to know,  
What are your duties as P.O.?”

“ When on that large Appearance Sheet  
You've placed your signature so neat,  
What are the various tasks you face  
In the position that you grace?”

And when you go on board a ship  
Do you give the mate a Duty Slip,  
Or do you Register Anew  
And a Deposit take in Lieu?”

“ Or, if she should a Coaster be,  
Would you seal up her last C.C.,  
And in her Double Bottoms slip  
The Form for an Infected ship?”

“ And, when the Duty you Assess  
On a reported D.B.S.,  
A Statutory Declaration  
Would surely meet the situation?”

“ And should you happen on a dog  
And enter same in the Ship's Log,  
Would you, concerning the Light Dues,  
Hold Specific, not Ad Val. views?”

“ And then, you could not so far go  
Before you met a Deck Cargo  
Wouldst to the King's Warehouse send it  
Or on a Shipping Bill amend it?”

“ Hold, hold,” I cried, “ I don't quite follow.  
Your reasoning, sir, fair beats me hollow.  
Unless you make your views more clear,  
You'll get me tangled up, I fear.”

He heeded not my anxious cry  
But drew a deep breath and asked, “ Why,  
When shipping Special Bonds, though ample,  
Do you always take an Eight Ounce Sample?”

“ And, further, when a Deposition  
You take for Arms and Ammunition,  
Do you charge the Bos'n T.V.D.  
Or issue a fresh I.C.B.?”

“ Also, one other point to heed  
Supposing that a Mortgage Deed  
Contains no mention of Live Stock,  
Would you ship Explosives in Dry Dock?”

“ And if, in Baggage, you should find  
Some Fuel Oil of any kind,  
Would you, by any chance, make notes  
In Register of Fishing Boats?”

“ If, in this post of your adoption  
You're called upon to give the Option,  
Would you, I simply ache to learn,  
Prepare a Casualty Return?”

“ And, at Initial Registry,  
Do you give the Owner a B.B.  
Or just serve 812 T.A.  
And make him a Retainer pay?”

“ Stop, stop!” I cried, “ You'll drive me mad  
You're really up the pole, my lad,  
This is too much at any price,  
And I gripped his throat as in a vice.

His eyes bulged out, his face turned red,  
And as he gasped for breath he said,  
“ Do you enter the Free Allowance, old sport,  
On the Travelling Copy of the Report?”

I harder gripped, he weaker grew,  
But with his last gasp asked, “ Would you  
Record a Stores Discrepancy  
In duplicate on List 143?”

He died; twelve men devoid of sense  
Declared my story no defence.  
They'll hang me by the morn's first light;  
Perhaps, after all, it serves me right.

**Customs Journal****Terms of Subscription**

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101 Upton Park Road,

Forest Gate, London, E7

## 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.*

### EXAMINATION OF BAGGAGE.

Sir,—With regard to the article in a recent issue by "Idris" dealing with the revision of Customs Code, Vol. 1, Part 4, it is difficult to believe that there could have been any misunderstanding regarding the clearance of a quantity of spirits ex.  $\frac{1}{2}$  but n.e. 1 gallon.

It would be interesting, however, to hear from "Idris" his opinion of the arrangement whereby a passenger may pay the duty on the bulk gallon, and the remainder of his  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallons being detained. The passenger's opinion we will doubtless hear in due course, and when that time arrives it will be helpful, perhaps, to have your contributor's opinion.

Yours, etc.,

PER ARDUA AD ASTRA.

### HOSPITAL SAVING ASSOCIATION.

Sir, With reference to General Order 47, 1929, paragraph 2. This paragraph may be misleading to some persons. The Hospital income limits are as shown, but people whose salary or wages are in excess of the hospital income limits *may still become contributors* under the Hospital Saving Association. In fact, there are many Waterguard officers in the Waterguard group above these limits. The difference is this:—

(1) **Income Under Hospital Limits.**—The green voucher may be presented.

(2) **Income Above Hospital Limits.**—The contribution is 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. weekly instead of 3d. as under (1). These contributors are termed "honorary contributors," and are not allowed to use the green voucher. They must make their own private arrangements with the hospital, obtain a receipt for money paid, and forward the receipt to the Group Secretary, who will obtain the refund from Headquarters of the H.S.A. They are entitled to **all** other benefits.

I am, Sir,

Yours, etc.,

W. W. BISHOP

(late Group Sec.).

