

# The Customs Journal

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Fortnightly

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

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

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

1904—1929.

**B**ORN on April 9th, 1904, and still going strong. And who shall say that they have been wasted years, or that our sponsors lacked vision? The task of inaugurating a periodical exclusively in the interests of the Waterguard was not the simple undertaking twenty-five years ago that it would be to-day. Printing methods had not reached that pitch of perfection which is enjoyed in these days of almost instantaneous production. The linotype was in its infancy. The early numbers of the "Customs Journal" were produced by means of a hand outfit purchased second-hand and operated by that small band of enthusiasts in Hull, who had undertaken publication. Mr. P. W. Howard, who gives a few reminiscences in this issue, has many pleasant recollections of those early days when the business of publication and distribution went merrily on after office hours. The task was a particularly heavy one, and it is no wonder that, having ensured success, recourse was subsequently made to a local printer in Hull to lighten the load. We cannot help but look back with unstinted admiration to that plucky band which laboured to give us our heritage, "The Customs Journal." We doubt if any other Civil Service journal commenced its career with such evidence of determination to make its voice heard. The need for a Waterguard journal was urgent, just as it is to-day, and during the whole of its life has been one of the most valuable assets of the Waterguard Associations, both before it came under the direct control of the P.S.A., and since. The history of the "Customs Journal" is the history of the Associations from 1904 to the present time. The files show that in all the

struggles of the Waterguard the "Customs Journal" has proved its utility time after time, and its record is twenty-five years of faithful service.

We take this opportunity of thanking correspondents for messages of congratulation and good wishes. Messages of such a nature are always appreciated. If the "Customs Journal" is of real value to the members of the Association, it is because the members have made it so. It is their own paper, and according to the use they make of it, so is the measure of its success as a Civil Service publication. Almost without exception the contributors are P.S.A. members. Many have worked hard to put their thoughts and opinions into writing for circulation. The discussions promoted by this means, whether through our columns or in conversation, are invaluable. Their effect is healthy. There is always room for new contributors, and we note with a sense of gratification a letter in this birthday issue from one of the new entrants who raises a couple of interesting points. We anticipate that these points will be dealt with in our next issue.

We enter upon our second quarter of a century at a time when the Association has serious work ahead. Some tremendously hard thinking is being done by our leaders, and much depends upon the work of the next few months. The "Customs Journal" has lost none of its vigour and is ready for any call that may be made upon it. It is still ready to be made use of by the Association members.

## CURRENT COMMENTS

**A** MOST important item for comment on this occasion is that, with the production of this issue, the "Customs Journal" completes twenty-five years of service in the interest of the Waterguard Staff.

This is an excellent record. The fact that our little paper has survived so long and is now more vigorous than ever is not only a tribute to the sound judgment of those pioneers who brought it into existence, but is also a clear indication that it fulfills a definite purpose; that it is needed; and that it really is appreciated despite the many criticisms to which it has from time to time been subjected.

It is probably the most remarkable of all Civil Service staff periodicals, and is certainly one of the oldest. It is remarkable because it has from the beginning depended entirely upon voluntary contributions to its columns, and the circle of possible contributors has not been wide owing to the comparative smallness of the Waterguard staff. It has lived in defiance of every adverse circumstance.

The members of the Hull branch have good reason to be proud of their connection with the "C.J." It was due to the heroic efforts and the self-sacrifice of the staff at that port in days gone by that the paper came into being. Only the splendid team spirit which has existed amongst the Hull members made it possible for the initial efforts to be sustained. It was always a point of honour with them that the "C.J." should appear regularly, and there is many a good story to be told of the old days regarding those exciting occasions when every member of the staff had to be pressed into service in order to ensure publication at the regular date. Somehow or other they always won through.

Then the time arrived when it became necessary for the "C.J." to be officially owned by the Association. It can be well understood how the Hull members felt about it. Transference to London was inevitable and our Yorkshire friends were naturally upset at the idea of losing their old friend. It is greatly to their credit, however, that even though they made vigorous protest against London control, they have remained loyal to the little paper. As a matter of fact members at the port have been foremost in expressing appreciation of any improvements that have been made—they can appreciate because they know too well the difficulties involved.

In the Waterguard to-day we have plenty of new blood coming in, and it can be expected that they will in their turn give their quota of effort towards the success of the "C.J." The opportunity is there, and if they have the will they have the ability to make it possible for our periodical to be regarded as the most interesting Service publication, long before another twenty-five years has gone by.

The election of the four independent members to the Council is now in full swing. The method of circulating the ballot forms through the medium of the Journal seems to have caused general satisfaction. Members all over the country are displaying a very keen interest in the contest, and there can be little doubt that apart from the value of the additional members on the Council the new departure will give added interest to the proceedings of future conferences. The result of the election will be announced as early as possible.

The attention of the London members is called to the decision of the Civil Service Confederation to hold a mass demonstration at the Albert Hall on Thursday, April 11th in connection with the Cost-of-Living Bonus. The object of the demonstration is to impress upon the Government that great dissatisfaction exists throughout the Civil Service regarding present conditions. All grades of the Service are invited, and it is hoped that every Waterguard officer who can attend will be there.

It has been decided by the National Staff Side to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to receive a deputation consisting of the Bonus Review Committee, with the object of urging the Staff Side's claims in connection with the Bonus.

