

# The Customs Journal

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February 9th, 1929

Fortnightly

## CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Look Back ... ..	17	Preventive Staff Association .. ..	22
Current Comments ... ..	18	Correspondence ... ..	23
Customs & Excise Orphans' Widows' & War Memorial Fund ...	19	Free Allowance and Section 186 ...	24
Civil Service Confederation ... ..	20	Customs & Excise Departmental Council	25
Innuendoes or Knotty Points ... ..	21	The Safeguarding of "Screws" ...	26
		Sports and Social ... ..	27

*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.*

## LOOK BACK.

A LARGE percentage of the members of the Preventive Staff have their experience of the Service limited to twelve years or less, and must necessarily rely on their senior brethren for knowledge of Waterguard history. Quite a lot of history is presented to the young officer, by those whose service is longer, quite gratis. In fact, he sometimes has to swallow it whether he wants it or not, and listens to anecdotes of the bad old days of twenty and thirty years ago with a suitable air of respect and resignation, and occasionally with a disbelieving mind. Still, we have never yet heard anybody exaggerating their accounts of conditions in the past; very often they treat the subject much too mercifully. It certainly does us good to talk of such things, for there is much that should not be forgotten. True, we often used to chafe under the repeated stories of the older men when we were young in the Service, but after all we were only listening to the truth, although it did not hold the same amount of interest for us then as it does to-day. The old men, the patriarchs of the Waterguard, were just handing down to us the traditional history of the Waterguard, and it was up to us to remember and to add our later experience. And so, as our older colleagues leave the Service one by one, carrying with them memories stored with forty or so years of varied experience, details of which have been handed on to their juniors, we wish them farewell with a respect born of the knowledge of what they have passed

through. We are often apt to forget that in their earlier days many of them were just as active as we are to-day, and that with the limited Association machinery then to hand, worked with a will and laid the foundation of the present organisation. In time they gave place to the younger element, an order of things that is perfectly natural, and in the closing years of their careers they became just names to a still younger generation. Too often they pass out, having pulled their weight in their time, almost in silence. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that Mr. G. W. Kay, whose retirement is noted on another page, should have been employed on duties outside the Waterguard during the past ten years. It is, however, with pleasure that we hear of his happy association with the Landing Staff in London during that period, and that his service has been so suitably recognised by the members of that staff at Wapping. Mr. Kay was one of those who had a hand in the inception of the CUSTOMS JOURNAL twenty-five years ago, and has remained in the Service sufficiently long to see the old journal reach a quarter of a century. In those early days he, with others, subscribed towards the first outfit for printing and producing the paper. He was an active Association member and held several offices, his last being that of Parliamentary Secretary to the Preventive Officers' Association. We hope that Mr. Kay, in his retirement, will be blessed with good health, and that he will occasionally spare a thought for those who are carrying on.

## CURRENT COMMENTS

THE most important thing to any Association is sound organisation. Not only must it be sound but there must be willing hands to work the machine. There must be a full realisation by the members that the only effective motive force for even the best organisation is a good team spirit. This is particularly true with regard to scattered memberships such as we have in the Waterguard. Unfortunately, the development of this spirit is not so easy as it is in the case of large concentrated memberships where opportunity for intercourse and exchange of ideas is much greater. The art of pulling together is more difficult to acquire.

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Anyone possessing a knowledge of Association affairs must be impressed, on reading of District meetings, at the great lack of co-ordination there is between the various Districts. There is a deplorable absence of the team spirit. This is undoubtedly due to ignorance of the inner details in connection with Association activity. The members and the District Officials cannot be blamed entirely for this ignorance, because to keep pace with Association operations in these days close and continuous study of every event is essential. These are District Secretaries who do manage to do this successfully, but it must mean the sacrifice of much leisure time. It cannot be done intelligently without giving some time also to the study of the affairs of other Associations whose interests are bound up with those of the P.S.A.

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This problem has exercised the minds of the Headquarters staff for a considerable time. All kinds of schemes have been formulated, discussed, and finally rejected. The difficulty remains, and it is a difficulty which is a severe handicap to the Association leaders in many ways. The proposal which was most favoured as a solution of the problem, was for the issue of a monthly circular to District Secretaries giving full information of up-to-date happenings. There is no doubt that such an innovation would be very greatly appreciated in the Districts. Unfortunately, this proposal is not practicable under the existing conditions, for the simple reason that the compiling of the circular would have to be undertaken by some Headquarters official, and each of them is already so overburdened that this would be a physical impossibility.

The sceptics, with their usual obstinacy, will of course refuse to believe that the volume of work at Beer Lane is so great, and the situation is somewhat ironical when it is considered that the only way to "swat" these bothersome people would be by the production of a monthly circular as described.

\* \* \* \* \*

The question of organisation and co-ordination of the Districts might well form the subject of articles to the Journal by District officers and Associations.

Councillors. They would be most helpful contributions.

It seems to be a most appropriate moment to make this suggestion, because we are about to witness an event which is without precedent in Waterguard Associations, *i.e.*, the election of four independent members to the Council.—Candidates for these positions have an excellent opportunity to secure support by a masterly handling of this important problem in the columns of the Customs JOURNAL. Being unfettered, and without obligations to any particular District or Area, there is plenty of scope for outspoken comment by these gentlemen.

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It will be interesting to see what use the members will make of this opportunity to elect "free-lance" members of the Council. The outcome of the election will be eagerly awaited by those who originated the idea. It is hoped that this new departure will make possible the election of men, who, though capable and energetic, have hitherto been unable to secure nomination owing to the circumstances of their particular location.

The next Annual Conference will be the real test as to the success of the experiment. If the salary claim is not disposed of by that time, there will be plenty of scope for a "try-out" of the new system.

