

# The Customs Journal

No. 658

January 11th, 1929

Fortnightly

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

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

## THE EXAMINATION.

JANUARY 14th is a date that for some months past has figured largely in the minds of many of our colleagues. It is appropriate, therefore, that in this issue of the Journal, which is to be published on the 11th, we should address a word or two of encouragement to the 140 odd candidates at the P.O.s' examination who commence that ordeal on the 14th.

In the first place, we would like to dispel any doubt that may still exist among the A.P.O.s concerned, with reference to the record number called for this examination. The sinister individuals have not failed to whisper something about slaughter. It is surprising how gloomy some people can be, and what is more surprising is the notice that is taken of their dark hints. The facts, however, are there for any man to see, and a superficial examination of the list of candidates will show that Group "C" of the Reconstruction seniority list has been divided into two, the first half being called. The list includes all ex-service men born before Aug. 1st, 1897, and it is anticipated that the remainder of that group will be called for the next examination, when they will be of the same average age at calling up as their senior colleagues included in the list for this one.

Let no candidate at this examination have any doubt on this score. The examination is a qualifying one, and the satisfaction that will follow a record percentage of successes will be as sincere in high quarters as it will be amongst the rank and file.

Regarding the examination itself, we are aware that most candidates are being surfeited with advice of the last-minute kind that is usually more confusing than helpful. It is not our intention to cause further confusion. At the same time, however, we would like to draw attention to the one point upon which every man who has experienced the test is agreed. That is the undoubted fact that it was not half as bad as was anticipated. This unanimity is the result of the extremely fair manner in which the examination is conducted. In all respects it conforms to the ideal test of the *average*, and it is in this direction that it is essentially fair. That this standard will be maintained next week we have not the slightest doubt.

As regards the oral examination, the opinion that its terrors have been greatly overdone is amply confirmed by every man who has experienced it. Courteous treatment, reasonable questioning, and consideration for every candidate, comprise the experience of all. There is not the slightest necessity for nervousness, and where it cannot be avoided (and it is a universal handicap), every effort is made to put the individual at his ease.

Let every candidate realise, therefore, that if each and everyone reaches the standard, the Board will be delighted to promote them all, and congratulate themselves on the improved standard of the grade. As for ourselves, we wish nothing better.

## CURRENT COMMENTS.

THE temporary slowing down of activities in the Association world, due to the festive season, has now given place to an atmosphere of renewed vigour in every sphere of Staff Side work. Meetings of committees and sub-committees of all descriptions are now in full swing again. The New Year promises much in the way of strenuous times for Association workers, and it can be anticipated that when the summer vacation period arrives the relaxation will be more gladly welcomed than usual.

The bulk of the Royal Commission investigation is yet to come, and it is evident that the larger Associations are taking the Commission very seriously. This means that the smaller organisations must keep close watch upon events.

The Civil Service Clerical Association has submitted a very elaborate case to the Commission, and the written evidence is a document of more than 150 pages. Apparently the aim is to re-organise the whole Service, and, since Mr. W. J. Brown, M.P., is the prime mover, we can expect the case to be very ably handled, whether we agree with the views expressed, or not. It is understood that the scheme submitted involves other Civil Service Associations who are not disposed to accept the C.S.C.A. proposals easily. The situation is full of interest. The Royal Commission is not, judging from its personnel, likely to lapse into obscurity, and the parties chiefly interested in its investigations seem eager to ensure that it does not.

\* \* \* \*

The first section of minutes of the Royal Commission have now been published. The evidence of the Treasury and the National Staff Side is given in this document, and the price of the publication is fifteen shillings per copy.

The evidence given by Sir John Anderson, Sir Francis Floud, Sir Herbert Creedy, and Sir Evelyn Murray will be included in the next section of minutes.

\* \* \* \*

By the time this issue of the Journal appears the candidates for the Preventive Officer examination will have completed their final preparations for the great ordeal. This opportunity is taken to wish them well, and also to emphasise the fact that every candidate who attains the standard laid down will find his name on the pass list. The number called for this examination is the highest on record, and in some quarters there is a belief that a large number must necessarily fail. This belief is entirely wrong, and is one which candidates would do well to disregard.