The Cost-of-Living figure for March has increased to 66. Last month's figure was 65. It is not usual for such an increase at this time of year but on this occasion the effect is due to the recent severe weather.

There was some consternation amongst members of the Customs and Excise staffs, just prior to the Easter holidays, owing to rumours, originating through Press statements, that monthly payments of salary would not take place until Tuesday the 2nd April. These rumours were, of course, quite false. Had they been founded on fact it would have been a new departure in this Department, and it would have been inconsistent with the normally considerate attitude which the paying department adopts towards the staff.

The Inland Revenue staff were informed that salaries payable on the first of the month would not be paid until the Tuesday. Strong protests were made by the staff representatives, and after much discussion the Board of Inland Revenue agreed to grant advances up to £5 in cases where there was hardship.

Representations made by the Staff Side of the C. and E. Departmental Council regarding the early issue of assessments of Income Tax, have been successful, and it can be expected that this grievance will now disappear. Assessments will be available, it is understood, not later than December each year. It might be pointed out here that delay on the part of the staff in furnishing returns would have the effect of delaying the issue of assessments. Members are urged to make a note of this fact.

Following upon the report of the Office Accommodation sub-committee, set up by the C. and E. Joint Committee, the Official Side of the Departmental Council have been asked to consider a Staff Side proposal to appoint a joint sub-committee of the Council to go fully into the question of Office Accommodation in the Customs and Excise.

The Joint Committee of C. and E. Associations are giving this matter of Office Accommodation very serious attention. The information that has been gathered from all over the country shows that there is room for improvement in many directions. But, there is one point which needs to be stressed and that is in connection with the part which should be played by local committees. There is evidence that a good deal of unsatisfactory accommodation is due to the lethargy of the staffs concerned, and the campaign now launched is directed also at any slackness of this nature.

Waterguard representatives on local Whitley Committees are asked to be keenly vigilant in seeing to it that questions of bad office accommodation are not allowed to breed grievances through lack of attention. This is the best time of the year to raise any proper complaints in this connection, and it is hoped that opportunities will not be neglected. It is, of course, important that every complaint should be on a sound basis. To bring forward imaginary grievances is harmful.

Members generally will no doubt be glad to hear that the Waterguard Sectional Committee have now submitted their written statement in the Salary Claim to the Official Side. Now that our case is actually under consideration we must await patiently the time when useful and effective discussion of the proposals can take place in Committee. This will happen within a few weeks.

## Irish Free State Civil Servants.

A settlement has been reached in the protracted dispute as to the rights of transferred British Civil Servants under Article X of the Irish Treaty. The difficulties arose in the main as to the interpretation to be put upon the article referred to, which laid down that the treatment of these transferred Civil Servants should be as favourable as if they had remained in the service of the British Government. On March 20th, 1922, the British Treasury defined the basis on which those portions of a British Civil Servant's Superannuation Allowances, which are granted in respect of a Cost of Living Bonus, should be calculated. The effect of the Treasury Minute was to reduce the lump sum payment and the retiring allowance. The Treaty was signed before this Treasury Minute came into operation, though the Free State claimed that it did not become effective before the actual transfer of services. It accordingly refused the British Transferred Civil Servants any differential treatment from that prescribed by the Treasury Minute of 20th March, 1922. On this decision Messrs. Wigg and Cochrane, two Civil Servants affected, acting on behalf of the whole body, brought an action to recover what they considered were their rights, since having been transferred they were in no way affected by any subsequent action of the British Treasury. They carried their action to the Privy Council and won it, whereupon the Free State declined to accept the Judgment and refused to pay. Long negotiations ensued, and as a result the Free State has now recognised the Judgment of the Privy Council, but Great Britain will pay the extra cost on the basis of this Judgment. All transferred Civil Servants are affected, both those who have retired and those who are serving, provided that the latter give notice of retirement before March 1st, 1929. Those who may be discharged or give notice of retirement after that date will not be affected. The Civil Service Confederation has for a very long time worked in co-operation with the two organisations of Civil Servants in Ireland mainly interested, and the settlement removes from its activities one of the many problems it has been handling of late.

## Our Boys.

The friends of Mr. P. McLellan, Chief Preventive Officer, Grangemouth, will be pleased to learn that his son, Dr. Duncan McLellan, of Bewick Road, Gateshead-on-Tyne, has been successful in gaining the degree of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) at the examination held at the Aberdeen University on the 20th inst. Dr. McLellan's thesis was Goitre.

## Preventive Staff Association

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President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

### Notice to Members.

#### BALLOT PAPERS.

Members are reminded that the closing date for the receipt of the votes in connection with the election of the four additional Councillors is the 15th inst. Ballot papers were circulated with the last issue of the Journal, but any member who did not receive one, or who may have mislaid his form, can obtain a form from the District Organiser.

If YOU have not voted—DO IT NOW!

J. T. SUTTON,

*Organising Secretary.*

#### GRAVESEND.

The annual meeting was held in the Labour Exchange on Friday, March 8th. Mr. Richardson occupied the Chair.

The report of the Committee set up at the last quarterly meeting in December to inquire into matters concerning Health Regulations and Quarantine duties was accepted. The District Organiser gave a review of his past year's work, and said that there was only one non-member in Gravesend.

