

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.

The New Election

READERS will at once notice that immediate use is being made of our columns by those members who wish to place their addresses before the electors. The occasion is unique among us, and has been welcomed by not a few as giving a chance to a member who have been geographically hidden in elections to the Council. It remains to be seen how the scheme works in practice, but we have no doubt of the result. Increased representation was certainly needed, and this well-thought-out method will afford more direct representation to a larger number of members than heretofore. Some critics in the larger ports seem to think that the resulting Council will tend to become more cumbersome. Such criticism rather betrays an erroneous conception of the functions of the body. We are engaged in the business of electing Councillors. These Councillors will meet in the summer, and will discuss all the activities to which the P.S.A. is committed. They will receive the reports of the year's work from the Association officers and from the various Committees. They will also determine the policy to be pursued during the year which lies ahead. That is, roughly, the work of the Council, and that body will certainly not be too unwieldily to perform it. But where the Council's work ceases is very often precisely the spot where a tremendous volume of work commences—for the Executive; and here, probably, is just where our

friends have become confused. We frequently notice that the man who has been elected to the Council is described, locally, as an Executive Councillor. Now, we have no such office in our Constitution as Executive Councillor. If our Council was executive, of course it would be cumbersome, for it would have to execute the work which it has decreed shall be done. We should find that there would be endless debates over the very simplest matters of detail, and expenses would, in a very few weeks, exceed the Association's annual income. What the Council, in its wisdom, sets itself to do is to elect from among its members a small Committee, the duty of which is to faithfully carry out the work and the policy that the Council has agreed upon. This small body is called the Executive Committee, and at the next meeting of the Council the Executive Committee has to show, in the form of a report, how it has dealt with the tasks entrusted to it. It must not be forgotten that this does not free the Council from its responsibility to the membership. The Executive, elected by the Council, is responsible only to the Council. The Council still remains responsible to the membership for the work done.

The illness of the Editor is responsible for some delay in replies to correspondents. He confidently expects to overhaul arrears within a few days.

CURRENT COMMENTS

THE meeting of Association Executives, which took place at the Central Hall, Westminster, on the 27th of February, to receive a report on the Bonus Review negotiations from the National Staff Side, was large enough to clearly show the keen interest taken by all Associations in this very important matter. The meeting would no doubt have been still larger but for the fact that no resolutions were to be taken and voting power was not necessary.

The absence of any motion before the meeting enabled a very full and free discussion of the situation from every angle. The speeches were lively, and expressed so many different points of view as to emphasise the difficult and complicated nature of the subject. The Staff Side came in for a fair share of criticism, which would have enlightened those in high places who regard Bonus discontent amongst the rank and file as mythical, and the campaign for improvement as artificial.

Despite the variety of opinions and theories, there was definite general agreement that the present bonus system is inequitable, and that reform of some kind is urgently necessary.

The task of the Staff Side now is to review the whole situation in the light of the discussion which has taken place. They are not to be envied, because, in order to achieve success, the gauntlet of many risks will have to be run. The position is further complicated by the impossibility of forecasting with any degree of certainty what will be the trend of prices during the coming months. In the ordinary course it would be reasonable to expect a fall of two points next September, but with a General Election coming along there can be no reliable anticipation.

One great disadvantage of the existing bonus system is the opportunity it affords to certain sections of the Press to publish misleading information regarding the cost of the Civil Service. One leading newspaper recently stated that "The 300,000 Civil Servants receive a rise in pay to-day which will cost the taxpayer £1,000,000," and then proceeded in nebulous fashion to mention cost of living. But, the opening paragraph, with its damaging half truth, has already sunk in to the mind of the average reader, and he imagines a permanent increase of wages for which he, as a taxpayer, must suffer. He knows nothing of what the taxpayer saves when the bonus slumps. The newsmongers have no desire to tell him.

Whilst this kind of thing goes on, there is not much chance of getting public sympathy in connection with a minimum wage claim.

"Amari Aliquid," in his letter to the "Customs Journal," is evidently referring to London

Port. It will no doubt interest him to know that recent discussion between local Whitley representatives and the Official Side have resulted in the removal of the grievance he ventilates. In future there will be plenty of scope for any officer to show his ability in every phase of Waterguard work—or know the reason why.