The Customs and Excise Dinner and Dance which was held at the Criterion Restaurant, London, on the 4th January was a great success. It had been expected that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be present to propose the "Customs and Excise" toast, but his more important business at The Hague made it impossible for him to attend, and his place was taken by the Financial Secretary. Letters from Mr. Snowden were read to the company expressing his regrets at being unable to be with them. The cordiality of these letters helped to allay the disappointment that was felt at his absence.

The speech by Mr. Pethick Lawrence was most entertaining, and his cryptic references to the coming Budget caused much amusement. His toast to the Department was responded to by the Chairman of the Board. Sir Francis spoke with his usual easy fluency, and captured the hearts of everyone by the happy style in which he delivered his speech.

In referring to the various branches of the Customs and Excise, he mentioned our own branch, and he stated that the Waterguard was the most efficient Preventive Service in the world. This is a compliment which will be well appreciated by Waterguard Officers throughout the kingdom. We in the Waterguard are proud of the high reputation we have with seasoned travellers who have experienced other Customs Services abroad, and it is with much gratification we learn that the Chief of the Customs and Excise is as proud of that reputation as we are ourselves.

\* \* \* \*

It will be of great interest to many of our members that the new Pensions Act which comes into operation this month permits any established Civil Servant on a salary of less than £250 per annum to become a voluntary contributor to the Health and Pensions Insurance Scheme. Civil Servants in this category have hitherto been compulsorily insured for Widows' and Orphans' Pensions only, and there can be no doubt that the new concession will be very acceptable.

Members who desire to know how they stand with regard to the insurance scheme can obtain full particulars by writing to the Civil Service Insurance Society, 34, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

\* \* \* \*

It is understood that the method of recruitment to the Immigration Staff is now under discussion by the Home Office Whitley Council,

The P.S.A. is taking steps to ensure that the qualifications of Waterguard Officers for the performance of Immigration duties are not overlooked. In reply to a question in the House of Commons in 1919, the Home Secretary agreed that Waterguard Officers, through their close association with shipping and passenger traffic, were particularly adaptable for Immigration work.

\* \* \* \*

It is interesting to note that a new organisation, known as the Civil Service University Students' Association, has come into being. It is more interesting still to hear that members are not asked to pay subscriptions. The object of the Association is to further the interests of Civil Servants who have obtained a University degree, or the certificate of some professional body. Anyone preparing for such examinations may enrol as a member. There seems to be no intention to cut across the activities of other Civil Service Associations.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations from the Waterguard Staff are due to the Deputy Inspector-General on his having received the O.B.E. Mr. Fitzsimons has many friends throughout the Service, and there will be widespread satisfaction at the honour that has been conferred upon him.

\* \* \* \*

The letter by "Kew" appearing in the last issue of the Journal was evidently written without any knowledge of the form taken by the Association salary claim. Letters in the correspondence columns are so rare these days that one hesitates to criticise when one does appear, but with regard to "Kew's" contribution it must be said that the writer makes a sad mistake in thinking that to prosecute a salary claim is so very simple, and neither should he so readily believe that the members of the Council, the Executive Committee, and the Staff Side Whitley representatives are all so very simple. If "Kew" would study the written statement of our claim he would find that his points are well covered, and a few more as well.

### THE SMALL PORT GUIDE.

Only a few copies of the above publication remain unsold. The number available may be increased by the return from agents of unsold copies. Members of the Association who have not ordered the book, and desire a copy, are advised to do so forthwith. Applications are being received from members of other grades, and as the book will certainly be sold out very soon, the Association is anxious not to have to disappoint a member.

Orders should be sent to the undersigned at 13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3, and will be dealt with in strict order of receipt. The cost of the book is 4/- per copy post free.

J. T. SUTTON,  
Organising Secretary.

### NURSERY RHYMES.

Adjusted by "G.E.N."

No. 1.

(This is in the French metre—"Ba-Ba, mouton noir").

"Baa-Baa, Passenjah, pray what have you there?"