Following are the Officers elected:

Chairman, Mr. Wilson; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Nicholls; District Organiser, Mr. Speed; District Secretary, Mr. Smith; Local Joint Whitley Committee, Messrs. Grey and Grace (P.O.s.), and Messrs. Dines, A. Brown, Aves, and Thomas (A.P.O.s.); Local Whitley, Messrs. Grace (P.O.) and Dines and A. Brown (A.P.O.s.).

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Grey for his past year's work as L.W. representative. His tireless efforts during the re-staffing scheme had not gone unnoticed by his colleagues. The Chairman desired to associate himself with these remarks. Votes of thanks were also passed to the A.P.O. members of the L.W. Committee and to the District Organiser, Mr. Smith.

Mr. Grey was elected to the post of P.S.A. Auditor, and Mr. Silk has agreed to carry out the duties of "Customs Journal" correspondent.

The question of Amalgamation with analogous grades was referred back to the General Secretary for information.

A resolution was passed for submission to the Council that the Preventive Officers are prepared to waive any claim to seizure awards provided a substantial increase in salary is received, and that the Council consider this when making the salary claim. A motion to include the A.P.O.s in this resolution was defeated.

A letter from the General Secretary on the question of promotion from the P.O. to the C.P.O. grade was read. The meeting registered opinion that the allocation of marks for the oral part of the examination should be dispensed with.

The position regarding Landing and Shipping duties were also discussed, and an interesting resume of the salary claim was given by Mr. Grace.

### PROSECUTIONS.

#### BARRY DOCK.

At a Special Court at Barry Dock on March 7th, a Japanese member of the crew of the s.s. Kowa Maru, from Antwerp, was fined £25 and costs or two months' imprisonment for illegally importing four automatic pistols, one revolver, and 300 rounds of ammunition. The goods were found in one of the columns of the engine by Messrs. Webber and Simpson (A.P.O.s).

At the same court two other members of the same crew were jointly charged with illegally importing one revolver and 100 rounds of ammunition, and were each fined £5 or one month's imprisonment. In this case Mr. Webber found the goods under a bottom drawer in the berth of one of the offenders. The rummage crew was under Mr. J. H. Costain (P.O.), the prosecution being conducted by Mr. D. Wilson (C.P.O.).

At Barry Police Court on March 22nd, two Norwegian firemen of the s.s. Perth from Tonsberg, were jointly charged with harbouring and concealing 13lb. of cigarettes, and were each fined £11 8s. 7d. The goods were discovered under a quantity of coal in the port 'tween deck bunker by Mr. A. R. Sturtevant (A.P.O.), acting under the supervision of Mr. J. H. Costain (P.O.). The prosecution was conducted by Mr. F. Cornish (C.P.O.).

## 'Customs Journal' Reminiscences

By P. W. HOWARD.

Twenty-five years have elapsed since the first issue of the "Customs Journal" was published.

THE idea of running a periodical which would provide the means of airing Waterguard views, and further stimulate the spirit of combination and unity among the grades, appealed to a number of Waterguard Officers stationed at Hull, and being optimists they decided to make the venture.

Lack of funds was the initial handicap, but this difficulty was overcome by the kindness of two Preventive Officers who advanced the sum of nine pounds to defray the cost of a hand printing press (second hand).

One of the "optimists," Mr. E. E. Crowe, in addition to acting as secretary also undertook the printing and publishing, and his residence was turned into a small replica of an establishment in Fleet Street. I am sure his estimable "better-half" deserved a medal as compensation for the inconvenience caused to the household.

It would be difficult to mention the names of all the individuals who assisted to make the effort a success. A number, alas, have passed to the Great Beyond.

The labour involved in printing by hand, folding and pinning, and the distribution of the completed copy, although small in size, was no light task, but with the enthusiasm that existed amongst the members of the committee that had been formed, all difficulties were surmounted and the first edition came to light on the 9th April, 1904.

Our first Editor was the late Mr. George Duke, and he was assisted in the editorial duties at different periods by the late Mr. A. E. Braby, and Messrs. J. Imrie, and D. F. Lamb.

The post of treasurer was admirably filled by Mr. T. Houghton who controlled the finances of the "Journal" for a matter of eighteen and a half years.

The verdict passed on the venture was so favourable that after six months had passed the initial debt incurred had been liquidated, and a balance over working expenses was in the hands of the treasurer.

The printing press and type by this time were becoming the worse for wear, and it was considered advisable to place the work in the hands of a printer.

A contract was entered into by the Committee with Mr. Greene for printing, commencing with issue No. 19, at a cost of three pounds per issue.

The distribution was still carried out by a number of the local staff, who met at the printer's premises fortnightly, and many happy recollections are treasured by those who survive, of the time spent at "Greene's" in Portland Place.

In view of the fact that all the posts connected with the production of the "Journal" were unpaid, the sustained loyalty and devotion to the cause displayed by the pioneers was most praiseworthy. Special mention should be made of the gentleman who conducted the Notes, Queries, and Answers column which proved of great value to students prior to the inception of the V.E.C.

Time passed, and Mr. A. C. Booth took over the duties of Editor, retaining this position until his promotion to C.P.O. in 1922. Changes in the secretaryship also took place from time to time owing to promotions, transfers, etc. Mr. Cash succeeded Mr. Crowe and was followed by the writer, Messrs. Stewart, Cowell and Nightingale.

During a period of the War, i.e., from 1914 to 1916, the publication was suspended, but was resumed about the end of the latter year.