## C. and E. Sports Club.

### FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

In presenting a short report of the sports meeting at Chiswick on July 18th, in our last issue, we inadvertently omitted to mention the very fine performance of Mr. C. Simison. Mr. Simison secured first place in the 880 yards handicap. Time: 2 mins., 2  $\frac{3}{5}$  secs. He also won the Shoes and Balloon Race.

We congratulate him, and hope to watch his performances in future Civil Service events.

\* \* \* \*

### ROWING.

An interesting paragraph appears in the July number of the Customs and Excise Sports Magazine to the effect that the Amateur Rowing Association's ban has been lifted from the Preventive Officers, and that the club is now open to members of this grade. With this wider field of recruitment, the Sports Club is now looking forward to a large influx of new members, and is optimistic enough to hope that they have come through their spell in the "doldrums." We hope to see members of the Preventive Staff figuring in future regatta events.

## Hull Cricket.

Every effort is being made to form a cricket club in Hull for next season, and all officers are being asked to give their interest and support. With this end in view, a team was selected after a week's practice to play the L.N.E.R. Police, a game which resulted in a brilliant win for our side. L.N.E.R. batted first, declaring at 63 for 7. Customs replied, however, with such a will that the game was theirs at seven wickets down, having scored 70.

On the 15th the Waterguard team played the indoor staff of the Custom House, the match being lost by 28 runs.

Great optimism prevails in the port, and it is hoped that during the winter months the club will be able to continue its activities in a social sphere, and the support of the staff will be greatly appreciated.

We have no doubt that the venture will receive the blessing of those in the higher places of the Waterguard, the benefit of whose interest and co-operation has been so amply demonstrated in other ports.

**Customs & Excise Confederation**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.**

(1) A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 15th July, 1929, at Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster, when Mr. Ross Wyld (Vice-President), presided over an attendance of 26. This was a special meeting summoned to consider questions arising out of the announcement made in the House of Commons on the 4th July, 1929, of the intention of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission on the Civil Service.

(2) Communications were received from the Association of Officers of the Ministry of Labour and from the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee to the effect that, as the question of Equal Pay for Men and Women in the Civil Service had already been decided in principle by the House of Commons, any reference to the Royal Commission on the subject of Equal Pay should be confined to the method of application of the principle.

(3) A Report was presented by a sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 8th July, 1929, to make a preliminary survey of the subject, and this Report was considered in detail by the Executive Committee. Earlier in the same day, Monday, 15th July, the General Purposes Committee of the National Staff Side had met and had before it informally the recommendations of the Confederation sub-committee. The Executive Committee, when considering the recommendations of the sub-committee, also took into consideration certain modifications suggested by the General Purposes Committee of the National Staff Side. After a full discussion the following conclusions were reached by the Executive Committee:—

- (a) To acquiesce in a General Commission with the exclusion of such matters as may be agreed upon between the Government and the Staff Side as more appropriately susceptible to treatment through other channels.

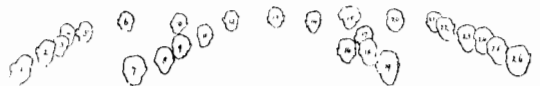
**Subjects to be Excluded as Examples.**

- (1) Equal Pay.
- (2) Cost of Living Bonus.
- (3) Clause 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927.
- (4) National Minimum.
- (5) Detailed pay and conditions
- (6) Colour Service to Count,

**Subjects to Acquiesce in Going to the Commission.**

- (1) Composition, constitution and powers of the Arbitration Board.
- (2) Whitley System in the Service.
- (3) Marriage Bar.
- (4) Recruitment.
- (5) Ex-Service Personnel and questions arising out of their continued employment.
- (6) Certain Superannuation problems.
- (7) General Structure and principles of organisation of the Civil Service.
- (b) That the Staff Side should not make nominations for the personnel of the Commission.
- (c) That provision should be made for issuing Interim Reports.
- (4) It was reported that a special meeting of the National Staff Side had been summoned for 10 a.m. on the following day, Tuesday, 16th July, to be followed at 11.30 a.m. on the same day by a deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer from the National Staff Side on the subject of the Royal Commission.

