

The Customs Journal

No. 640

May 4th, 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.

A CHALLENGE.

A few weeks ago the "Customs Journal" celebrated its 25th birthday, and this interesting event set us considering the many changes that have taken place in the Waterguard department since the periodical made its first appearance. 1904 is a long time ago, and a glance into the pages of the early issues will provide the interested reader with ample evidence of the vast improvements that have been effected in the Waterguard since the "good old days." For us, this glance into ancient history has meant full realisation of the damage caused by those people who refuse to admit that any improvement has been made.

There are many who always bemoan the past and can find nothing in the present that compensates them for the "dear dead days." It is true that everything modern is not always the best, either in man or manners, but we consider it advisable to accept the times as we find them. In this way, we are able to make the most of the beneficial changes that have resulted from progress. We are not envious of age, therefore, when it tells us of those halcyon days, and especially is this so when the topic is 'the Service.'

For truly the Waterguard has advanced and improved even within our youthful memory, and all credit to those veterans in the rank and file who have stayed the pace. There are, however, some in our ranks, and, worse still, in other places, who have not only failed to forget the past, but can only look at the Waterguard and its problems in the light of things as they existed before we cut our

youthful teeth. With these we have a definite and determined difference.

Prejudice, it is said, dies very hard. How true it is in our case. Where it is caused by ignorance, there may be some excuse for its remaining, and it should be our paramount duty to enlighten in order to remove it. Where that plea cannot be made it is criminal, and we should fight it to the utmost. The Preventive Service of 1929 cannot be compared with that of 1899 or 1909. It has marched with the times, and it must not be said that we have the oft maligned audacity of youth when we say that it is an infinitely better service. It is doing better work as a result of the changes made more by force of circumstances than by a spirit of goodwill. We have never made the most of the work that we do, or the conditions under which it is done. Rather have we believed in the doctrine of "carrying on" as it applies to action and not to words. It is time that we drew attention to the glaring inequalities and injustices that are in being. We definitely assert that the executive grades of the Preventive service are every day performing work that bears comparison with any other executive grade in the service.

To those who would challenge that assertion we would suggest that they examine the facts. Let them investigate as thoroughly as is possible the work that we do. If they are unbiased, we feel assured that our claim will be supported. But let their seeking be with clear vision of to-day, and not with the spectacles of a couple of decades ago.

CURRENT COMMENTS

IN about ten weeks from now, the P.S.A. Conference takes place. To the rank and file of the membership, this appears to be quite an appreciable time, but to the Headquarters Staff it seems just the reverse. Every available moment of those weeks will be used in intensive preparation for this most important event of the year.

Without exception, Councillors who have attended Conferences during recent years, have commented upon the efficiency of the methods by which they have been enabled to take a full and knowledgeable interest in the whole of the proceedings. New Councillors are particularly appreciative, because P.S.A. Conferences are conducted in such a manner that the most inexperienced delegate can, by reason of his being supplied with clear and ample information on every topic, take intelligent and active part in all discussions. This has resulted in modern Conferences being very lively affairs. Whereas, in the old days, diffidence arising from uncertainty as regards facts of Association affairs, kept too many glued to their seats, nowadays, the Chairman at a Conference is forced to limit speeches in order that opportunity may be given to all who are anxious to "get in." This is the Conference spirit that the Association leaders have aimed at bringing into being, and the success is very gratifying.

It is an undeniable fact that the Conference machinery is perfect as a means for ventilating the opinions and theories of the various Association branches. It is also true that the average Councillor does his bit towards making the machine operate. No one who has attended a P.S.A. Conference, either as spectator or member, would dream of disputing this truth.

Nevertheless, after each annual meeting of the Council we hear of members and groups of members who are dissatisfied with the products. In almost every case, this dissatisfaction is because the Councillors have not dealt with some question that was not before them. Yet there is not much doubt that the people who complain in this way, would be the first to become indignant if the Council acted without instructions from the members.

It is not the Council that should be attacked, but the members who fail to attend branch meetings to ensure beforehand that their views will have full expression at the Conference. Too often do we have the case of a Councillor, bound to act upon instructions from a so-called District meeting of some half dozen members, expressing his regret that he dare not agree to a sound proposal of some other Councillor who perhaps has received his instruction from a fully representative and well attended District meeting.