\* \* \* \* \*

The preparation of the salary claim is now nearing completion. It will be appreciated that if an increase of remuneration is to be obtained these days, it is useless to put forward half-baked arguments. Every point in the claim is being carefully overhauled, strengthened, and improved. People who have had opportunity to see the draft statement of the case in the course of preparation are very optimistic regarding the possible results of the claim.

Before going forward with the matter, it will be necessary for further discussion on the Staff Side of the Waterguard Sectional Committee, with a view to making some adjustment between the Superintendents and the Chief Preventive Officers regarding the salary scales they are claiming.

\* \* \* \* \*

Requests for renewal forms in connection with membership of Boots' Booklovers' Library have been rolling in to the Association office during the past week or two. The applicants are informed that the necessary forms are not yet ready. Mr. Powell, who deals with these matters, is expecting to receive a supply any day. In the meantime, members may continue to use the Library, and in due course they will be able to make formal application for renewal.

Members wishing to join this Library, can obtain all the necessary particulars from the Association. It is well worth joining, because, for the very small cost of 5s. per annum, it is possible to obtain any works in circulation, except newly published works.

A subscription of 15s. per annum entitles a subscriber to the use of any work in circulation, including newly published works.

The facilities in connection with Boots' Library are extended only to Association members. Those who are readers have an opportunity to save a large proportion of their subscriptions to the

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Circulars have recently been sent out to District Secretaries and Councillors, reminding them that decisions are required at the next Conference on the subjects of co-ordination with other Associations in the Preventive Service, and Deck Cargo measurements.

Regarding closer co-ordination with other Associations, a number of District decisions have already reached Beer Lane, and most of these are in favour of progressive action. It is important that the decisions of the remaining Districts shall be communicated as soon as possible.

The Circular on the question of Deck Cargo measurement has been sent to all ports; even though in some cases the position had already been investigated and the results sent to the Association Headquarters. In such cases it will be obvious that the Circular has been sent for information purposes only.

\* \* \* \*

For a considerable time there has been a great deal of discussion as to whether the London Custom House should be removed from its present site.

Judging from appearances, it will be the "Harpy" that will make the first move. The "Harpy" lies abreast the Custom House, and though it is supposed to be afloat, it is in fact high and dry for a considerable time each tide. The approach of launches and boats to the "Harpy" is considerably impeded by the mud which is gradually silting up. It is expected that something will shortly be done to remedy this, but, at the best, it will only be a temporary measure, because, owing to the position of the "Harpy" in relation to Nicholson's Wharf, the silting-up process will continue and become more acute.

\* \* \* \*

The cost-of-living figure for January is 67, as compared with 68 for December. The figures up to date are:—65, 66, 67, 68, 67, giving an average of 66.6. It is very likely, therefore, that the bonus for March to September will be governed by an index number of 70. This will mean an increase of one twenty-sixth of the bonus (basis) or one thirteenth of the current bonus.

\* \* \* \*

The following have been successful in the interview for promotion to the rank of Superintendent:—Messrs. Sharp, Shearman, Burkey, Creighton, Moroney, Keel e.

## Customs and Excise Orphans' Widows' and War Memorial Fund.

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Room 120, Custom House, London, on Monday the 7th inst., when T. Morton, Esq., Vice President, occupied the chair. There was a good and representative attendance of members.

A financial statement submitted showed that the income from subscriptions amounted to £526 for the quarter, and that £447 had been disbursed in grants during the same period. The surplus of income over expenditure for the three quarters ended 31/12/28 amounted to £450, and it was decided to add £250 to this from the balance on hand at the beginning of the year to be invested in Trustee Securities.

Applications for membership from 1 Assistant Collector, 4 Surveyors, 3 Chief Clerks, 11 Officers, 1 Preventive Officer, 2 Assistant Preventive Officers, and 17 Departmental Clerks were submitted, and all were elected.

The Committee had before them three applications under rule 23 for assistance to maintain and educate children, one from the widow of an officer with two children, one from the widow of an A.P.O. with two children, and one from the widow of a D.C.O. with one child. In each case the children were elected to full benefits at a present cost to the Fund of £80 per year.

Applications from ten widows for help under rule 26 were presented to the Committee. After considering the report of the Visiting Committee as to the needs of the applicants it was decided that seven be granted £20 each and the other three £15 each.

The Secretary reported that through the kindness of the Secretary of the Surveyors' Association a copy of a circular inviting them to join and support the Fund had been sent to every Surveyor in the Service, and that a like service had been rendered by the Secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association in respect of all D.C.O.s in the Department.

## OUR BOYS.

At Holy Trinity Church, Ramsgate, on January 27th, Mr. William Gotts, eldest son of Mr. G. W. Gotts (P.O., London) was married to Miss Rosina Alice Perry, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Perry, of King Street, Ramsgate. The bridegroom was home on leave from Malacca, where he holds a responsible business position.

The happy pair sailed for Singapore on February 2nd. We wish them a safe voyage and a happy married life.

## Civil Service Confederation.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 21st January, 1929, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. Ross Wyld (Vice-President) presided over an attendance of twenty-six.

A communication being received to the effect that Mr. G. Chase (President) was unable to be present owing to illness, it was unanimously agreed, on the motion of the Chairman, to send the best wishes of the Executive Committee to Mr. Chase and to express the hope that he would soon be completely restored to health.

It was agreed to support the adoption of a report presented to the National Staff Side by the General Purposes Committee of the Staff Side, suggesting improvements in Whitley and Arbitration procedure, which followed largely upon the lines of a memorandum previously submitted to the National Staff Side by the Confederation on this subject.

A report was received on the meeting of the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee held on the 17th January, 1929, with especial reference to the consideration which had been given by the Committee to certain points concerning the proposed amendment of the leaflet 'Equal Pay for Equal Work' issued by the All-Service Programme Committee of the National Staff Side. Certain modifications had been made in the leaflet, and the revised leaflet had been unanimously adopted by the Equal Pay Committee for submission to the National Staff Side.