"Nothing, sir; nothing, sir; beyond what I declare.

"On this I'll pay duty; this I should have free."

"But this," said the A.P.O., "may cost you T.V.D."

### SMUGGLED GIN AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.

Mr. Dowland (C.P.O.) conducted a prosecution at West Hartlepool on December 27th against a Norwegian sailor for avoiding payment on ten bottles of gin. After he had made a declaration that he had nothing of a dutiable nature, the ten bottles were found by Mr. A. Coates (A.P.O.) in the sailors' fo'castle between the shell of the ship and the lining. Mr. Donovan (P.O.) was called to the spot, and in view of the method of concealment, there was no doubt that it was a deliberate attempt at smuggling. The prisoner was defended by Mr. F. W. J. Webb, who admitted the offence on behalf of his client, but said that there had been no attempt to cheat the English revenue authorities, because he had no intention of bringing the spirit into England. The gin was intended for his family and friends for Christmas. His boat had, however, been delayed.

The Mayor said that in view of his imprisonment over the holidays, they would let the offender off with a penalty of single value and duty—£5 3s. 3d.

### NEXT WEEK'S PILGRIMAGE.

I wonder how many of next week's aspirants for examination honours will look up colleagues in London. There is often the impression among the travellers that they will not be welcome, an impression that is far from the truth. Nobody is more welcome in London than colleagues from other ports on a visit, and London officers are by no means backward in wishing the candidates God-speed at the examination and a record percentage of passes.

### YOU KNEW IT.

I suppose all my readers recognised the answer to last week's riddle. The two Americans were, of course, man and wife.

## 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*

### ABERDEEN.

A meeting of the District will be held on Tuesday, 11th February, 1930, at Aberdeen, for the election of District Officers and any other competent business.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO JANUARY 6th, 1930.

### TRANSFERS.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 1ST CLASS :—  
Moss, J., Newcastle to Cardiff.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 2ND CLASS :—  
Creighton, H., Unattached, Office of I.G.W. to Leith.

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

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—  
Aynsley, J. R., Erith, London, to London.  
Bishop, W. W., Holyhead, Chester, to London.  
Robinson, G. S., Southampton to Portsmouth.  
Trewavas, J. H., North Shields, Newcastle, to Southampton.

### PROMOTIONS.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 2ND CLASS TO 1ST CLASS :—  
McDiarmid, G., Leith to Newcastle.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UPPER SECTION, TO ASSISTANT INSPECTOR (UNATTACHED) :—  
Shearman, W. P., Gravesend, London, to Office of I.G.W.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION TO UPPER SECTION :—  
Johnson, W. H., Plymouth to Gravesend, London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION (UNATTACHED) :—  
Finley, W. H., Exmouth, Plymouth, to Office of I.G.W.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Graham, J. W., Newcastle to North Shields, Newcastle.

Potter, A. P., Liverpool to Manchester.

Shoulders, H. W., Harwich, Ipswich, to Holyhead, Chester.

Weller, G. H., Lowestoft, Norwich, to Workington, Preston.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS—PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Gosling, W. H., London.

Osborne, E. J., Portsmouth.

### OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—  
Wandless, H.

### VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—  
\*Exmouth, Plymouth.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—  
Merhil, Dundee.

\* An allowance of £25 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., is assigned.

## Seizure at Hull.

At the Hull City Police Court on the 31st ult., a fireman, belonging to the S.S. "Teano" from Malmo, was charged with concealing 9½ lb. Cav. Tobacco, 31½ lbs. o.s. Tobacco, and 1 3/16 lbs. of Cigars (o.s.). Mr. J. Keiran, C.P.O., represented the department and sued for £100 penalty. The offender was convicted and fined £40, or two months' imprisonment.

The goods were discovered by Messrs. Every and Oliver, A.P.O.s, lying on doubling plates in the main bunker. These plates are erected as an extra support for the deck of the 'tween-deck bunker. The greatest difficulty was experienced by the officers concerned in reaching the goods, and it was only after Mr. Oliver had been lowered down a trimming hatch several times that the goods were finally secured.