The London discussions on this question have been extremely useful, if only because they have resulted in establishing greater confidence and better relationship between the two sides of the local committee. But, they have done even more than that, for it is now agreed to give full and sympathetic consideration to the claim of any officer who considers he should be employed on work other than that to which he is appointed by the Station minute.

There is no doubt that the new atmosphere on the London local Whitley Committee will go a long way towards removing grievances peculiar to the port.

"Galloping Major," writing in the last issue, attempts to solve the "Failed A.P.O. problem." He makes the mistake, however, of thinking that an increase of remuneration can be had on sentimental grounds. It should be clearly understood that the Treasury need proof that any increase of pay is in respect of additional work, or improved standard of work. Only by establishing a new intermediate grade could failed A.P.O.s hope for opportunity to indicate their fitness for better pay than others in the Grade.

There is no doubt, of course, that the quality of the work performed by the A.P.O. Grade has considerably improved of late years, and it is hoped to prove this when the salary claim goes forward. In this way those who have been unfortunate in the examination for promotion are still having their interests looked after by the Association.

The number of nominations received in connection with the appointment of four independent members of the Council more than justifies the optimism of those who originated the idea. The election will take place very shortly, and in the meantime we can expect to hear interesting announcements from the candidates. One candidate has already issued a printed circular to the electors. Another has utilised the Journal columns. The next issue of the "Customs Journal" will not be complete if it does not include a statement from each of the members nominated. It looks like being a keen competition.

References made in these columns regarding the need for more businesslike methods on the part of District Secretaries in the keeping of Association records seems to have had some

effect. Recent letters to Beer Lane indicate clearly that in some Districts there is a very efficient system in operation. One letter contained a complete record of local activities for a twelve-month, together with results that were very satisfactory. This is the kind of stuff which ought to impress non-members if they have any sensibility at all, and it is a pity that full publicity has not been given in the Journal.

There seems to be a general awakening throughout all the Districts, and it is to be hoped that the increased interest displayed by the membership will result in District Officers being encouraged to greater efforts on behalf of their constituents.

* * * *

No doubt the greater interest now shown in Association affairs is due to the fact that the salary claim is about to be put forward, and it will therefore be welcome news to many that at the Staff Side meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee on the 6th inst., the final touches will be given to the Staff Side case, and that a reference to the full Committee will immediately be sought.

* * * *

These notes appear at the end of a very strenuous week for the Headquarters' staff. The Executive Committee will have met and will have concluded its deliberations on the salary question. During the same week there are several other meetings requiring the attention of the Association officers, and there will be little time for dealing with any but urgent matters. Members are asked to note this, and to bear patiently with any delay in dealing with correspondence.

* * * *

Efforts are being made to form a Rifle Club in London under the auspices of the Customs and Excise Sports Club, and any Waterguard officers desirous of becoming members should forward their names to the Association office. It is hoped to re-establish the range that existed at the Custom House prior to the War.

* * * *

The Annual Smoking Concert of the C. & E. Sports Club will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on the 15th March. These are always excellent entertainments, and London Officers who are interested in Departmental sporting affairs, and who can appreciate a good evening's amusement, are recommended to attend.

* * * *

The Smoking Concert organised by the London Waterguard South Side Sports Club was a great success. It was held at the St. Katherine Dock Hotel on the 28th February. Representatives from several branches of the Customs and Excise were present. Mr. C. E. Egan, late President of the Club, was presented by the Club members with a silver cigarette box as a mark of appreciation of his good services to Waterguard sport. A full account of the evening appears elsewhere in the Journal.

OBITUARY.

Mr. G. E. JESSEY, C.P.O.

A gloom has been cast over the Manchester District by the unexpected death of Mr. G. E. Jessey, C.P.O., after less than four days' absence on sick leave.

During his career at Manchester he proved himself to be a thoroughly practical officer, who excelled himself in conscientiousness and impartiality, and it is to his great credit that at no time did he take advantage of his position to annoy or injure others. His absence will be keenly felt.

The interment took place at Barry on 25th February, and floral tributes, tokens of esteem from every class of C. and E. official in the port, accompanied the coffin on the journey from Manchester.