The P.S.A. has done much good work, but this would have been better still had members fully realised the importance of attendance at District meetings. The man who fails to give fairly regular attendance at these meetings, and who at the same time, ventures to adversely criticise the Association is perfectly dishonest. The Association, as a machine, will bear the closest scrutiny. If anything is lacking, it is on the part of those for whose use it is provided.

Let us hope that at the forthcoming Conference there will be ample evidence that members are really using their Association as they should. Now is the time to get busy.

* * * *

No doubt, the fact that the Salary Claim is a prime feature of the annual report this year, will give added interest to the Council meeting from the members' point of view. At the moment, it is impossible to predict how far the case will have proceeded by the time the meeting will take place. Those who have studied the situation carefully, will not be without hope of a favourable report.

* * * *

By this time every District Secretary has been supplied with a copy of the written statement of the Salary Claim. A circular has also been sent out asking secretaries to supply certain evidence in support of the case. Urgent attention to this is very necessary, and all District Secretaries are asked to make sure that this matter is not overlooked. As much evidence as possible is needed, but, even one sound item from each secretary would be valuable. It is interesting to note that some very useful responses have already been received.

* * * *

It is difficult to understand the mentality of those who, at this critical period, cannot see their way to pay their subscriptions to the Association. Can it be possible that there is any man in the Waterguard to-day who is not in full accord with the Association's claim for better pay? If there is such a man, then he has some excuse for failing to share the burden of cost. But, even in his case, the excuse would be little, because he must realise that he cannot help sharing in any benefits gained.

When we come to the man who desires the success of the Association in the efforts for more pay, but who *will not* pay his footing, then he can be described only as unutterably mean. He is accepting the charity of his colleagues—that is a stone-wall fact. No man who has any spark of self-respect would feel happy in that position.

* * * *

Any shortage of funds during the next few months would seriously hamper Association efforts. Already there has been increased expenditure in

connection with the salary claim; and it is of the highest importance that we should be in a position to meet any emergency that might arise at any time. It would be tragic if lack of cash were to cripple our activities. We would well merit the certain consequences of such crass stupidity. It is almost unbelievable that there are men who daily mix with their colleagues on friendly terms, and are yet unprepared to spare the few coppers towards helping to realise the general ambition.

* * * *

In justice, it must be stated that most Districts are doing their part well in the matter of subscriptions. There are, however, one or two bad patches. Possibly the people at these places have not fully realised the situation. For their special benefit, it is here stated emphatically, that cash is really needed. To them, a special appeal is made to play the game. If every man acts as a man, and pays up, the situation is safe: nothing more is required.

* * * *

The result of the election of the four independent members of the Council is published in this issue. The amount of interest displayed in this connection is most surprising and gratifying. There has been plenty of healthy competition, and that is all to the good.

It is not unlikely that when the report on this matter is made to the Executive Committee, some proposal for improvements based on experience of the present election will be forthcoming.

The idea has been to benefit those who have not previously had direct representation, and the results of the experiment will be examined in that light.

* * * *

By the time these notes appear, it is very likely that the result of the interviews in connection with promotion to the Officer Grade will be known.

It seems probable that the present position in the Officer Grade, resulting from the recent Budget, will have some effect on the number of promotions to be made.

* * * *

Tea has caused many a stir since it was first introduced into this country, but its removal from Customs control has caused the greatest stir of all, both inside and outside the Service.

Although the abolition of the tea duty has had a disturbing effect on the Officer Grade, it is the removal of the Betting duty which causes their chief problem. The difficulties of unattachment will probably be intensified, though it is understood that every effort is being made to avoid undue hardship arising from this.

* * * *

There has been a big drop in the cost-of-living figure for April. The previous month, the figure rose to 66, but it now stands at 62. It will be remembered that the rise to 66 in March was said to be due to the severe weather conditions prevailing. The weather seems to have considerably improved since then.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO APRIL 22nd, 1929.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:

Burnett, W. R., Donald, D., Miles, J., Munro, D., Shaw, C. F.

TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION:—
Johnson, W. H. Unattached, Office of I.G.W. to Plymouth.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:

Hill, J., Belfast to Larne, Belfast.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:

Fazakerly, G. J., Manchester to Runcorn, Manchester.
Low, C. J., Plymouth to Fowey, Plymouth.
Marsh, J. H., Manchester to Ellesmere Port, Manchester.
Platt, A. J., Fowey, Plymouth to Dover.
Stewart, J., Glasgow to Tayport, Dundee.
Williams, J. P., Cardiff to Penarth, Cardiff.