In 1918, Mr. Greene having given up business, the printing was transferred to the Hull Printing Company, and later to the Eastern Morning News Company. A year or so later the ownership of the "Journal" became vested in the Waterguard Federation, and the cost of copies supplied included in members' subscriptions.

Issue No. 468, of 29th September, 1922, terminated the "Customs Journal's" long and interesting connection with the Hull staff. Various considerations rendered the transfer of the management and printing to London necessary, and it was with mixed feelings that the local committee relinquished their duties.

Our London colleagues commenced operations under greatly improved conditions, but it must be acknowledged that every credit is due to them for the continuance of a publication which has proved its value as an asset of the Association, and which claims to be the oldest of its kind in the Civil Service.

Members are enjoined to take advantage of the facilities offered by the "Journal" as a medium for the expression of views which concern the well-being of the Waterguard branch of the Service, remembering that it is, and has been, since its inception "Their" paper, and that its efficiency depends as much upon their active interest and contributions as upon the efforts of the Editorial Staff.

## 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*

Sir,

### THE FAILED A.P.O.

While fully appreciating the awful truth of some of the remarks by "Preventive Officer" in your last issue on the subject of the failed A.P.O., and the delicate question of promotion, there are a few hard boiled facts I should like him, and others not yet called up for promotion, to remember.

It has to be admitted by all that while every candidate at the examination for Preventive Officership hopes to be successful, it is impossible for every A.P.O. to become a P.O. because there are far more A.P.O.s than P.O.s in the Service, the net result being the survival of the fittest, and the same number of failures who crop up after every examination. We all know the type of individual who lacks all interest (I won't say "zeal" as it can be misunderstood) in the job, and is in reality a "passenger," but in these days of fierce competition they are few indeed in the scramble for promotion.

The result of the limited competitive examination of March, 1928, for established members of the Service for promotion to the clerical class is not only interesting but appalling. Of a total of 1,171 candidates who were required to pay an examination fee of £2, the magnificent number of 77 were declared successful, the other 1,094 were doomed officially as unsuccessful. This is surely another shining example of those who lacked zeal, who in reality would have kept their two pounds in their pockets had they known they were not required.

I think it is high time we ceased bickering at each other and buried this animosity between boy messengers and ex-servicemen, which is liable to cause dissension in our ranks and prejudice our cause at a most inopportune time, when our Executive are trying to improve our conditions in the Department as a whole. Let us hope that our just and fair demands will be met in a manner that will better the lot of the new entrants and the failed A.P.O.s who have lost hope, and the A.P.O. grade in its entirety.

Yours, etc.,

"A 1924 ENTRANT."

Sir,

### THE FAILED A.P.O.

I was very interested in "Preventive Officer's" letter in the last issue. He has got what he wants and should consider himself very fortunate, but does he realise that a great percentage of those who go down do so through a natural feeling, i.e., nerves?

There are very many good men who have exhausted their chances, men who had been "acting" for a considerable time before being called up for examination and had performed the duties of Preventive Officer with every credit to themselves and to the Service. Surely there must be some other reason for the failures than those three stated by "Preventive Officer." I cannot help thinking that if he was in their shoes he would be harping on quite a different note.

Yours, etc.,

"PINCHER."

Sir,

### JUNIORS IN SMALL PORTS.

Re the recent remarks appearing in your journal on the staffing of small ports.

Don't forget the poor unfortunates with perhaps only a few years' service to their credit who are shanghaied to these so-called backwaters, their sole offence being that they are/were either unmarried or non-householders.

These exiles are called upon to perform many and varied duties which naturally are never performed by their colleagues of large ports. Their efforts are amply rewarded by no allowances, no overtime and top price for "digs" (the latter being one of the peculiar privileges accorded to struggling officers on a low rate of pay).

Perhaps the only slight compensation that keeps the vital spark alive in these unfortunates is that they have (or like to feel) a certain amount of status not usually enjoyed by their grade in the large ports.

Yours, etc.,

"ROCKFELLER."

### THE EX-SERVICE A.P.O.

Sir.—It is indeed deplorable that such gentlemen as "C.T.K." and "W.F.G." should appear in print as champions of the 1923 5 entrants or, for that matter, any other group. It is very obvious that they are suffering badly from the inferiority complex, for the only virtue with which they can clothe themselves is that they, among four million other men, did their duty in the past.

"C.T.K." is quite right in assuming that any reflected glory from that period is relegated to the limbo of forgotten things. The Association backed the ex-Service horse for all it was worth while it was a winner, and "C.T.K.," "W.F.G." and the rest of us 1923 5 entrants can look upon 5/- to 7/- of our weekly pay as our share of the spoils.

Causes, like horses, grow old, and their chances of winning become more remote. Fortunately for "C.T.K." and "W.F.G.," the Association leaders realise this, so they have worked long and arduously getting their new favourite into trim. I have seen

him! "C.T.K." and "W.F.G." can rest assured that, shortly, when he runs in the "Salary Stakes," if he does not prove a winner it will not be for want of thorough preparation or good horsemanship. I hope that "C.T.K." and "W.F.G." will cease to bemoan their fates and will join with the rest of us in putting their shirts, be they ever so holey, on Salary Claim.

Yours, etc.,  
"S.E.D.B."

#### THAT PROBATIONER.

Sir,—The present month brings a fresh contingent of recruits to the Preventive Staff and at the same time many of the 1928 probationers are completing their year of service.