The Finance and Organisation Committee reported that it had given preliminary consideration to a proposal that some revision might be made in the constitutional provisions for the election of members of the Executive Committee, in the direction of abolishing the six seats at present filled by election of the whole Council and electing the whole of the members of the Executive Committee, apart from the Officers, on a Group basis. This matter was referred back to the Finance and Organisation Committee with instructions to consider further and bring forward a recommendation.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, it was decided that the Confederation should send a deputation to the Treasury, consisting of the Confederation Officers and two or three representatives of the Civil Service Clerical Association, on the subject of the age of retirement, for the purpose of urging the adoption of the proposal contained in the following formula:-

"That members of the basic Treasury Clerical Class, the Writing Assistant, and Typing Grades, who, on reaching the retiring age of 60 years, have not completed 30 years pensionable service, should be allowed to remain until the age of 65, or until such earlier age as they attained 30 years' service."

It was reported that a circular had been issued to constituent organisations on the subject of shopping facilities in order to ascertain how far there

was a general desire on the part of the smaller organisations for special shopping facilities on the lines already in operation by a number of the larger associations. Should the response to this circular appear to warrant such a course, it is proposed that an initial conference of representatives of associations interested in the matter, shall be convened by the Confederation.

The General Purposes Committee also reported that correspondence was taking place with the Warehouse Supervisors' Association on the subject of the claim for increased annual leave submitted by the Warehouse Supervisors' Association, and that a questionnaire on the subject of the Five Day Week had been issued to all constituent organisations.

A report was received from the "P" Class Clerks' Committee of the Confederation to the effect that a deputation from the Committee had been received by the Treasury on the 2nd January, 1929, at which a claim on behalf of the "P" Class was submitted in the following terms:-

- (1) That the scale of the "P" Class should be £90 by £7 10s. to £160.
- (2) That serving "P" Class Clerks be given an increase of ten shillings per week, subject to the new maximum not being exceeded.
- (3) That the new scale and the immediate increase be operative as from the 1st October, 1928.

The decision of the Treasury on this matter is now being awaited.

A report was given by Mr. A. J. T. Day, the Confederation representative on the Single Men's War Bonus Committee, on the negotiations which had taken place with the Treasury on the subject of the procedure to be adopted for considering and deciding upon those claims which had not come under the original terms of reference to the independent arbitrator. It having been found impossible to arrive at agreement on a second reference to the arbitrator which would cover the whole of the remaining claims, which varied greatly in character, a suggestion made by the Treasury had been accepted to the effect that all the remaining cases should be dealt with and determined by discussion between the War Bonus Committee and the Treasury without reference to an arbitrator. It was further reported that constituent organisations, if they so desired, could send representatives to participate in the discussions that would take place concerning the cases of their own members.

Reports were given of recent proceedings of the National Whitley Council and the National Staff Side, dealing particularly with the Distress in the mining districts; Cost of Living Bonus Review; Conscientious Objectors; Proposed enquiry into certain professional classes; Civil Service Widows' and Orphans' Fund; National Staff Side Standing Orders; Sick Leave Regulations; Finances of the National Staff Side; All-Service Programme; Superannuation; Substitution Pay; Increases on Promotion; Appointments conditional on Professional or specialised qualifications; Second Report of Promotions Committee; Removal expenses of officers transferred abroad; Deductions from salaries or wages; Civil Service Friendly Society.

On the subject of Motor Car Insurance and Injury on Duty, it was reported that this matter would be under consideration at a meeting of the Joint General Purposes Committee of the National Whiskey Council to be held on the 8th February, in accordance with the reference sent forward from the Confederation to the National Staff Side.

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Confederation officers proposing the formation of a Higher Grades Committee within Confederation, and further consideration of this proposal was deferred until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

## Innuendoes, or Knotty Points.

By "REASONABLE."

In response to the suggestion in Current Comments that the columns of the Journal might be kept alive with discussion on knotty points that are commonly met with in everyday Waterguard work, I have gathered a few together, and propose to submit them for the consideration of your readers and to invite discussion. Each point will be followed by a note or question indicating the doubt or possible procedure one way or the other as a guide to any prospective commentator.

To save space, the particular part of a Code or G.O. (if any) from which a point is taken, will not be quoted, as any reader conversant with his codes will at once perceive where to find the point raised.

(1) *Payment of duty by crews on tobacco.*—Duty and fine to be levied on the total "quantity." Why is the word "total" in italics? Does it imply no 3 lb. free of fine only, or has he to pay fine on total quantity imported; if, say, he imports for his own use 35 lb. of tobacco in a package containing tobacco only? If "total" applies to the latter, is it legal to charge fine on a legal size package of tobacco?

(2) *Free allowance to passengers.*—"Other dutiable articles if the duty does not exceed 1s." Is this intended to mean in the aggregate or on each of several articles?

(3) *Ad valorem and K.I. goods.*—"May be admitted free of duty on an oral declaration of ownership . . ." Do the words "oral declaration" imply the same declaration as on form 104, or do they not pertain to the necessity of a full one year's use abroad?

(4) *The "Writ of Assistance can only be used in the daytime."* What constitutes day time? An Excise Officer may say from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. An Inspector of Police has said from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. A Detective has said from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. A Solicitor has said, "it is not defined." So where are we?

(5) *Deck cargo.*—To ascertain the tonnage of timber as deck cargo we divide the total cubic feet by 100. Why 100; what does it represent? There are 42 cubic feet of timber to a ton, or 40 cubic feet to a shipping ton.

(6) *Bonded stores.*—A carter has pilfered 3 lb. of tobacco from a package in a consignment presented for shipment and you find the tobacco on his person on shore. Is it smuggling; and how would you deal with the carter? To quote a few words from Current Comments in last issue, "The procedure is prescribed and defined in detailed regulations."