PROMOTIONS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION (UNATTACHED):—
Evenden, G. W., Inningham, Grimsby to Office of I.G.W.

Goddard, W.F.E., Scilly, Plymouth to Office of I.G.W.

ENGINEER MECHANIC TO ENGINEER:

Moore, R., Liverpool to Gravesend, London.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS:—

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:

Hartnett, M., Larne, Belfast.

MADE-IN-CHARGE:

Hodder, F. C., Weymouth.

DEATHS:—

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Dobrzanski, I. J., Southampton.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Mount, G. E., Hull.

VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER,
Liverpool. 28.5.1929.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER,
Eastham, Manchester.

OBITUARY.

Mr. I. J. DOBRZANSKI (C.P.O.).

It is with most sincere regret that we announce the death, at the very early age of 48, of Mr. I. J. Dobrzanski. Death occurred on April 8th after an illness of about six months' duration.

At the funeral at Hollybrook Cemetery on April 11th, the coffin was borne to the grave by three P.O.s and three A.P.O.s, and a large number of colleagues attended to pay their last tribute.

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*

Notice to Members.

ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL COUNCILLORS.

Result of Ballot.

Members are hereby informed that the recent ballot for the four additional Councillors resulted as follows:—

| P.O.S. | | |
|----------------|------------|-------|
| NAME. | DISTRICT. | VOTES |
| F. E. Crowe | Grimsby | 218 |
| G. T. Coady | Manchester | 144 |
| W. W. Bishop | Holyhead | 134 |
| J. R. Durrant | Lowestoft | 105 |
| F. Nightingale | Belfast | 102 |
| W. J. Bottel | Swansea | 94 |
| A. Griffin | Bristol | 86 |

| A.P.O.S. | | |
|------------------|------------|-------|
| NAME. | DISTRICT. | VOTES |
| D. R. Cronin | Grimsby | 216 |
| P. A. Richardson | Belfast | 126 |
| S. A. W. Beer | Soton | 112 |
| K. Sutherland | Aberdeen | 107 |
| C. A. Timby | Lowestoft | 94 |
| A. J. Jarvis | Manchester | 92 |
| B. R. Clarke | Weymouth | 64 |
| F. G. Logan | Bristol | 46 |

Messrs. Crowe, Coady, Cronin and Richardson have, therefore, been declared elected, and they are eligible to attend the Council meeting of the Association to be held during July.

For the Executive Committee,

J. T. SUTTON,
Organising Secretary.

TYNE AREA.

A District Meeting was held at the Clock Vaults Hotel, North Shields, on April 9th. There was a fair attendance of members.

The question of amalgamation with analogous grades was re-opened. After thorough discussion it was unanimously decided that the minute of the last meeting should stand.

After considering pressure of work at Head-quarters, the District Secretary was instructed to ask the General Secretary to outline his proposals for relieving the pressure of work and to give an estimate of the probable cost.

Messrs. Bennett and Williamson were elected Auditors for the Tyne District.

Several matters of local interest were discussed and action decided upon.

CRANGEMOUTH.

The annual meeting was held in the Waterguard Office, Grange Dock, on Wednesday, 17th April. Mr. Bell presided.

The election of Office bearers was proceeded with and resulted as follows: Chairman, Mr. Bell; Local Secretary, Mr. Thomas; Local Organiser, Mr. Murray; Whitley Representatives, (P.O. Grade), Mr. Bell; (A.P.O. Grade), Mr. Johnstone.

A vote of thanks was accorded the retiring office bearers.

It was decided to have the matter of locker accommodation brought up at the next meeting of the Local Whitley Committee.

HARWICH.

The following officers have been elected for the Harwich District: District Organiser, Mr. H. C. Mackley, (P.O.), 22, Park Road, Dovercourt; District Secretary, Mr. A. V. Rock, (A.P.O.), 30, Lee Road, Dovercourt.

The New Councillors.

The keen interest in the recently conducted election of additional Councillors (the result of which is published in another page) has been amply evidenced by the amount of correspondence we have received on the subject. Letters have arrived from most of the candidates, and those who have been unsuccessful are loud in their good wishes to the new members of the Council, and to the Council as a whole. One correspondent, in voicing a little criticism strikes a useful note when he says that he is sorry that the representation has fallen to districts which are already amply represented. We feel, however, that there is a large amount of satisfaction that our colleagues in Northern Ireland have at last, for this year at least, secured a seat on the Council.