One can hear chance remarks or even open statements that the probationer has not a full interest in matters relating to his grade and to the P.S.A. I therefore take up the cudgels on behalf of a small body of the new entrants and proclaim that not only are they keenly interested in the work of the Association during the past, but they are fully prepared to pull their weight for the betterment of the grade. The future of the grade depends on the present probationer, and it is well that his interest be quickened at the start by having a "case of his own" to present. There are one or two points which have arisen upon which local information seems to be indefinite and indecisive; hence an appeal is made through your columns for some satisfactory ruling in the matter.

First, we wish for some definite reference to Establishment and Seniority. Local opinion differs as to the system of defining seniority. Some declare that the claim is effected through the order of merit list as decided at the *vice voce* test. Others declare that seniority is determined by date of Commission, since that date is the date of establishment. This latter ruling seems to be the most fair, since in the event of a man (placed high in order of merit) delaying his acceptance of appointment, it would not be just to give him seniority over those who complete the probationary year earlier than he does, but who are below him in order of merit.

The next point of contention is with reference to rules governing the first year of service. It is definitely stated that until the first six months of probation is completed no sick leave is allowed. Beyond that the new entrant relies on information gleaned personally. He learns that he is entitled to a "day per month" leave throughout his first year. However, the "Customs Journal" has already stated that there is no clause which applies other than the usual 14 days leave period to the year of probation. Now, when the new entrant completes his 365 days from the date of entry into the Service he not unnaturally anticipates the granting of his Commission.

Lo and behold! He is informed that ALL leave (sick leave included) taken during the period of probation must be worked off. In other words, the date of his establishment is *carried forward*. This is rather a set-back for the zealous probationer. It seems just that any sick leave taken during the first six months should be added to the year of probation, but the question of ordinary leave seems a debatable point.

Suppose two entrants arrive within a week of each other and No. 1 takes 12 days' leave, but No. 2 takes no leave. The second entrant thereby receives his Commission one week in advance of the first entrant. Information is further given that by special application the leave can be carried forward into the next year *or will be forfeit*. Thus No. 2 can enjoy his full probationary leave—after probation—and also enjoy prior establishment to the other entrant. Now apply the argument to the date of Commission being the governing date of seniority and a far greater issue is at stake. Therefore, Mr. Editor, I ask you to quote a definite ruling—if any is available—or for your influence in obtaining such ruling.

The question of sick leave in probation can be laid aside as being satisfactory, but if a probationer is ENTITLED to leave, should he have to pay for it?

Here is "our case," and surely it shows interest in the working of the Association.

Yours, etc.,

"PROBATIONER."

#### Civil Service Motoring Association.

Sir,—I should like, through the medium of the "Customs Journal," to draw the attention of the motoring members of the Customs and Excise Department to the advantages obtained by membership of that flourishing off-shoot of the Civil Service Sports Council, the Civil Service Motoring Association.

For the small subscription of 6/- per annum the members now receive:—

- (1) Free legal defence in police court cases.
- (2) Breakdown service for about 2 6 and 5/- per annum for motor cycles and cars respectively.
- (3) Membership of the R.A.C. at much reduced fees.
- (4) Free licence reminder service.
- (5) An insurance policy to compare with the best at the price of the cheapest, and
- (6) Technical advice, exchange and mart, trials, social runs, etc.

I shall be pleased to send literature and personal details to any Civil Servant who cares to send a post card with his name and address, and whether cycle or car, to me, c/o Customs and Excise, Kegworth, Derby.

Yours truly,

C. W. GARDINER.

# Civil Service Confederation

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Wednesday, 6th March, 1929, at Central Hall, Westminster. Mr. George Chase (President) presided over an attendance of twenty-three. Subsequently, on Monday, 11th March, 1929, an ordinary meeting of the Executive Committee was held at Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster, when Mr. George Chase (President) presided over an attendance of twenty-five.

The purpose of the Special Meeting on the 6th March was to consider the Report of the National Staff Side on the Cost-of-Living Bonus Review negotiations, and the result of the proceedings at the conference of members of Executive Committees of Civil Service staff associations, held on the 27th February, 1929, so that Confederation policy might be determined in view of the meeting of the National Staff Side on the following day, 7th March.

The Report of the National Staff Side on the Bonus Review negotiations having been considered, it was agreed that the Confederation approve of the action of the Staff Side of the Cost-of-Living Bonus Review Committee in recording disagreement on the proposals made by the Official Side.

After a full discussion of the position arising from the disagreement recorded by the Bonus Review Committee, a resolution was adopted to the effect:—

"That the Confederation Representatives on the National Council urge on the Staff Side the following resolution:—

"That the Staff Side now apply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the reception of a deputation to press for the acceptance of the Bonus programme; this deputation to be preceded by an All Service Demonstration at the Albert Hall."

At the meeting held on the 11th March, it was reported that the Confederation Representatives on the National Staff Side had carried out the instructions given to them by the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 6th March, and the Staff Side had decided to send a deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to consist of the Staff Side members of the Bonus Review Committee, but not to hold a preliminary demonstration at the Albert Hall. A request had been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to receive the deputation, and an acknowledgment had been received. The purpose of the proposed deputation was to

urge the full original Bonus programme.