(7) *The latest.*—Cats are prohibited to be imported. "For the present action is restricted to such animals actually landed, no action necessary in the case of cats remaining on board." Should they be described in the B.Bk. or on the I.C. Bill and borne on the ship's report? If not, on landing the Master will say "that's not my cat!" Then is not precaution necessary, and precautionary action?

Now a judge recently defined "few" as not exceeding seven. I've stopped at that; there are others, and if one or two of these appear simple they are nevertheless debatable. We know it is difficult to frame regulations to anticipate every aspect of a subject, also that regulations are issued for guidance, but undoubtedly some could be prescribed and defined more clearly and thus ensure a more consistent practice throughout the Service.

## Prosecutions.

### FALKIRK.

The method adopted by the donkeyman of a Belgian steamer at Grangemouth of concealing spirits, was that of placing the liquid into old carbide drums, sealing them and sinking them in a water ballast tank. Mr. Murray's rummage crew, Messrs. McKellar, Wood and Hailley discovered the concealment with the result that the donkeyman's attempt at smuggling Geneva ended before the bench at Falkirk with a fine of £22 14s. 4d., with an alternative of thirty days' imprisonment. No time was allowed in which to pay the fine.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. P. McLellan, C.P.O.

### LINLITHGOW.

The cook of the steamer "Rosa" was charged last week at the Linlithgow J.P. Court with concealing 2 lbs. of Cigars. In the course of a search of the vessel, Mr. Wood, A.P.O., discovered six cartons of cigars inserted in six loaves of bread in the cookhouse.

Mr. McLellan conducted the case, and the accused was fined £6 15s. with the alternative of thirty days' imprisonment.

## 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 COUNCILLOR.

The members in the Tyne Area are hereby informed that Mr. L. N. Cumberlandge has been elected unopposed as the A.P.O. grade Councillor for the Tyne Area.

J. T. SUTTON,  
Organising Secretary.

### Election of Additional Councillors.

The sixteen councillors under Rule 4, para. 2, (b), have now been elected. They are as follows:—

Area.	Name.	Grade.	District.
London	T. O. Hughes	(P.O.)	London.
London	P. Spear	(A.P.O.)	London.
Liverpool	R. O. Kewley	(P.O.)	Liverpool.
Liverpool	A. E. Farmer	(A.P.O.)	Liverpool.
South Wales	G. E. N. Griffiths	(P.O.)	Cardiff.
South Wales	A. W. P. Densley	(A.P.O.)	Cardiff.
South Coast	B. J. Herrington	(P.O.)	Dover.
South Coast	S. E. D. Ball	(A.P.O.)	Dover.
Gravesend and Harwich	G. Grace	(P.O.)	Gravesend.
Gravesend and Harwich	J. O'Connor	(A.P.O.)	Gravesend.
Humber	P. W. Howard	(P.O.)	Hull.
Humber	J. Shooter	(A.P.O.)	Hull.
Tyne	W. A. Colwill	(P.O.)	Hartlepool.
Tyne	L. N. Cumberlandge	(A.P.O.)	Tyne.
Scotland	W. G. Manson	(P.O.)	Glasgow.
Scotland	J. Johnstone	(A.P.O.)	Leith.

The undermentioned Districts have not direct representation on the Council, and the members stationed therein are, therefore, eligible for nomination in the election of the four additional councillors under the revised Rule 4, para. 2, (c).

Preston, Manchester, Swansea, Bristol, Plymouth, Soton, Harwich, Grimsby, Aberdeen and Belfast.

Election Notices containing Nomination Forms have been circulated to every district, and the closing date for the receipt of nominations is the 28th of February.

It is pointed out that there is no restriction upon nomination. Members may nominate any other member, irrespective of grade, *providing the nominee is stationed in one of the foregoing Districts.*

Nominations may be made in manuscript providing they are completed in the manner shown on

the election notice. Every member of the Association will be eligible to vote, and the two successful candidates in each grade will be declared elected.

For the Executive Committee,  
J. T. SUTTON,  
Organising Secretary.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO JANUARY 28th, 1929.

### TRANSFERS.

#### PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Kidman, E. W., Belfast to Liverpool.

The transfer of Mr. W. Hall from Charlestown, Plymouth, to Liverpool, notified in the Appendix to General Order No. 107 1928, has been cancelled.

#### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

#### RETIREMENT. ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Kay, G. W., London Port.

## Is This News to You?

By W. H. POWELL.

Every quarter, when we discover an additional figure on the deductions side of our salary receipt, there flashes into our mind the thought that the "Orphanage" (short title) is still alive and spreading its wonderful measure of goodwill among the dependents of our deceased colleagues. Having given it this pious moment's thought, we probably forget all about it until next quarter day.

So much for the Member.

Now, the non-Member doesn't have even this gentle reminder, and unless there happens to be a particularly live member in his vicinity, he has only a vague sort of notion as to what the Fund really is, what it can do, and how to join.

Look at these figures:—

Mrs. "Wise"—widow of a Member—has four children under 16. Her late husband had been a Member since November, 1927, subs. paid, 5/-. The benefits this good lady can receive for her children alone amount to £600.

Mrs. "Cross"—widow of a non-Member—has also four children under 16. The maximum benefits payable in this case under a special non-member rule is £15—one grant only finish.

Now look at these:—

Members' Subscriptions.

Not exceeding £100 p.a.; 1/- per quarter, or less than 1d. per week.

Over £100, but under £160; 1/3 per quarter, or less than 1½d. per week.

Over £160, but under £350; 2/6 per quarter, or less than 2½d. per week.

A glance at these indicates that it cannot be the size of the subscription that keeps the Fund from a 100 per cent. membership.

It cannot be that any person objects to the principles of the Fund, therefore the only possible reason for non-membership can be ignorance or apathy.

Put this matter right. Write to the Editor, or, better still, to the Hon. Secretary, Customs and Excise Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund, Custom House, London, E.C.5.