The keynote of the letters of the successful candidates is a realisation of the obligations that have been placed upon them and the intention of justifying the confidence so shown, coupled with thanks for the support that has been given to their candidature.

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,—May I be allowed to add a contribution to this correspondence?

In my opinion "C.T.K." has misconstrued the remarks of "S.E.D.B." I do not think for one moment that the latter meant to be offensive or personal.

I believe I am right in assuming that "C.T.K." is a 1925 entrant, and probably he is unaware of the splendid fight the Association waged for us 1923 men at the time the concession was granted. I can assure "C.T.K." that it was a hard fight, lasting for months, and much opposition was encountered from the Treasury; but the result was highly satisfactory to the majority of the 1923 class, and undoubtedly great credit is due to the Association officials who conducted the case.

Yes, I agree with "S.E.D.B." that causes, like horses, grow old.

In presenting our salary claim, much wider issues are at stake than even the money involved or those of any single class of entrant. The result will have a definite bearing on the future status and work of our Department for years to come. On it depends whether we can attract the type of man we want into the Service, the standard of the intelligence of the work that will be entrusted to us, and the whole of our social and intellectual life is bound up with it.

Let us therefore not hinder a forward movement by the smallness of our vision, but work together for the good of the whole.

Yours, etc.,

"AVANT."

THE FAILED A.P.O.

It is with reluctance that I am compelled to answer "Preventive Officer's" reply to my letter on the controversy of the failed A.P.O. He has evidently endeavoured to convey to readers the impression that I have sought to convince them that an efficient candidate at the examination for promotion to P.O. may be turned down by the examiners.

In making this allegation he is wholly wrong, as I, along with the majority of zealous officers, share the opinion that the examination is perfectly fair. Nevertheless, no matter what system of examination is in being, there will always be the same number of failures which, fortunately, might I remind our worthy correspondent, are not con-

lined to the ranks; we have them with us in the P.O. and C.P.O. grades!

As it is in the police force all the "hobbies" can't become sergeants, so it is in the Waterguard all cannot receive promotion, and the truth of the old adage is borne out "Many are called, few are chosen." While I have no wish to take up the cudgels on behalf of "Pincher," I must admit that "Preventive Officer's" solution of "nerves" every one of us experiences at an examination affords me no little amusement.

In conclusion, I sympathise with those officers who have tried their best and have unfortunately been unsuccessful candidates through no fault of their own.

Yours, etc.,

"A 1924 ENTRANT."

KNOTTY POINTS.

(A letter for discussion.)

Sir, With reference to Knotty Point No. 6 raised by "Reasonable;" that is, the case of larceny of Bonded Stores for shipment by the carter.

"Reasonable" gives as a reason for his opinion that "it is not smuggling because the duty has been secured by bond." By smuggling I suppose he means an offence under Section 186.

This particular Section is very wide in its application, but its real meaning is to make as an offence any deliberate fraud on the Crown regarding uncustomed prohibited or restricted goods. Now can "Reasonable" honestly say that, in producing these Goods to the Export Officer as intact cases, hoping that the discrepancy will not be found out, the carter is not practising a deliberate fraud? Don't you think they might easily have been shipped with the shortage undiscovered? In this case the Revenue would have been defrauded of the duty on the goods. Is the Crown sufficiently safeguarded because there is a bond made by honest merchants who will, accidents apart, produce the goods intact at the ship's side? Don't you think the Revenue ought to take a hand in punishing this malefactor? Before we decide, is there a charge we could justify in the Police Court? Personally, I would charge him with being knowingly concerned in removing and concealing the said goods with intent to defraud the Revenue under Section 186. The goods would be detained in any case under Section 115. The agent or merchant would be informed in writing. In the event of a larceny charge being preferred, concurrent hearing of the two charges would be made. I hope that I have made my point clear and that I shall hear further opinions on this matter.

Yours, etc.,

S. W. DUTTON.

CUSTOMS FUND.