After consideration of the position arising from the acceptance by the Staff Side of a portion of the Confederation proposals, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the Confederation should hold a Demonstration at the Albert Hall in support of the deputation on the Bonus programme proposed to be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the National Staff Side, and a special committee of five members was appointed to undertake the organisation of the meeting.

On the question of Equal Pay it was reported (a) that the National Staff Side had adopted a revised version of the leaflet on the subject of Equal Pay for Equal Work issued in connection with the All-Service Programme, and steps would be taken to issue this revised leaflet in due course; (b) that a letter had been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking him to receive a deputation of Members of Parliament of all parties on the subject of the proposed appointment of a special committee to consider the application of the principle of Equal Pay in the Civil Service.

On the subject of Motor Car Insurance and Injury on Duty, it was reported that this matter had been under consideration at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the National Whitley Council on the 8th February, 1929, when the Official Side had stated that various legal points arose which would have to be taken into consideration, and had promised to supply the Staff Side with a memorandum on the subject. This memorandum is being awaited.

In connection with the proposals made by the Confederation for the extension of compulsory insurance to all Civil Servants, it was reported that, on the motion of the Confederation representatives, a recommendation of the Insurance Committee of the National Staff Side that no further action be taken, had been referred back to the Committee by the National Staff Side so as to allow of opportunity for further consideration by constituent groups.

A Report presented by the Confederation officers proposing the formation of a Higher Grades Committee within Confederation, consideration of which had been adjourned at the last ordinary meeting of the Executive Committee, was adopted.

On the recommendation of the Finance and Organisation Committee the Sheriff Courts Officials'

Association (110 members) was accepted for membership of the Confederation, and allocated to Group 8, "Organisations of Miscellaneous Grades."

Reports were given of recent proceedings of the National Staff Side, dealing particularly with Whitley and Arbitration Procedure; Selective Recruitment; National Staff Side Constitution and Standing Orders; Provincial Differentiation; All-Service Programme—Provincial Meetings; Nursing Aid Society; Patents Committee; Conscientious Objectors—proposed removal of restrictions on promotion; Deductions from Salaries; and Promotion of Minor and Manipulative Grades.

It was decided that copies of the revised Constitution and Standing Orders of the National Staff Side should be circulated to the members of the Executive Committee and Secretaries of constituent organisations of the Confederation.

A resolution was also adopted to the effect that it be an instruction to the Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side to urge the production of the Report of the Superannuation Committee, which it was understood was in preparation.

On the motion of the Association of Executive Officers and Other Civil Servants resolutions were adopted to the following effect:—

- (a) "That the Confederation should take up, through the National Whitley Council, the question of providing opportunity for voluntary retirement before 60, on equitable terms, for any redundant officers assimilated to the Executive scale of pay who may wish to take advantage of such an opportunity."
- (b) "That the Confederation should take up, through the National Whitley Council, the question of the amount and the date of the increments in the case of officers who pass from one scale to another where the maximum of the first scale coincides with the minimum of the new scale."

Reference was made to the approaching retirement from the Executive Committee of two of its members, Mr. W. G. Boys, of the Association of Executive Officers' and Other Civil Servants, and Mr. T. E. Vincent, of the Association of Officers' of the Ministry of Labour, and, on the motion of the Chairman, the Executive Committee recorded its appreciation of the services rendered by these two members.

## Presentation at Boston.

Mr. E. TOOLEY.

An interesting event took place at the Custom House, Boston, on March 18th. The occasion was the presentation to Mr. E. Tooley (P.O.) of an eight-day quarter chime timepiece, subscribed for by, and accompanied with, the best wishes of officers of all departments who had been officially

connected with him during his 39 years of service at Lowestoft, Hull and Boston. Subscribers were from ports as far apart as Hull, Southampton, Grimsby, King's Lynn, Mithil, and Boston. Mr. Tooley takes this opportunity of thanking those of his old colleagues who were too far away to be present for their kind letters of esteem and association with the presentation.

Mr. F. Smith (Surveyor) occupied the Chair, and after reading letters from absent colleagues, made a well-chosen speech, which was followed by speeches from Mr. C. D. Bozman (late Collector), Messrs. Hooper and Moore (Officers), Mr. F. H. Anderson (P.O.), and Mr. B. W. Whayavan (A.P.O.).

Mr. W. P. Holden (Collector) made the presentation, and in an interesting speech expressed his praise of Mr. Tooley, his regret at his departure from the Service, and good wishes for the future.

Mr. Tooley thanked all those present for all the kind things that had been said about him, and said that the beautiful present would always remind him of his friends in the Service.

## The Hospital Saving Association.

### QUESTIONS and ANSWERS.

What is it?—The Hospital Saving Association.  
What are its aims?—To render hospital treatment free, no matter whether as out-patient or in-patient.

Does it do this?—Yes, but only completely when working with those hospitals who have joined in with the scheme and have become "Green Voucher" Hospitals.

What about other Hospitals?—The Association renders assistance toward the maintenance charges made by those hospitals.

Convalescence, does it help towards that?—Yes. It also gives assistance towards the cost of glasses, surgical appliances and dentures. The last-named only to the actual payee.

Does it cover the wife and children?—Yes, likewise your father and mother, brothers and sisters (if under sixteen), provided they are wholly dependent upon you.

Well, what are the subscriptions?—If within the following limits, 1/1 monthly or 12/ annually, payable in advance.