## 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.*

### LONDON PORT ALLOWANCE.

Sir, This question has apparently been shelved, and no attempt is being made to revive it. I am of the opinion that it would be advantageous if the question were to be reconsidered. It is known that in 1913 the Association went thoroughly into the question, but for some unknown reason, no definite decision was arrived at. There is no doubt that the officers in London could put up a very strong case for themselves on this question.

The difference in the cost of living in London, (including cost of travelling) as compared with that in the provinces is great.

It may be pointed out that the official figures in 1913, when the question was being considered, showed that the cost of living in London was 10 per cent dearer than in the provincial towns. This comparison did not include the cost of travelling to and from business. In London it is impracticable to obtain a house healthily and respectably situated within a reasonable distance of one's work, and the cost of daily travelling between the house and the office will, as a consequence, amount to at least £8 per annum. This is a serious deduction from the salary of a man with a family. Moreover, incidental expenses to cover necessary outdoor recreation for members of the family, additional meals owing to long travelling, etc., are greater in London than in provincial towns.

These facts have been recognised by commercial firms and bankers' institutions in so far as their London staffs are in receipt of a special scale of salary.

It is understood that an attempt is to be made to obtain an increased salary scale, and I would like to point out that this would be an opportune time to put forward a claim for a special London port allowance. It is felt that this would have the full support of our outpost colleagues, especially those who have had official experience in London.

It is realised that this is a difficult question and will involve the whole of the Civil Service in London, but it is obvious that some organisation must make a start, and why shouldn't it be the P.S.A.? I know this body would put up a good fight if instructed to proceed. I also feel that if the present body had been in power in 1913, something would have been accomplished.

" BORDERER."

### THE LINE OF DEMARCATION.

Sir,—In these days of constant changes in the fiscal system of this country, the irritating overlapping of duties in the various grades of the Customs Service cannot be too strongly emphasised. This matter must be approached with a certain amount of caution, as we in the Waterguard view any encroachment on our work with concern. We will take, for instance, the present duty on Hydro-

carbon Oils. These cargoes were formerly dealt with by the Waterguard as bulk goods. They have now passed out of our control, although the drawing of samples for test cannot be considered a duty above the ability of the average Preventive Officer. It will appear, also, that if many more articles are placed under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, there will be few bulk cargoes left to be dealt with by the Waterguard. Another matter which deserves attention is that in which a passenger or Naval Officer is in possession of a motor car or cycle which is obviously a British returned article. The P.O. is not considered capable of accepting a Bill of Store for such article. The carrying out of these duties by other officers does not relieve the Waterguard of the necessity of visiting the vessels. The Waterguard Officers are called upon to give consideration at isolated places where we have Coast Preventive Men doing duties proper to our grade. The great idea is to do the work, and then when any wage claim, etc., is put forward, our representatives can go with a strong case in the fact that we are doing the duties.

Yours, etc.

" J.E.T."

### SALARY CLAIM.

Sir,—I have heard many members ask recently such questions as What is the Association asking for? What is the minimum and maximum for the P.O. and the A.P.O.? What about Leave?

I think it would be a beneficent move on the part of the Association if such particulars were published in the CUSTOMS JOURNAL, so that members may be in touch with what is actually happening. If publicity at any particular point is not an advisable procedure, an insertion in the CUSTOMS JOURNAL to that effect would calm the troubled breasts of many, and would certainly avoid a number of unnecessary enquiries.

Yours etc.,

" BUNTY"

## Answer to Correspondent.

PADDY.—The Officer who entered the Service upon a modified War Certificate, is in precisely the same circumstances from the super-annuation viewpoint as an officer who entered with a full Civil Service Certificate. The modified War Certificate merely means that the entrant did not enter in the ordinary manner, but the special conditions were waived for the time being.

## To the A.P.O. Members of the P.S.A., Tyne Electoral Area.

Gentlemen,—I have been elected, unopposed, to the office of A.P.O. Councillor for the Tyne Area. Please accept my assurance that my wish will be to fairly reflect your views in the proper place and at the proper time.

Let us aim at—to misquote the Prime Minister—Progress in our time.

Yours faithfully,

L. N. CUMBERIDGE.

## Free Allowance and Section 186.

By "REASONABLE."

As a result of the contribution in the last issue of this Journal by our friend, Mr. Sheehan, one is again drawn to pursue the discussion on the subject of "free allowance," but it seems now that he closely connects it with that all-important section of the C.C. Act governing smuggling. Whilst he so successfully, in his third paragraph, expostulates the case on behalf of the seaman, and shows how the List 142 may be of service in a Court of Law, he is at the same time leading readers to believe that, because in Sec. 186 there is no mention of any document or form of entry, the work of the Waterguard is mainly covered by that section. Let me at once point out that section 186 is not the only section under the "Sun" or in the Act, and particularly that it has only one purpose. There are quite twenty-four offences recited in that section, all pertaining to other sections in the same Act, and the mode of declaring, entering or importing any goods is provided for in those other sections. Let me try to prove this. Take passengers' effects. To find how they are to be declared, entered or imported, we turn to Sec. 66 of the Act wherein we read "No entry shall be required in respect of . . . which may be examined, landed and delivered, under such regulations as the Commissioners . . . may direct." (We know their directions). What therefore, has Sec. 186 to do with the form of declaration or any documents? It has one purpose, and that is the recovery of penalties for committing the offences recited therein. That is why no mention is made in it of forms of entry; those are provided for elsewhere. Thus we see that "free allowances" are governed by regulations; and Sec. 186 is Law, acted upon for unlawful acts or smuggling, both entirely different subjects but have become in our discussion closely connected.