The Bench complimented the officers on their smart capture, and added that their search must have been very thorough.

The rmmaging crew was under the supervision of Mr. C. H. Rowett, P.O.

### C. & E. Departmental Council.

The 112th meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on 18th December, 1929, the Chair being taken by Sir F. L. C. Floud, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

#### ALLOWANCES.

The question of travelling and subsistence expenses of officers summoned for interview in connection with vacancies abroad was re-adjourned, the Official Side indicating that a definite proposal might be available at the next meeting.

It was agreed to increase to £20 a year, as from 1st September, 1929, the allowance for service as a Deputy Superintendent of Mercantile Marine at Falmouth.

#### LEAVE.

Further discussions were held on the following matters:—

- (a) Special leave for marriage or bereavement.
- (b) Travelling expenses on return from non-minuted leave to attend court proceedings.
- (c) Summer leave periods available to staffs of Collectors' Offices.

Subjects (a) and (b) were advanced towards settlement; subject (c) was adjourned *sine die*, the Official Side stating that the question had been carefully examined in relation to the whole country, but that a rigid agreement appeared to be impossible of attainment. Every endeavour would be made to avoid restricting leave.

#### PROMOTION.

Official Side proposals having been recently tabled providing for the Departmental Clerical Class in regard to (a) Reporting Officers, and (b) Panel of Promotion Board, the subject was adjourned to permit adequate examination by the Staff Side.

#### REDUNDANCY.

With regard to the Junior Clerical Grade at Headquarters, agreement was recorded as follows:—

Each Headquarters Office, viz., the Accountant-General's Office, the Statistical Office, and the Secretaries' Office Group, will be treated as a unit when redundancy arises in the Junior Clerical Grade.

In such cases the redundancy will, as far as possible, be met by—

- (a) the transfer of volunteers to advertised vacancies, or
- (b) the compulsory transfer of the most junior officers, if an insufficient number of volunteers is forthcoming.

In the event of redundancy arising simultaneously in more than one office, the same rules will apply, all the offices concerned being dealt with as a single unit, and the joint seniority list being used to determine redundancy.

These rules, however, will not apply in the following circumstances:—

- (1) Where blocks of work are transferred from one office to another, and the Board deem it necessary to transfer the officers actually employed on the work concerned;
- (2) In special cases, where, for example, advanced age is a barrier to absorption; and
- (3) Where transfers to other Departments are involved, in which case it may not always be possible to proceed on a volunteer basis, or to accept the officers in all cases who volunteer for transfer.

#### CHECKING.

It was agreed to accept the draft instructions, subject to their amendment so as to make clear (a) that other grades of the Departmental Clerical Class besides the basic might be employed on checking duties, (b) that Unattached Officers might be so employed, provided that they had completed their period of instruction and without any other qualifying period of service, and (c) that no qualifying period of service need be laid down in the case of the Departmental Clerical Class.

The concurrence of the Staff Side in this matter was subject to their general disagreement regarding the employment of Departmental Clerical Officers on checking duties.

#### "ACTING" DUTIES.

The question of "acting" for absent Higher Clerical Officers was again discussed and adjourned.

#### OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

The Staff Side having now received the Official Side's provisional proposals on various aspects of this general question, a small Special Committee was appointed to proceed with the matter.

#### SUPPLIES.

The Council recorded an agreement covering the issue of General Orders and Instructions to the Departmental Clerical Class. Details will be given by General Order.

It was also agreed that electric torches of the type now supplied to Established Waterguard Officers be issued to all Coast Preventive Men.

#### WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

The arrangements for the work in this connection were referred for informal discussion after the meeting, all the Staff interests concerned being represented.

#### OTHER MATTERS.

The Council received and noted a schedule of suggestions considered by the Suggestions Committee and reported to the Board.

A number of decisions advised by Sectional, Grade, Office and Local Committees were considered by the Council, with results that have been communicated to the Committees concerned.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 29th January, 1930.

## BY THE WAY.

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1930.