Many members of the Barry Dock Staff and old colleagues (retired) attended the funeral at Barry. Mr. Jessey was at one time a Barry Preventive Officer. Four of the staff acted as bearers.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mrs. Jessey and family in their bereavement from the whole staff at Barry.

Mr. H. BRIGHAM, ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER, HULL.

The many officers who have been stationed at Hull during the past 25 years will be grieved to learn that Mr. Brigham passed away suddenly on the 27th February. He had been suffering from bronchitis since December, but had appeared to recover until influenza suddenly claimed him as a victim. Practically the whole of the staff who were off duty, attended the funeral on the 2nd instant.

Mr. Brigham, with 38 years' service to his credit, was one of the few officers not accepted under the Superannuation Act, 1909, being rejected on medical grounds, consequently his dependants will not receive the usual year's pay.

Intermittent sickness for many years prevented Mr. Brigham from making any material provision for the future; his family are left in very straitened circumstances, and the local staff intend organising a collection on their behalf. Should any of his many friends be desirous of augmenting this fund, Mr. Cameron, P.O., Superintendent's Office, will be very pleased to acknowledge receipt of any subscriptions.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office

Thames Chambers,

18, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.3.

Telephone ROYAL 4279

President: *W. G. Thomson*

General Secretary: *J. Merron*

Organising Secretary: *J. T. Sutton*

Assistant Secretary: *W. H. Powell*

P.S.A. Meeting.

MANCHESTER.

A well-attended meeting took place on 25th February. The agenda was weighty and discussion was brisk. Mr. G. Fazakerley, A.P.O., was elected vice-chairman, and, in addition to matters of local interest being dealt with, the following resolutions were carried:

Uniform.—"That the present cap badge of A.P.O. be abolished and substituted by one of design similar to that issued to P.O.s and Landing Officers, and that the style of overcoat supplied to A.P.O.s be made similar to that supplied to P.O.s."

P.O.s' Exam.—"That marks obtained by candidates in each subject be published."

C.P.O.s' Exam.—"That a list of candidates called for examination be published."

LIST 142.—"That all ranks be given an equal allowance of dutiable goods."

Oil Duty (Small Ports).—"That repayment claims on hydrocarbon oils used by registered fishing boats, vide G. O. 66/28, be dealt with by the P.O. in charge."

Suggestions Committee (A).—"That C & E Permits accompanying spirits entered for shipment under bond be enclosed in envelopes sufficiently large to allow of the ends being fastened to cases without mutilating the Permit."

(B).—"That duplicate Shipping Bills, or an invoice giving full particulars, should accompany all goods forwarded on Despatch for Shipment as ships' stores."

Election Correspondence

To P.S.A. Members.

Gentlemen,—Having received the honour of nomination as candidate for Councillor, I feel it a duty towards those members who do not know me personally to introduce myself and outline my policy.

My enthusiasm for P.S.A. activity is not prompted by an imaginary bee buzzing inside my uniform cap. Neither have I an axe to grind, other than one which could be used to smash prejudice against any rightful claim of the Waterguard Department. Therefore, a brief summary of my views is aptly expressed in a keen desire to raise our Department to its proper status, both inside and outside of the Service.

Brief!—decidedly, but it covers everything of importance, and my personal attention and support is unreservedly guaranteed to any matter,

large or small, which is likely to hasten the realization of this ideal. In the past my policy has not experienced disappointment; in the future it will remain unaltered—irrespective of the ballot result—in the hope that, at some time, I may be of greater assistance in influencing the bestowal of proper recognition (long overdue) upon the services and personnel of the Waterguard Staff.

In conclusion, I may be pardoned for mentioning that I am no stranger to readers of this paper. "Coasting Articles" contributed under my pen-name "Seagull," were, for a time, a regular feature of the Journal, and I have good reason for believing that my object in bringing forward personal opinion and provoking comments, disguised as humour, was not a wasted effort.

Gentlemen, I have stated my views and will leave the matter in your hands.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. COADY, P.O.,

District Sec., Manchester.

To the Electors, P.S.A.

Gentlemen,—Having been nominated as a candidate for Councillor under the new rule, I ask for your support.

I am standing as an "Independent," with no personal schemes to further, Port or district influences to bias my vote.