In the fourth paragraph of his last article Mr. Sheehan is trying to disprove my former assertion, *i.e.*, that by reason of the mode of declaration exercised by passengers and crews, the legal foundation is in the Board's favour," by using a case of smuggling. Now if an importer of cargo breaks the law, he is penalized only in respect of the particular goods entered or the consignment with which the law has been broken; although he may have other goods or other entries in the same ship. The seaman (or passenger) having committed an offence is penalised in respect of all the articles he imports at that time.

The next point raised is interesting because an offender declines to pay the duty on or forfeit (not abandon voluntarily) certain goods. You have made a seizure, and don't know quite what to do with it, so you've handed it over to me. I am sure such a case would raise your nettle; it would mine. You cannot fit in Sec. 186 (of course not), you do not think it is obstruction, (we will see), and you

ultimately show that the man is in the right. But he is not. You cannot apply Sec. 186 to goods that have been duly declared and produced! The penalty for refusing to pay duty in such a case, is forfeiture of the goods. The Commissioners direct that the duty shall be paid; if this is not done, then by Sec. 177 of the C.C. Act, they shall be forfeited. He refuses to do this, so we turn to Sec. 218 which provides that:— "All duties, penalties and forfeitures incurred under or imposed by the Customs Acts . . . may be sued for, prosecuted or determined by information in the name of some officer of Customs and Excise before one or more Justices in the U.K." If you do not care to proceed on those lines, and he still persists against paying duty or forfeiture, he is obstructing you (even without touching you on the nose); then secure the person of the offender, convey him to the nearest police station and charge him with the smuggling offence, then prefer a second charge under Sec. 184, *i.e.*, Sec. 13 of the C. and L. Revenue Act, 1881 (5), that he did obstruct Mr. —, being a person employed in the prevention of smuggling, and in the execution of his duty in seizing certain goods, to wit (name them) liable to forfeiture under the Customs Acts. (The section adds:— "and he may either be detained or proceeded against by information and summons. Thus similar to Sec. 186.) I've added the words in brackets for a purpose. State your case in the Court as you do on paper and you should succeed on one or the other of the Courts.

With your penultimate paragraph, Mr. Sheehan, I entirely agree, but I do want to press home the fact that in making a general, but nevertheless an intense, study of the regulations, students will benefit by remembering that duty-free concessions are forfeited by all persons committing an offence, except members of a crew remaining by the ship. The anxiety hitherto experienced, prior to examinations, through the lack of instructions on this point in regard to crews will not recur. Then if in the case of a seaman committing an offence when severing his connection with the ship, the infrequent or unusual circumstance arises (about one in a dozen or more) of his duty-free allowance having "passed out of control," we have even definite instructions now how to deal with it, *i.e.*, duty is not to be required. You may call this a concession, if you like, in the case of goods landed, but on account of its infrequency I excepted it as such from my statement, having provided for it in the definition of "passed out of control," and would prefer to term it a "lucky hit."

Finally, let me pass on to students the advice given several years ago by a successful officer: "Learn the Law, and the regulations will come to you." Certainly the need for the regulations will become more obvious and simpler to digest.

## Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

The one hundred and second meeting of the Council was held in London on January 23rd, 1929, the chair being taken by Sir F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### PROMOTION.

The Staff Side moved for the appointment of a Special Committee to consider and report on the question of promotion of Departmental and Treasury Classes, Higher Clerical Officers and Clerical Officers, Typists, Shorthand Typists, Writing Assistants and members of the "P" Class. After discussion, the Staff Side undertook to submit a memorandum defining the various matters it was sought to include in the proposed investigation.

Subject to the precise alterations necessitated in existing arrangements being reported upon by a Special Committee, it was agreed that the panels of the Promotion Board might be extended immediately to deal with "mass selections," e.g., "P" Class Clerks for Clerical Officers, Clerical Officers, etc., for Officers.

### CONTROLLING GRADE REORGANISATION.

The Staff Side having received notice of proposed changes in this connection, referred to the apparent intention to introduce these without Whitley discussion. The Official Side stated that their proposals developed from representations for salary increases made by the Controlling Grades Association which at the outset did not affect other grades. No discussion had ensued, but the opportunity was provided for the Association to state its views prior to Whitley discussion.

The Staff Side maintained that Associations approaching the Board with proposals directly or indirectly affecting other grades, should be referred to the proper Whitley body.

It was decided to refer the proposals in regard to the re-organisation of the Controlling Grade to the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee.

### DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCE.

It was agreed that a misunderstanding arising out of the previous announcement on the retrospective effect of the November, 1928, agreement, should be the subject of informal discussion.

### STARTING PAY.

It was agreed in one case of establishment that initial salary appropriate to an ex-Grade II Temporary Clerk should be given. A number of other cases were re-adjournd.

### LONDON PORT HOURS.

The Staff Side raised the question whether certain Officers on Warehouse duty were liable to appear for duty at 8 a.m. without a request from the Warehouse keeper for their attendance. After some discussion the subject was adjourned.

### REMOVAL EXPENSES.

The question of the rates payable for removal expenses in the case of "P" Class Clerks transferred on promotion was again adjourned.

### UNATTACHED OFFICERS.

Agreement was registered on a scheme for setting up "Centres" for Unattached Officers under the main Disturbance Allowance agreement. Particulars will be officially published in due course.

### INCOME TAX.

Reverting to previous discussions and correspondence the Staff Side made renewed representations concerning excessive deductions and the issue of statements of assessment. With regard to the former, the Official Side stated that individuals would in future be directly repaid as soon as the authorities gave information as to the amount due. Further representations would be made on the question of speeding up the issue of notices of assessment.

### OTHER MATTERS.

The Council received a schedule of suggestions which had been forwarded to the Board by the Suggestions Committee with notes of action taken officially in each case.

The Staff Side stating that two Local Committee Chairmen had sought the withdrawal of items referred back for local discussion by the Council, it was explained that the question of method of treatment was involved only. There was no objection to local discussion, if such was still desired.