The Annual General Meeting of the Customs Annuity and Benevolent Fund Incorporated was held at the Custom House, London, on Thursday the 18th April, 1929. Mr. Robert Elrick, O.B.E., the President of the Fund who was in the Chair said: "In appearing in the Chair for the first time at one of the Annual Meetings of the Fund I feel a certain amount of diffidence in addressing you. I may tell you that I first joined the Customs Fund as a Subscriber 25 years ago. I did so because I was advised that the Customs Fund was one of the best insurance media in the Kingdom and that I could get as good terms from the Customs Fund as elsewhere. As I was interested only in getting insurance cover, and was not particularly interested in the actual organisation from which I got that cover I proceeded to take out a policy with the Customs Fund. Like most other Subscribers I was a most lukewarm member to the Fund. I did not attend its Annual Meetings unless I understood there was going to be some excitement, but so ^{no} 17 years ago I was induced to stand as a Director. On that occasion I was recommended to the Subscribers on the grounds that no one could wangle figures so well as I could. This was not thought to be a good recommendation by the Subscribers, and I came out nearly at the bottom of the poll. (Laughter.) Some six years ago, after an absence of a number of years, I attended one of these meetings and I found that, as a result of attending that meeting, I was elected a member of a Committee to enquire into the organisation of the Customs Fund. I was elected chairman of that Committee. In that capacity I had to find out as much as possible about the Fund and to seek information as to its working and administration. The main result, so far as I was concerned was that five years ago I had to stand as a candidate for a Directorship and was elected and now I find myself President. Well, as a result of our inquiry into the working of the Fund I found that it was based upon a very sound foundation that, the Customs Fund, an old established institution, was being run exceedingly well by the then Directors, who followed in the footsteps of other Directors who had also worked exceedingly well in the interests of the Subscribers. Those of us who are Directors to-day, and most of us are young Directors, owe an exceeding debt of gratitude to those ex-Directors who, in the past, laid the foundation of the financial stability of the Fund, and made it what it is to-day—the best Insurance Institution in the country. I am perfectly certain that this is a fact. What do we find? In 1905 when I became a Subscriber you had 3,300 Insurances in force, to-day you have 4,400, an increase of 33 per cent. The amount of the original insurances in that period have increased from £700,000 to just on a million sterling or, with bonuses, to £1,300,000. Insurances are considerably higher, and I think the rate of progress is an exceedingly favourable one to the Customs Fund. During those 20 odd years, the Customs Fund has natural-

ly had reverses. The Insurance Fund which was £515,000 in 1909 declined, as a result of the War, to £440,000 in 1919, but it has since then been gradually creeping up to the £530,000 at which it stands to-day. I think that is a measure of the growing stability and the growing interest in the Fund. It is quite true that 4,400 Subscribers out of a total of 13,000 possible members is not so good a result as we should wish, but we have a number of people in the Service who are not yet married, and who have not, as they think, any responsibilities or obligations to dependants for which to make provision, and who consequently may not be included in a survey of the position. While, however, you have that fact, there is still considerable scope for increase in the number of insurances, and I am perfectly certain that when our next declaration of Bonus is seen, there will be considerable addition to the number of Subscribers, because I can assure you that the bonus is going to be a very favourable one. In the last 18 years we have distributed, in spite of the Great War, a quarter of a million sterling in bonuses, the reversionary Bonus additions value being considerably greater. This speaks well as regards the financial position of the Fund. Looking to other functions of the Fund, we find that it serves other useful purposes to the members of the Customs and Excise Service. As regards insurances we make provision (and we are limited by our Acts to make provision only) for widows and children. In addition considerable benefit is conferred in meeting the demand of officials seeking for houses of their own by finding the purchase money for them. At the present time the mortgage advances to members of the Customs and Excise Service, and, to a certain extent to those outside that service, amount to £420,000. While taking reasonable risks in the granting of Mortgages, the Fund does meet to a greater extent than most other Societies of this sort the needs of people wishing to borrow by lending, if desired, 100 per cent. of the Surveyor's valuation of the property. Not only that, but our system of making advances is less rigid and more elastic than that of any other Society of the kind. We are always ready to meet requests for suspension of instalments or for further advances with as little formality as possible, and I think we are doing a very useful service to the members of the Department in this direction. Furthermore, we meet other demands of our Subscribers, and, in meeting those demands, we do all that we can to eliminate any question of red tape. We try, as far as possible, to meet urgent needs of Subscribers in so far as the organisation of the Customs Fund permits. We advance Mortgage as Reversion Loans and in our insurances we are going, as far as we can, to adopt the newer and better methods for admission of Subscribers. We accept them without medical examination, and two years ago, we introduced a system under which any member under the age of 50 might insure against payment of any further premiums in the event of retirement on grounds of ill-health. The Directors have the interests of the Subscribers at heart and do all