**Key to Photograph of Annual Conference**

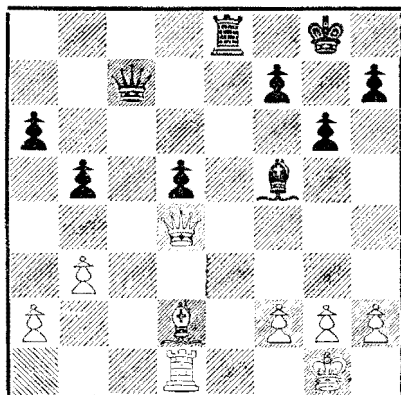


- 1. Mr. J. O'Connor.      15. Mrs. Facey.
- 2. Mr. B. J. Herrington. 16. Mr. G. T. Coady.
- 3. Mr. S. A. W. Beer.    17. Mr. L. N.
- 4. Mr. T. O. Hughes.                      Cumberlidge.
- 5. Mr. S. E. D. Ball.      18. Mr. A. E. Farmer.
- 6. Mr. P. Spear.          19. Mr. W. A. G. Manson
- 7. Mr. W. A. Colwill.    20. Mr. W. E. Standriag.
- 8. Mr. P. A. Richardson. 21. Mr. J. Johnstone.
- 9. Mr. D. R. Cronin.     22. Mr. P. W. Howard.
- 10. Mr. J. T. Sutton.     23. Mr. J. Shooter.
- 11. Mr. F. E. Crowe.     24. Mr. A. W. P. Densley
- 12. Mr. J. Merron.       25. Mr. G. E. N. Griffiths
- 13. Mr. W. Thomson.    26. Mr. R. O. Kewley.
- 14. Mr. W. H. Powell.

**SPORT AND SOCIAL.**

**Customs Waterguard Chess Club.**

**Cup Contest Final.**



Mr. F. G. Boodle, Dover (Black).  
Mr. A. Hardie, Ayr (White).

Position after Black's move 28:—

- 29. B—QB3, K—B1.
- 30. Q—KK4, K—K2.
- 31. R×QP, K—K3.
- 32. R—K5+, resigns.

**HOW CHESS IS PLAYED BY CORRESPONDENCE—Continued.**

Sometimes moves are written fractionwise, each denominator Black's, each numerator being White's move, thus the game given last issue might be written:—

- 1. P—K4    2. Kt—KB3    3. P—Q4, etc.
- P—QB4    Kt—QB3    P×P

If you wish to write separately a move of Black's you write it thus: "7 . . . B—Q3," to show that it was Black's move (not White's, which would be simply 7B—Q3); or write it thus: "7 B—Q3."

In writing a move, any square named is named from the  **mover's side**  of the board. Thus (for White), 7 Q×P(Kt6) means that White Queen (at the seventh move) takes a Pawn standing a  **White's**  (not Black's) Knight's sixth square. White's Queen moves to his Knight's sixth square, taking a Pawn. P×R=Qch means Pawn takes Rook and (having reached its Player's eighth rank), is exchanged for a Q, and this new Q at once gives check to the enemy King.

You should now be able to play by correspondence, and follow the records of games, or solutions to problems given herein from time to time. Next issue three short games will be given for you to practise, and become wary of.

(To be continued.)

**Cup Contest, 1929/30.**—All members desiring to enter this season's contest should send in their names and addresses to Mr. F. G. Boodle, 31, Pilgrim's Way, Dover, Kent, before 7th September. There is no entrance fee, and the contest is on the knock-out principle.

**Living Chess.**—An interesting display of Living Chess was recently given at Aysgill House, Richmond, in aid of the local Hospital, and there was a very large gathering present. The players, R. P. Michell, champion of Surrey, and W. H. M. Kirk, of the Civil Service Chess Association (Secretary) (Ministry of Labour), played with living pieces, and after a sporting Evans Gambit, Mr. Michell finally won. (B.C.M., 1.8.29.)

**1928/9 Club Tournament, Section I.**

Opponent No.—			1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	F. G. Boodle*	Dover	—	1	1	1	1	1	5
2	A. Hardie	Ayr	0	—	1	1	1	1	4
3	R. E. Dauley	London	0	0	—	0	1	1	2
4	W. W. Bishop	Holyhead	0	0	1	—	0†	½	1½
5	S. H. Matthews	Irvine	0	0	0	†1	—	½	1½
6	E. T. Sandford	Newport, Mon.	0	0	0	½	½	—	1

\* Becomes Club Champion 1928, 9.

† Adjudicated.