Arising from a Local Committee disagreement on the point, the Council discussed the propriety of discussing District Schemes in the appropriate Local Committee, and the question was adjourned.

A number of decisions advised by Sectional, Grade, Local and Office Committees were dealt with (including the staffing of London Central Collector's Office), with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on February 20th, 1929.

## The Safeguarding of "Screws."

By W. M. SHEEHAN.

It is interesting to note that in "Current Comments" in the last issue of the "Customs Journal" the absence of articles on the salary question is commented upon. In view of the vital importance of this question it is really a wonder that it has not been touched upon, but no doubt the explanation is that Councillors and others would prefer to leave the matter entirely in the very capable hands of the Committee, who, no doubt, duly received their instructions from the Conference. The prudent man would hesitate before rushing into print on the subject and raising a controversy which might result in embarrassing the Executive. It is not always good policy for a Councillor to make public details of a movement of great importance, and perhaps forestall the intentions of the Committee dealing with it. The salary question is one which is being continually discussed at every port, and is a question upon which every member feels very strongly. Many members could probably fill columns on the subject, but the journalistic silence of the staff is a tribute to the confidence placed in the Executive, and demonstrates also a desire to prevent any written controversy which might have a hampering effect.

When one comes to review the situation it is very difficult to write on the subject with equanimity. The officers of the Department feel that they have so often suffered disappointment in their claims and aspirations, and vested interests in the Service appear to them to have been so jealously safeguarded, that a feeling of pessimism, amounting almost to despair, is frequently in evidence at any gathering of the staff. From a point of view of comparison with other branches in the Service, the members of the Department feel that they have been continually side-tracked. They feel that there is no reason why the Preventive Staff should not enjoy in proportion the increases in salaries and conditions, in accordance with responsibilities, meted out to other branches in the Service. In fact, they are prepared to accept further increased responsibilities if it means attaining their rightful place in the sun.

The Waterguard is the oldest Department in the Customs and Excise Service. Departmental history and records will show that the officers have zealously carried on the traditions for duty and integrity handed down to them. They accept philosophically, and carry out conscientiously and efficiently, any new and intricate order issued. The Preventive

Officer must be a man of intelligence and initiative, and must be able to form judgments and take *immediate* action on points of importance under numerous headings, and also on behalf of various Departments outside the Customs and Excise Service. He must be conversant with law and regulations ranging from cats to gooseberry bushes, from fire-water to firearms, from yellow fever to mahogany and unclean salmon. In fact, he must be a veritable Master of Arts to carry out his duties properly, and unlike officials in other Departments, his library of knowledge must be stored in the grey matter under his uniform cap, and tabulated for immediate reference and action. His work and responsibilities are far greater than the old-time Examining Officer, whose principal claim to better salary was, at one time, the Waterguard work he performed, and in many aspects more important than those of many officers in other branches who are blessed with nearly double his "screw." During the stress of the war period, temporary female labour and shop assistants could be introduced to other Departments to carry on, but the work of the Waterguard could not be so regulated—only men of experience in the multifarious regulations and orders could carry on the Waterguard duties. And so it will continue.

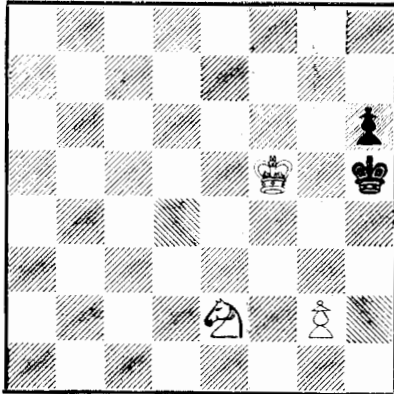
It would be deviating from the paths of truth if it were said that the Department has not made some progress since the pre-war era. Progress there has been, however slight, but only through persistent and consistent Association effort. Whilst other branches have, one might say, almost automatically received due recognition for changed responsibilities and conditions, the officers of the Waterguard feel that whatever slight progress has been made has been forced. It is difficult to understand why the Department should be kept "cribbed, cabled and confined." From a Revenue point of view (and one may add, also, from a Public Health standpoint and a Dangerous Drug standpoint) it has always been regarded as the first line of defence, without which revenue protection would be futile, and other branches practically useless.

The Association officials are again seeking proper recognition for the Department, and it is to be hoped that the Waterguard will be admitted to the magic circle where there appears to be some safeguard to remuneration in accordance with responsibilities and Departmental importance.

**SPORT AND SOCIAL.**

**Customs Waterguard Chess Club.**

**PROBLEM No. 32**



White to mate in three

**Solution to No. 31.**

- |                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. (KtB2)—R3+   | 1. K—Kt5. |
| 2. Kt—B3        | 2. K—Kt6. |
| 3. K—Kt6        | 3. K—Kt5. |
| 4. R—R1         | 4. K—Kt6. |
| 5. R—OKt1       | 5. K—Kt5. |
| 6. R—KR1        | 6. K—Kt6. |
| 7. R—R2         | 7. K—Kt5. |
| 8. Kt—B2+       | 8. K—Kt6. |
| 9. Kt—R1+       | 9. K—Kt5. |
| 10. R—R4        | 10. P—R6. |
| 11. Kt—R2+      | 11. K—R5. |
| 12. P—Kt3 mate. |           |

Chess Club:—Forest Hill Greyhound Hotel.

**HOW CHESS IS PLAYED—continued.**

**Diagonals.**—*i.e.*, squares of one colour that run slantwise, thus you get a diagonal of two black squares at the bottom right-hand corner of the board, and one of eight black squares from the left-hand bottom corner square of the board, and two white squares forming a diagonal on left side, etc.