Whatever this New Year holds for us during its twelve months of existence, we commence it in a happy manner with a couple of bouquets. Although self-praise seldom recommends, it is not altogether unknown, and I am tempted to place each of the bouquets in the window, not for exhibition, but in order that they may catch the rays of the sun as it draws its arc across the sky.

On one side I shall place a cutting from an article by Mark Hambourg, "Have you anything to declare?" which, although appearing in the November "London Magazine," was read by me on January 1st, and reads:—"Therefore I must remark that for courtesy, patience and sympathy in what must often be irksome work, I have not found any better fellows to deal with than the British Customs officials. They are almost uniformly kind, amiable and helpful, and when they say 'Have you anything to declare?' it is spoken as a harmless, friendly warning, rather than as an aggressive challenge to one's honesty and morality."

On the other side will be found the very kind tribute paid us at the C. & E. Dinner in London last Saturday, and which is reported elsewhere in this issue. The Preventive Staff will be happy indeed to hear these words from the Chairman of the Honorable Board, especially as I am sure that he is not unmindful of the great volume and range of work which, apart from that which comes immediately within the public vision, is performed quietly and unobtrusively, with precisely the same amount of zeal and efficiency in all large and small ports, and in many a little-known creek round our coasts.

I hope I may be forgiven for having mentioned these things. I will not enlarge on them, but my New Year's wish to the Preventive Staff is that, with careful and patient tending, our bouquets may remain fresh and fragrant until another year has been lived.

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### THE SMALL PORT GUIDE.

If there was one thing that was urgently needed among members of the Preventive Staff, and that for many years past, it was something in the nature of a guide to those officers who came to be stationed in small ports where so many additional duties fall to be performed. It is a sign of the progress of the Waterguard that this book, *The Small Port Guide*, should be produced by one of the Staff, and that its pure

intention is that of assisting the author's colleagues who will in the future be called upon to carry out similar duties in the smaller places round the coast. Thomson was not slow to recognise, on his transfer to a small port, the difficulties that can easily beset a new arrival, especially if that new arrival has spent all his previous service in one of the larger ports of the kingdom. None knew better than he that however useful the experience of two or three weeks in a long room may be, some sort of a text book, co-ordinating most of the important points of small port work, was urgently necessary to fortify that experience if the small port officer should get over with the minimum of difficulty the early period of his small port experience. I have heard nothing but praise of the book from all quarters, praise that is richly deserved. The author must be gratified to know that there are very few copies of the book left for disposal.

P.A.R.

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## Newport, Mon.

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### SOCIAL EVENING AND PRESENTATION.

A very well attended social evening was enjoyed at Richard's Restaurant, Newport, on Saturday, December 21st. The Collector, Mr. Dawson, presided, and introduced the new Assistant Collector, Mr. Rogers, successor to Mr. Gunn, who has been recently appointed to Sheffield.

As a token of the staff's esteem and appreciation, Mr. Gunn was presented with a gold watch, and his wife with a handbag. Messrs. Dawson, Grace, Ryan, Howells, Morgan and Owens, and Miss Kerr, all spoke with sincere regret at the departure of Mr. Gunn from the Collection, and wished him every success in his new sphere.

An extremely pleasant evening followed. Messrs. Rogers and Harding at the piano were very well enjoyed, and a good reception was accorded to the vocalists, Mrs. Stacey, Miss Kerr, and Messrs. Gumble, Griffiths, and Harding.

The prizes for a "Town's Names" guessing competition, which was the source of endless amusement, were presented by the Collector, after which a very happy evening came to a close with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Dawson.

## The C. & E. Annual Dinner in London.

The scene of the fourth annual dinner and dance on January 4th was the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, and Mr. P. P. Lee presided over a gathering of nearly four hundred guests. Among those present were Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. It had been expected that Mr. and Mrs. Philip Snowden would attend, but an important conference at The Hague had rendered this impossible. A letter had been received from Mr. Snowden's Secretary regretting the Chancellor's unavoidable absence, and conveying his best wishes.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodford, Mr. and Mrs. Warne, and a number of other members of the Preventive Staff were among the guests.