Single man	£4 per week.
Married man without children under sixteen,	£5 per week.
Married man with children under sixteen,	£6 per week.
Above these amounts, 1/9 per month or	£1 annually.

Maybe there is a collector in your Port, if not write to:—

Mr. H. J. Humphries,

"The Laurels,"

40, Raneliffe Road,

East Ham, London, E.6.

## Innuendos or Knotty Points.

By "REASONABLE."

It would seem that none of our readers are sufficiently full of energy to cause them to answer the above-mentioned points which appeared in Journal No. 634 of 9th February last. On the other hand, perhaps they are waiting for my answers and then will jump on me. We hope so.

My opinion, however, on the points is as follows: No. 1. The word "total" being in italics implies that a member of a crew does not get the 3lb. free of fine as in the case of a passenger and that if he imports a legal size package of tobacco, *bona fide*, for private use, he pays no fine.

No. 2. A passenger may be allowed, free, several dutiable articles, providing the duty on each does not exceed 1/-.

No. 3. The "oral declaration" pertains to one year abroad, and in deciding whether the oral answers are genuine, the Officer (capital O please) will be guided by (a) (b) and (c) of para. 9 G.O. 32.1925. An article having been in use abroad six or nine months, would bear evidence of use, but, nevertheless, it would be liable to duty.

No. 4. Although we can search a licensed tobacconist's shop any time of the day or night without a "writ" or "Warrant" but must take with us after 11 p.m. a Police Constable, daytime during which the writ may only be used, is taken as between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, except in winter months when you substitute half-an-hour for one hour.

No. 5. The "100" is the Board of Trade standard cubic feet of space for a shipping ton for the purpose of calculating the tonnage of a ship. It has no connection with the cubic feet of space any particular goods may occupy.

No. 6. It is not smuggling because the duty has been secured by Bond. The action of the carter should be reported to his employer. If a certificate of non-shipment had not already been given, the goods should be shipped. Apparently, such goods are only forfeited "when due notice has not been given to the proper Officer immediately after departure of the vessel." On this subject the procedure is NOT prescribed and defined in detailed regulations.

No. 7. Since this point appeared in print, amendment slips have been issued and cats must be "confined on board in an enclosed space from which they cannot escape. Although "no action" was taken literally by some, it applied to procedure under the orders of the M. of A. & F. The animals being prohibited under the Customs Acts to be imported, it was, and is necessary to declare, describe and report them as in the manner required for dogs.

I do not feel like putting my pen aside without remarking, that it would be of greater support for the success of our salary claim, if more interest could be instilled into our readers to discuss in print important points relative to our work, rather than so much twaddle about "badges or caps" and

"medals on our chest." Know your work, learn your work and badges and medals will follow almost automatically. This observation is made in all sincerity, not superficial though satirical.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO MARCH 25th, 1929.  
TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Gord, C., Harwich, Ipswich to Aberdeen.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Gooding, F. W., Methil, Dundee to Boston, Grimsby.

Watson, F., Cardiff to Shoreham, Brighton.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Comber, S. E., Penarth, Cardiff to Liverpool.

Dockrill, H. A., Boston, Grimsby to London.

Flaxman, J. S., Fishguard, Swansea to London.

Giffin, F., Elmsmore Port, Manchester to Liverpool.

Leslon, F., Eastham, Manchester to Liverpool.

Spurgo, A. E., Runcorn, Manchester to Liverpool.

PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Hate, H., Grimsby to Methil, Dundee.

Helen, J., Newport, Mon., to Cardiff.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS:—

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER—UPPER SECTION:—

Cox, F., Aberdeen.

ENGINEER:—

Parker, L., Gravesend.

DEATHS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Tredale, T., Liverpool.

Jones, W. H., Hull.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Brigham, H., Hull.

VACANCY.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Fowey, Plymouth. 3.5.1929.

## Bristol Prosecution.

At the Bristol Police Court, on the 7th March the Chief Steward of the steamer "City of Durban," from Rangoon via Antwerp, was charged with concealing 2.46 gall. liqueurs, 1 2/6 galls. champagne, 1 1/2 lb. cigarettes, 1 lb. cigars, and a clock. Mr. E. J. Rich, C.P.O., conducted the case for the Crown.

The goods were discovered concealed in the offender's berth, spare rooms and lockers in the saloon by Mr. H. D. Hensley, A.P.O. (runnager crew), under the supervision of Mr. W. G. Cavill, P.O.

The offender, who pleaded guilty, was fined £43 5s. 8d. (double value and duty) or in default three months' imprisonment. The fine was paid.

# BONUS!!

The Staff Side of the National Council, having failed to persuade the Official Side to agree to reasonable revisions in the present inadequate Cost-of-Living Agreement, has decided to send a deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to press for the acceptance of its Cost-of-Living Programme.

In Support of this Programme a

**Monster  
Demonstration**  
of Civil Servants of All Grades  
under the auspices of  
**The Civil Service Confederation**  
will be held in the

## Albert Hall

on

**Thurs., April 11th, 1929**

Doors open 5 p.m.

Organ Recital - 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

*The Staff Side programme is as follows:—*

- (1) No drop for Civil Servants earning less than £3 10s. a week inclusive.
- (2) Full compensation up to £160 basic.
- (3) Restoration of the Super-cut.
- (4) Stabilisation.