**The Pieces.**—There are 32 pieces, 16 White and 16 Black, named as follows for each side: eight pawns, two Rooks, two Bishops, two Knights, one Queen, and one King. At the start of a game these pieces are set up on the board as follows:—White at one side and black at the opposite (top and bottom); at each corner, a Rook or Castle, next each Rook a Knight, next each Knight a Bishop. The Queen is then placed on one of the two remaining squares, and it *must* be the square of her

own colour, *i.e.*, White Queen on a White square, the King is placed on the remaining square. The pawns are placed on the rank of squares in front of these pieces, so that this rank is filled with pawns. These pawns are named after the pieces behind them; thus on the middle two squares you get the King's Pawn and the Queen's Pawn. The Bishop, Rook and Knight which stand on the Queen's side of the board are called the Queen's Bishop, Queen's Knight and Queen's Rook, and the pawns in front of them the Queen's Bishop's Pawn, Queen's Knight's Pawn, etc., written for short QBP, QKtP, and QRP.

(To be continued.)

**Gold Medal Offered For Chess.**

We hear that a member of the Preventive Staff is offering a Gold Medal to the Chess Club to be played for and won outright (1929/1930 Season). He seeks suggestions through this journal from officers and members of the Chess Club as to the conditions under which the medal shall be won. We understand that the Committee of the Chess Club is dealing with suggestions.

**East Kent's Tribute to Mr. Gotts, P.O.**

The friends of Mr. G. W. Gotts took advantage of the occasion of a visit he made last week to Ramsgate, and met together for the purpose of shewing their appreciation of his fifteen years in Ramsgate as their colleague. Members of the Preventive Staff at Ramsgate, Margate, Dover, Sheerness and Faversham had prepared a presentation for him, and knowing Mr. Gotts' fondness for the ancient game of bowls, this took the form of a bowler's kit-bag, and also a pipe in case. The speeches which accompanied the presentation were redolent with goodwill and appreciation, and genuine regret was expressed at the departure of one who had earned the greatest respect of the Service and friends alike. With the presents Mr. Gotts was handed a letter, containing the names of all who were concerned, expressing the hope that in his new sphere of activity he would enjoy good health and form many happy associations.

Mr. P. F. Doran, late Chief Officer at Ramsgate, sent a letter, in which he referred in cordial terms to one whom he had found "the truest and most trusted colleague I have had in the Department." He considered him one of that type of official of whom we can justly say, without any disparagement to officers coming before or after him, that it is difficult to replace.

Mr. Gotts made suitable and grateful acknowledgment of the kindness of his old colleagues.

## Presentation at Holyhead.

There was a goodly number of persons in the Waterguard Office at Holyhead on January 9th, gathered for the purpose of presenting Mr. W. H. Norman (P.O.), with a week-end case and shaving set, together with a blouse case for Mrs. Norman, to mark the appreciation with which he is held by his brother officers and officers of other Departments connected with us, and also to wish him *au revoir* (not good-bye) at parting on his transfer to Dartmouth. Mr. W. W. Bishop (P.O.), occupied the chair, and expressed regret on behalf of the Surveyor and the C.P.O., for unavoidable absence. Sincere regret was expressed in letters at the loss of an old friend. Mr. J. F. Lee (P.O.) made the presentation with a few well-chosen words of regret, praise, and good wishes for the future, which were backed up with short speeches by Mr. MacDonald for the Officer grade, Mr. Stone, C.I.D., Mr. T. Smith for the A.P.O.s and Mr. N. Stringer for the Watchers.

Mr. Norman returned thanks for the good wishes, and said he was sorry, in a way, to leave Holyhead, for he had found that, no matter where one went, it would be hard to find a port where the different grades got on so well together. Holyhead was fortunate in having such a staff, but he found that, after being away from home for twenty-five years, the call of home was too strong to resist.

The occasion terminated in the usual Waterguard way, and frequently one heard very complimentary remarks from the centre of a fairly large group.

Mr. Parker, A.P.O., spoke of his long acquaintance with Mr. Kay, saying that he remembered him first when he held a better position in the Service, and that he had always found him to be a thorough gentleman. Mr. Kay's son (P.O. London), expressed his pleasure at being able to attend, and thanked those present for their kindness to his father. He explained how the latter had been the victim of a most unjust system which operated in the department 20 years ago; how he had been reduced in rank, and kept down, in spite of repeated applications for reinstatement, and bearing (so he was always told) an exemplary character. He was, however, pleased to say that the terrible ordeal, with its attendant humiliation, had not embittered his father's soul, although it had nearly broken his heart, and completely killed his spirit.

Mr. Scott, Surveyor, in presenting Mr. Kay with a suitably engraved Eight-day clock and a pipe, said, that in his two years' acquaintance with the recipient, he had always found him as upright in character as he was in carriage and bearing. He thought that Mr. Kay, junior, had paid a splendid tribute to his father by attending that day. He wished Mr. Kay every happiness and long life to enjoy a well-earned pension.

Mr. Kay, in a few words, thanked all those present for their good wishes, the kind things they had said about him, and the beautiful presents. The clock, he said, would always remind him of proved friends, and the happiest years of his service.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Mr. Scott, and three cheers for "Old George," the proceedings terminated.

## London Presentation.

### Mr. G. W. KAY.

An informal but interesting event took place at the Customs office attached to Orient Wharf, Wapping, on the 17th January.

This was a presentation by the Landing Officers and colleagues to Mr. G. W. Kay, A.P.O., who retired on the 14th January, after nearly 42 years of service, the last 10 of which were spent at the wharf, as a member of the Landing Department.

The chair was taken by Mr. Walsh, Officer, who, in his opening remarks, referred to the hardships attached to the Waterguard duties 40 years ago. "It has recently come to my notice," he said, "that Mr. Kay suffered a great misfortune nearly 20 years ago, and as most of us were not aware of this, I think it is a splendid example of loyalty. Most men who had a grievance," he continued, "never let their colleagues forget it, but I don't think any of us has ever heard a grouse from Mr. Kay."

## Customs Journal

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