Should you return me, I shall be as anxious to help the few as the many, and to assist with any constructive policy or ideas, but not to hinder with demands for the impossible.

Having had experience of large and small ports, I understand the views and worries of

Thanking you,

members in both.

BERT R. CLARKE, A.P.O.

To the Electors.

Gentlemen,—Having been nominated for one of the newly created Executive Councillorships under Rule 4, para. 2 (c), I beg to state that, if elected, I intend devoting my services to the interests of the Waterguard Service in general and the Small Port Officers in particular.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES R. DURRANT,

P.O., Lowestoft.

Waterguard Dept.,
Pekin Buildings,

Royal Dock,

Grimsby.

To the Electors.

Gentlemen,—Having been nominated by Officers of the Grimsby District to contest the forthcoming Election for additional Councillors, I beg to solicit your votes.

I have previous experience as Local Secretary of the Association, also as a member of the Local Whisky Council, and if returned I promise to further the interests of the Waterguard Department as a whole to the best of my ability.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. E. CROWE.

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.

THE FAILED A.P.O.

Sir,—I beg to thank "Galloping Major" for his kind suggestions regarding the failed A.P.O.s in your last issue. He means well, but his idea of decorating us with black crowns and wreaths is too sombre for words. Why not add a small coffin plate to each man's outfit and so complete the illusion? No doubt officially we are all as dead as the dodo, but should your correspondent's suggestions ever be accepted by the powers that be, a reviver in the shape of a £20 allowance would, I make bold to say, have the effect of making some of our poor defunct ones quickly spring to life again. If any remain moribund afterwards it's their own fault, and they ought to be buried where they lie.

Yours truly,

"FAILED A.P.O."

CAPITAL "O."

Sir,—During Watch House arguments I have heard it said that when the word "officer" is commenced with a capital letter, reference is made to the Landing Staff, and when a small letter is used the Waterguard are referred to. But I must admit that I did not realise that Waterguard Officers were not Customs Officers until I read G.O. 12/29, part 8.

To quote a portion of that Order:—" . . . to allow Customs Officers (including Waterguard Officers, but not Coast Preventive Men) . . ."

In case someone should mistake us for Customs Officers, I suggest that cap badges in the Waterguard should be altered to read "Customs Chap."

EX-SERVICE MEMBERS (1923/5).

Sir,—In view of the development of a comprehensive salary claim, I should like to know if the case of the 1923-5 ex-Service members has been relegated to the limbo of forgotten things. From time to time some spirited member in this unfortunate category airs his by no means imaginary grievance, but no response is forthcoming from the powers that be in Association matters. Whether we are purposely ignored or merely overlooked in the general scramble for money is difficult to decide, but the fact remains, that unless we raise our small voices in protest before the claim proceeds further, we shall perhaps lose our last opportunity of obtaining justice. The war fever has now abated so much, that one dare only breathe the magic word "ex-Service" to raise a hornet's nest about our ears. Yet why are we the victims of an economy campaign? Our brother entrants, prior to 1923, entered the job with the grateful thanks of the nation and a living wage to boot, whilst we who entered under highly

competitive conditions later on, remain as glowing testimony to the success of the Geddes Axe.

Why have we been singled out for this particular honour? We are ex-Service men of a similar age; our responsibilities are generally the same, and the duties which we perform are identically the same. We are at a further disadvantage in the matter of pension, for in entering the Service at an advanced age we have lost at least seven years' superannuation pay. The last and by no means the least indignity which we have suffered in silence is the introduction of new entrants at a salary which will far exceed ours when they attain the same age. Thus, we are a small group sandwiched between the earlier ex-Service entrants and the future entrants, at a disadvantage with both, and struggling to live decently on a miserable wage. Would it not be wiser to endeavour to obtain some adjustment before launching a general salary claim? This is a very weak link in the chain of negotiation, and one which promises to do untold harm to the case for the A.P.O.s. Perhaps it is not yet too late to set matters right and get justice for these men.

C.T.K.

A LAUNCH SERVICE COMPLAINT.

Sir,—With reference to the case of the failed A.P.O.s, I never see anyone taking up the case of the "failed" Engineers and Mates-in-Charge, who joined the Service thirty years ago.