in their power to further them. Once an organisation is started it tends to assume stereotyped conditions. But you must change with changing circumstances, and Directors must always be ready to accept proposals and suggestions which will be of advantage to the organisation. If they find that, in their opinion it would be well for the Fund to adopt proposals put before them, they will adopt them, but if they are not advantageous to the Fund, they will not adopt them. We are striving to give further and greater advantages to Subscribers, and to furnish them with increased facility in dealing with the Customs Fund. If in doing so we meet the growing needs of members of the Department, we deserve support and consideration. In conclusion I just want to say that if any subscriber at any time has any criticism to make of the Fund, or any suggestion to make with regard to the betterment of the Fund, any of the Directors will be pleased to hear his criticisms or suggestions and to give them the fullest attention and consideration." (Applause.)

Mr. Higginson asked whether the date of the valuation of securities was correctly given as 1927, and whether the average amount of the Insurance showed any increase; he also said that whilst recognising the benefit of non-medical examination to the Insurers, he would like to know what was the benefit that fell to the Fund.

Mr. Moffatt asked what was the meaning of the words "held at request" with regard to £6,700 of Trust Fund, and also where the £15,000 reserve was invested.

Mr. Mackie asked whether the amount of realisable assets had been reduced below the margin of reasonable safety.

Mr. McCarthy asked whether there was equal distribution of the sum shown as Subsidiary Businesses charges in the Directors' Report.

Mr. Barrett asked whether there had been any claims under the Disability Insurance regulation.

In reply, the President said that 1927 was the correct date as the valuation of Stock Exchange Securities was made every three years only in the bonus year. The average insurances, he said, had been raised slightly from £210 to £220, and the non-medical system of examination in application, was found to be quite as stringent as the personal medical test. The £6,700 shown in the Trust Funds as "held at request" indicated that this money was withdrawable at request by the depositors. The reserve of £15,600 was invested in the General Assets of the Fund. In reply to Mr. Mackie, the President said that the amount of realisable assets had not varied in the last five years, and with regard to the item shown in the report as payment for Subsidiary Businesses these were equally distributed. There has been, he said, no claim so far under the premature retirement reserve scheme.

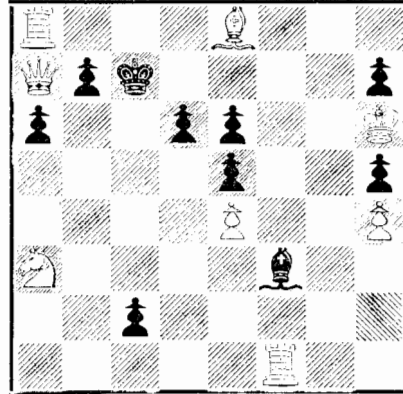
The President then proceeded to read the three nominations for Directors and one nomination for Auditor and declared:— Mr. George Dingley, Mr. John Hume Maerac-Gibson and Mr. John Smale Sutton re-elected as Directors, and Mr. Chas. Brown re-elected Auditor.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman proposed by Mr. Denis McCarthy terminated the proceedings.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

PROBLEM No 37.



White mate in two.

By P. H. WILLIAMS.

Solution to No. 36.

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. Kt.—B5 disch. | 1. K—Ks. |
| 2. Kt.—Kt—3 ch. | 2. K×R. |
| 3. Q—B3. | |

NOTE.—31.4.29. Round 4, Sections 1 and 2; Round 6, Sections 3 and 4; Round 3, Section 5; ends on this date.

HOW CHESS IS PLAYED. Check, Checkmate, and Stalemate.

Check means that your opponent can take your King at his next move, and you must, therefore, get out of "check" and the way to do this is:— (1) you must move your King by a legal move (*i.e.*, one square at a move), so that he is not checked by any of your opponent's pieces; (2) you may place a piece between your King and the piece giving the check, or (3) you may capture the piece giving check. If you cannot do either of the above, you are checkmated and have lost. The King cannot be taken off the board, and it stands, therefore, that if your King gets into such a position, that it cannot move out of check without moving into a square covered by an enemy piece (moving into check), you are checkmated, but if your King is *not* in check, and you cannot move any other piece but the King, you are stalemated if there is not a square in which your King can move into legally. Sometimes it happens that you are checked by two pieces (double check) at once, in these cases the King is forced to move. This will be explained more fully at a later stage.