**CIVIL SERVANTS!** It is essential that the Government should realise that you are behind these claims! Every vacant seat is a vote against the Programme!

*Come in Your Thousands  
to the Albert Hall*

## Customs Journal

Terms of Subscription

Payable in advance

To readers not eligible for Membership  
of the Associations,

one copy 6/- per annum, post free.

Back Numbers, single copies, post free 4d.

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

The Secretary, Mr. P. SPERAR,  
101 Upton Park Road,  
Forest Gate, London, E.7

## Coalfields Distress

### Civil Service Effort

A further cheque of £500 has been forwarded to the Lord Mayor from the Customs and Excise Service making the contribution up to date £1,250.

In view of closing the Lord Mayor's Fund in the near future, members of the Department are urged to send final contributions without delay to Mr. W. Henderson, Hon. Treasurer, Custom House, London.

## What is No. 1 Fireman

Is No. 1 fireman, for the purposes of a smuggling offence, to be treated as a responsible officer or not?

Some officers say "No," but seeing that the Revised Instructions define Serangs as such, why make the distinctions between these, as both occupy the same position in regard to their status on a vessel?

By an order I have in my possession it distinctly states that No. 1 is to be treated as a responsible officer, and I have seen no authority cancelling same. If there is such an authority, I should like to have it.

B. J. BURGE.

## SPORT AND SOCIAL.

### Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

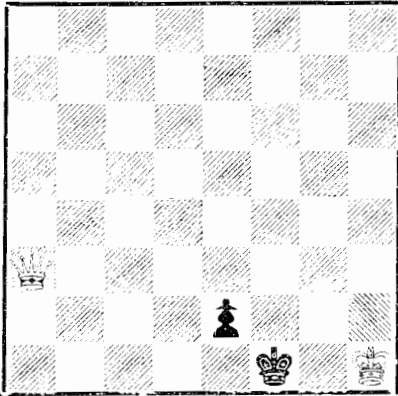
#### Key Move to Problem No. 35.

R—Q3.

#### No. 35 (a).

A game is a contest between two, or amongst more players. A problem or puzzle is something calling for the skill and cunning of the individual solver. Since the game of Chess (which has developed, rather than been invented) reached a more or less settled state as regards its rules of play, an important branch of its study has been that of end-game positions. The elementary position below, with white to move and win, is an end-game position that every novice should learn how to win, but when Sam Lloyd, in 1857, issued the condition that White must mate in five moves, he broke away from the game and set an interesting problem. It is not "Chess," because you are never required in the game to mate in a stated number of moves.

HENRY E. DUDENEY.



#### HOW CHESS IS PLAYED—continued.

**THE KNIGHT.**—What you have to remember about the Knight is that it is the only piece that can jump over pieces, that he captures in the same way as the others, by occupying the square on which the captured piece stood, and it is the only piece that is able to move before the pawns are moved at the commencement of a game.

**THE KING.**—The King's moves are limited to one square at a time in any direction, but he cannot move into a square next to his opponent's King. He can capture as the other pieces. Thus in problem No. 35a above, either King cannot occupy the black square between them. White could move to the black square above it if it were moving its King, and black if it was his turn to move first (disregarding, of course, the other pieces) could move to either the black square above or on his left,

or to the white square to the left diagonally (now occupied by black Pawn). The King can never be taken off the board or captured, or move into "check."

(To be continued.)

#### 1928/9 Tournament Scores:—

Section I. Prize: Pocket Chess Set.

R. J. Mayne, Liverpool, 4½; P. Payne and W. R. Hughes, Holyhead, 3; P. W. Cove, Holyhead, 1½; J. Pescod, London, 1; E. Robbins, London, and L. Carter, Dover, 0.

#### Cup Contest—Final Game.

A. Hardie, Ayr, v. F. G. Boodle, Dover. To be played to a finish under C.W.C.C. limits.

### London South Side Sports Club.

The evening of Wednesday, March 27th, saw the penultimate dance of the club's social season. The many members, their wives and friends, again gathered to pay their usual homage to Terpsichore. With the New Cross Palais de Danse recently re-decorated and with the band enclosed in a daintily-arranged summer-house, the evening proved to be the brightest yet.

Our two Superintendents were again present. Their presence is always welcome and adds considerably to the sociability of our monthly dances, and is a sign of the happy relations existing amongst the London staff. Mr. E. W. Jones presented the prizes to the lucky winners. One was a special prize graciously given by Mrs. Evans, the wife of our well-known P.O.

The club is holding its last dance of the season on April 24th, when we hope to see all our members present and their friends; at the same time we extend our invitations to all our other official colleagues and friends who have not yet sampled the delights of our social events.

### Barry Presentation.

#### Mr. C. SEARLE.

A pleasing ceremony took place at Barry Dock on March 11th, Mr. C. Searle (A.P.O.) being presented with a travelling-case and a clock on the occasion of his transfer to Plymouth.

Mr. D. Wilson (C.P.O.) took the Chair, and Mr. Howells (P.O.), in making the presentation, spoke of the esteem in which Mr. Searle was held and wished him every success for the future. Similar sentiments were expressed by Messrs. Bevan, Mogrige, Costain and Nicol (P.O.s) and Messrs. Lambert, Naish and Thomas (A.P.O.s).

Mr. Searle, in responding, thanked all for their kindness and good wishes, and expressed the hope that in his new port he would meet with the same friendliness that he had received in Barry.