These men are now where they commenced their career, through no fault of their own (as promotion cannot be guaranteed to all).

It would be very considerate if the Honourable Board would include these Officers in the claims of the failed A.P.O.s.

I think the suggestion of a good conduct medal, with emoluments of £20 per annum, to be made pensionable, would be very acceptable.

"FAILED ONE."

DECORATIONS.

Sir,—A contributor last Journal made a suggestion re a Conduct Medal, which brought to my mind the fact that our Department appears to be the only body in which medal ribbons are not worn on the uniforms.

My opinion is that they should be worn, even supplied already on, by the contractors. I do not think any brother officers would call it "swank," or even that they would pass remarks. I am stationed at a baggage port, where the officers (British and Foreign) of the Merchant Service wear their decorations on their uniform, but the Customs Officers, who are, except three, entitled to wear "ribbons," do not do so. I wonder why? Surely they are not ashamed of their part played during 1914-18. I think if a start is made by a few, others will follow. Why not start on date of donning cap covers? I wonder what the Editor thinks himself?

"EX-SERVICE."

Vocational Education Scheme.

THE BACKSLIDER.

By "LEEWARD."

The time is opportune to again remind those members of the Waterguard Dept., who have not yet taken advantage of the facilities offered under the above scheme, to ask themselves the question, "Am I prepared to compete with students who have undergone, or who are undergoing, a continual course of study under the auspices of the Vocational Education Scheme?" At the next EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF PREVENTIVE OFFICER there will be very keen competition, indeed, to secure the best positions.

A glance at the list of successful candidates at the last Examination will be sufficient to satisfy even the most pessimistic of the pessimists that the Scheme is a very real and beneficial one, and that the majority of those who passed the test were actually V.E.S. students. If it were necessary, and time and space permitted, I could write a good deal on this subject, but I am afraid it would serve no useful purpose.

Everyone has surely, by now, become aware that this Scheme is in existence; that it was formed for their benefit, to give as good a training as it is possible to get, at a very moderate cost.

I consider, therefore, that it remains for those interested members to give their full support to the project. Human nature being what it is, I suppose there will be many who will leave it too late, and afterwards bemoan their fate. Under those circumstances, however, they will have to offer condolences to themselves, for they could not be expected from others.

Do not be one of such a category, but lose no time in completing and forwarding the following application:

The above is a term used by a certain religious denomination to describe an individual who, having once embraced the teachings of the particular creed, fails, perhaps under adverse conditions, to preserve the strict observance of the mode of life laid down by the leaders of the movement.

One can apply the analogy to certain colleagues in our own Department who, although participating in the benefits derived from the efforts of the Association for the improvement of conditions of service, openly state that they have no further interest in the medium which has been the principal factor in obtaining those improvements.

All manner of excuses are offered for backsliding. Perhaps one of the most common is the failure to obtain promotion, i.e., A.P.O.s who have not succeeded in passing the barrier to the P.O. grade and P.O.s who have been spurned by the Selection Board.

Surely no broadminded individual can blame the Association for the vagaries of the gentlemen who judge the merits of candidates without "fear or favour"? Would it not prove a better policy on the part of the "backsliders" to endeavour to sink their antagonism and strive to assist the Association officials in their efforts to obtain that degree of appreciation and recognition by the "powers that be" which the duties performed by the Waterguard Department duly merit, especially bearing in mind the fact that any concessions obtained, operate for the benefit of all, and that members who refuse to pull their weight are placed in the position of enjoying advantages which have been granted at the expense of their colleagues?

FILL IN THIS FORM NOW.

The Secretary (V.E.C.),
Preventive Staff Association,
13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3.

Preliminary Course

Please enrol me for Intermediate Course (delete Courses not required) in Waterguard.

Advanced Course

Departmental Regulations. Postal Order payable to P.S.A., London, value.....(insert amount), enclosed.

Name

Address

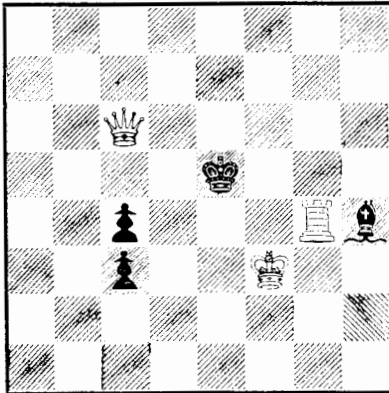
.....