To be continued.

CUP CONTEST. FINAL GAME.

| White. | Black. |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. A. Hardie, Ayr. | Mr. F. G. Boodle, Dover. |
| | Caro Kann Defence. |
| 1. P-K4. | 1. P-QB3. |
| 2. P-Q4. | 2. P-Q4 |
| 3. P×P. | 3. P×P. |
| 4. Kt.-KB3. | 4. B-B4. |
| 5. Kt.-QB3. | 5. P-K3. |
| 6. B-QKt.5ch | 6. Kt.-Q2. |

London South Side Sports Club.

The London south side club held its sixth and last dance of the season on Wednesday, April 24th, at the New Cross Palais de Danse.

Like its predecessors, the dance was a financial success, and on this occasion some 130 people enjoyed a happy evening. Mrs. F. C. Warne graciously presented the prizes gained in the various spot dances, and the club was again very fortunate in having two special prizes given them, this time by Mrs. E. W. Jones. The Committee are very appreciative of and encouraged by these spontaneous actions of their supporters, and their great ambition is that their endeavours will enable the club to prove that this generous support is well merited.

It is generally acknowledged that the club's social season has proved most successful from all points of view. A dinner, six dances and a smoking concert have been organised and carried through without a hitch, and in all over a thousand people have attended. The absence of any vestige of complaint speaks volumes for the sociability of these functions. The smoker was the first the club had organised and was such a success that the committee have great hopes of repeating the dose. The Committee, in committing the club to an initial expense of £63, shewed courage, and the final balance sheet will, it is hoped, prove the business aptitude of the committee, for it is anticipated that the club will be richer by at least £10 besides supplying enjoyment to its members, even after increasing the original expense to over £100.

As for the coming summer, the club's prospects in the cricket field are certainly bright, for not only are all the old players still available, but the side will be strengthened by the return of Messrs. Eldridge, Farmer, Peake and Poesod, who were not available last season. Two new members, Messrs. Clague and Howard, both from the North side, will also tend to increase playing strength. The skipper, Mr. R. G. Steers, will have much more talent at his command than either of his predecessors. The programme of 32 matches is a heavy one and is partly due to the C. & E. League being reformed into one section instead of two, with its consequential increase in number of games to all league clubs. All the South Side league engagements are fixed for mid-week evenings, and their

opponents are Long Room C.C., Registry C.C., A. & C.G. C.C., Stat. Office C.C. and Stores Branch C.C. By the time this appears in print the first match will have been played. Arrangements are being made to publish short accounts of these matches as they are played. Those who like a cricket holiday would do well to accompany the team to Mitcham on Whit Monday, when the opponents will be their old friends Pascalls C.C. The skipper hopes to supply the "sweets" on this occasion. A return friendly with the King's Warehouse is fixed for June 22 on the ground at Eltham, when the promise of a hiding for our boys will result in a jolly good game.

The Gravesend games will fall on July 10th at Eltham and on September 4th at Gravesend. It should be noted that all supporters who intend to travel with the team should notify the club secretary in good time.

It is hoped to organise a swimming section this year in time to make a raid on the prize table at the Gala.

The Secretary would like to take an opportunity of reminding members that the Superintendent is very keen to see the Department well represented at the Annual Athletic Meeting (for date see Sports Mag.), so get down to your training. "NOW'S THE TIME TO DO IT."

Mr. Briden (C.P.O.), a new vice-president, has again offered two prizes for cricket averages during the season.

It is interesting to note that the late President, Mr. C. E. Egan, has been made a full member of the Surrey County Cricket Club.

THAT PROBATIONER.

Sir, In a letter entitled "That Probationer" in the last issue but one, it is suggested that the most satisfactory system of defining seniority of new entrants into the Preventive Service is by reference to the dates on which Commissions are granted. The argument in favour of the order of seniority being determined by the order of merit on the examination list is disposed of by allusion to the possibility of candidates placed high on the list delaying acceptance of appointment. If reference is made to General Orders 13, 16, 22 and 26 of the current year it will be observed that the order of appointment of A.P.O.s from the existing list has been in anything but order of merit.

This suggests either that a considerable percentage of those obtaining high positions on the list deferred their appointments or that examination merit did not determine order of appointment. Since the latter explanation is the more reasonable, is it not to be hoped that seniority shall be decided on examination merit?

Yours, etc.,

"RAW RECRUIT"