Tutors:—Messrs. Angus, Finley, Gaudiner, Lake, Sheehan, and Thomson.
Please indicate Tutor desired, and choice of Tutors will be given as far as possible.
Fees: 10/0, 15/0, and 20/0 per term respectively.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 34.



White to mate in two.
By Philip H. Williams.

Solution No. 33.

- 1. B—Kt1.
 - 2. P—B3.
- Chess Club—

Gravesend : 166, Windmill-st. (Tues., 7 p.m.).
Chatham : The Institute, Nelson-rd. (Mon. and Thurs.).

Eltham : Eltham Dairy, High-st. (Tues. and Fri., 7.30 p.m.).

1928/9 Tournament Scores.

Section 3. To Round 4.—Prize value 7/-: 1. W. E. Morrison, Dover 4; 2. B. C. Reilly*, H. H. Gray*, W. Tuck, Dover 3, J. Terry*, Liverpool 2, J. Hoare*, Weymouth 1, A. F. Mathers, Swansea, O. M. Williams, Ayr*†.

*With games adjudicated. †Owing to serious illness Mr. Williams is not contesting his remaining games.

HOW CHESS IS PLAYED—Pawns (cont.)

A power has been conceded to the Pawns, however, of going **two steps** when **first played** in the game, **provided no hostile Pawn commands the first square over which it passes.** (Called En Passant and explained later). A Pawn is the only one of the forces which goes out of his direction to capture, and which has not the advantage of moving backwards.

The Rook.—This piece is represented by a Castle. Its move is straight forwards, backwards, or straight sideways, any number of squares up to edge of board. Thus the rook shown in Problem No. 34 above can move any number of squares up to 4 forwards, or 3

backwards; it can move sideways and capture the pawn, or the Bishop. It cannot move over a piece, and it can only move in one straight line. It captures by occupying the square of the piece it takes.

The Bishop.—The Bishop is represented by a Mitre. It moves diagonally forwards or backwards, to the extent of the Board. It cannot jump over a piece, and it captures by occupying the square of the piece captured, and can only capture a piece that it encounters on its diagonal. It follows, therefore, that it travels throughout the game only on squares of the same colour as the one on which it stands when the game begins, and that each player has a Bishop running on White squares, and one on Black squares.

To be Continued.

The "Daily Express" has just issued a book, "Chess Simplified," price 6d. I can recommend this book to those who desire to learn the very first stages of the game. The articles above are intended, however, to go beyond this stage, and would go well with this book.

W. W. BISHOP.

FOOTBALL.

GRAVESEND CUSTOM HOUSE SPORTS CLUB VISITS BELGIUM.

A team, representing the above-named Club, left Tilbury on Saturday, the 9th February, via the Dunkirk service S.S. "Lorrain," for Alost, Belgium, to play the Eendracht Sports Club. On arrival at Alost, the party were met by the club officials and a large number of supporters. To the amusement of the visitors a band, in fancy dress, was also in attendance. After being entertained at the Club headquarters, the team and followers joined in the fun of the fair and witnessed a three-day masked carnival procession, which opened at 4 p.m. The national costumes and fancy dresses were very smart, and the enthusiasm shown by the people added greatly to the pleasure of the visitors.

During Sunday there was a very heavy fall of snow, and on the Monday morning it was doubtful whether the match would be played. However, the ground was cleared by the supporters, assisted by three bottles of Geneva (but no issue was made to the officers), and the teams lined up at 3 p.m. before a crowd of 1,500. The Belgian side were very quick on the ball, and after 25 minutes' play they were rewarded with a goal nicely scored by the inside left. The home side again scored through their centre half, who sent in a hard drive from 20 yards' range which entered the net after striking the cross-bar. At this period the Gravesend team were warming up to it, and G. Clague stopped the rot by careful manipulation, steered the ball through the home defence, and scored a great goal, beating the goalie all ends up.

Midway in the game there was a pleasing little ceremony. The Alost captain presented a bouquet in his Club's colours to the visitors' captain, and Mr. Yeldham paid a similar compliment to the home side. After the match the flowers were placed on the Town Memorial.

On resuming play, the visitors set up a strong attack and scored again, being awarded a penalty. Ding-dong play ensued, and just before the final whistle the home side were awarded a penalty, and the centre-forward made no mistake. The Belgian side were therefore successful after a hotly-contested game by 3 goals to 2.

Team:—E. Boyce; R. Westcott, T. W. Yeldham; R. Stocker, C. Johnstone, R. Hammond; G. Clague, E. Batch, F. S. Lowe, G. Banks, J. W. Garmonsway.

Prior to the match the captain received a cable from Mr. Egan, expressing good wishes. His kindly interest was greatly appreciated. The party were extremely sorry that sickness prevented him making the journey, and trust that he will soon recover.

In the evening the party returned to Ostend, and after an excellent repast at the Opera Hotel, spent the remainder of the time visiting various places of interest. A feast and masked ball was in progress.

Among the supporters were Messrs. Kiely, Lacey, Miller, Thorogood, Salter, Rawle, Norris, and Prisley. Included in the team were three London officers, who did excellent service on the field and are to be congratulated on their display.

Mr. Charles Prisley, who was responsible for the arrangements before and on the voyage, is to be congratulated for his untiring efforts in making the trip a success.

Retirement of Mr. L. Johnson, Waterguard Superintendent.

Genuine regret was felt by the Staff when the above officer severed his official connection with Hull on 23rd February, after spending a period of six years as Waterguard Superintendent at the port. During this time Mr. Johnson—who was always of a kindly, though somewhat reserved disposition—was always at the disposal of officers desirous of obtaining advice or assistance.

Mr. Cross, Collector, has kindly promised to preside at a Smoking Concert to be held on 15th March, when presentations—testifying to the esteem in which they are held—will be made to Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Cash, P.O.

Our Superintendent has been stationed at West Hartlepool, Gravesend, Liverpool, and Glasgow, in addition to Hull. Any friends desirous of associating themselves with his presentation should communicate with Mr. Cameron, Superintendent's Office, Minerva Pier, Hull, not later than 12th instant.

London (South Side) Sports Club.

SMOKING CONCERT.

The South Side Sports Club held its first smoking concert at the St. Katherine's Dock Hotel on Thursday, the 28th February, and advantage was taken of the occasion to present the President of the Club (C. E. Egan, Esq.) with a silver cigar and cigarette box suitably inscribed as a memento of his connection with the Club.

There was a splendid attendance, who thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment provided. The artistes again proved that there is exceptional talent in the London Preventive Staff. Bert Knott was well to the fore with his violin, and it would hardly be believed that Bill Standing was singing with a temperature that was more in keeping with the "flu" than choruses (best wishes for an early recovery). Bob Steel gave one of his sentimental efforts, and the light comedy relief was ably provided by Sid Bennetts, whilst A. E. Cooper also sang well. The audience greatly amused themselves with community singing, ably led by friend Standing and conducted by "Bill" Gotts. The manner in which the latter persuaded the whole company to "join in the chorus" was a revelation.

It was very encouraging to see present so many of our colleagues from the other branches of the Department. The C. & E. Sports Club was well represented by Messrs. Crozier, Mooney, Edwards, Hall, Ward, and McGrath. Mr. C. M. Woodford also came, but unfortunately had to leave at "half-time." The North Side Club was present in force, and they contributed greatly to the success of the evening.

Mr. F. C. Warne (President of the Club) was in the Chair, and he was ably supported by Mr. E. W. Jones, who, in making the presentation to Mr. Egan, called for a more intensive effort on the part of the Preventive Staff in the other branches of sport, particularly the field events. Other speeches were made by Messrs. Dudley, Clague, Merron, McGrath, Woodford, Howell, Griffiths and Evans, and it was apparent that the creation of the Sports Clubs in the London Waterguard had met a long-felt want. Mr. Egan suitably responded, and thanked all and sundry for their kindness.

The vote of thanks to the Chairman was a personal tribute to both the Superintendents that spoke volumes for the happy spirit existing throughout the whole of the Preventive Staff in London.

The officials and committee of the South Side Club are to be congratulated upon maintaining their high standard in social functions, and it is hoped that this concert will be the forerunner of many others.