In proposing the toast of the Customs and Excise Department, Mr. Pethick Lawrence remarked that although it was only the fourth occasion on which the Department had met at such a function, he hoped it was only the beginning of a long line of successful gatherings. He made appreciative reference to the assistance rendered by the Department to successive Governments. "Members may come and members may go," he said, "but the Customs goes on for ever." The Customs Officer is a man of great antiquity, and it was almost possible to say that before Treasury Ministers were, the Customs Officer is. He recalled the fact that the Excise nurtured the distinguished man who is the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-day.

Sir Francis Floud thanked the Financial Secretary for the happy and eloquent manner in which he had proposed the toast, and assured him that his presence was very much appreciated. We were also pleased to have with us Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, whose name is always received with honour. Sir Francis had had a letter from Mr. Snowden in which he greatly regretted his absence, and said he had been looking forward to meeting his colleagues and expressing his high appreciation of their work. He was disappointed, and hoped that on another occasion he would be able to be with us, a sentiment which was endorsed by the company present. Sir Francis evidently appreciates the work of the Preventive Staff, for in referring to the different sections of the C. & E. Department, he touched on the work of those who came into immediate touch with the travelling public, whose constant task it is to assess duty on the spot on something or other with a lace collar or a silk lining, or some article that may be liable to the duty on musical instruments. He ventured to say that we possess the most efficient Preventive Service in the world. The members of this service are continually meeting angry travellers, and, in pacifying them, carry out their work with credit.

Between the speeches several songs were rendered by Mr. Caredeg Jones, and Mr. Joe Pearson delighted the company with humorous items.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a most delightful dance, in which "Paul Jones" took a hand in sorting out partners.

A good deal of credit is due to those who were responsible for the arrangements.

## 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 SMALL PORT GUIDE.

Sir,—As an officer who has not had any small port experience, but who is always liable to be called to relieve at one of these ports, I would like to express my appreciation to the author, and to the Association, for the splendid book that has recently been published.

Apart from the relief that it has given to many who were similarly placed to myself, and who need worry no longer, the book enables the whole range of duties that are peculiar to small ports to be studied at one's leisure, and I have not failed to take advantage of the tremendous labour that it has undoubtedly meant to the author.

He has done well for his colleagues, and what a fine Service ours would be if we could all claim that.

Yours, etc.,  
DATAS.

## Customs Journal

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of the Associations,

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The Secretary, Mr. P. SPEAR,

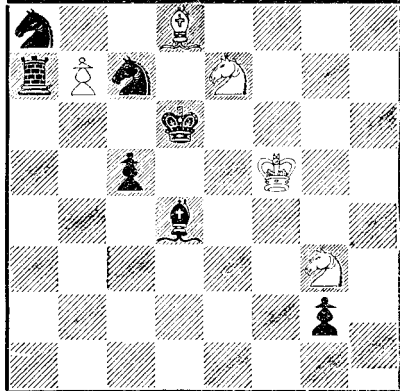
101 Upton Park Road,

Forest Gate, London, E.7

## SPORT AND SOCIAL.

### Customs Waterguard Chess Club.

\*PROBLEM NO. 45 by Albert Belasco.



White mate in two.

\*This problem is of interest to ALL players.

#### Solution to No. 44.

1. R—R6. 1. P×R. 2. P—Kt7, if 1. ... B moves.  
2. R×RP.

**Change of Address.**—Hon Sec. (temporarily), 22, Temple Street, St. George's Road, London, S.E.11.

"War is a series of mistakes, and the best General is he who makes fewest," said the Duke of Wellington. So it is with Chess. No player can ever become infallible.

### THE LAWS OF CHESS.

#### The Game of Chess.

1. The game of Chess is played upon a board by two persons moving alternately.

#### The Board.

2. The board is a square divided into 64 squares of equal size, coloured alternately light and dark, and is placed between the Player and opponent so that the corner square to the right hand is light coloured.

3. If before four moves have been made on each side it is found that the Board has been placed incorrectly, it shall be adjusted and the game recommenced; otherwise the game shall be played out on the Board as it stands (see also Law 6).

#### The Men.

4. The Men consist of eight "Pieces"—a King, a Queen, two Rooks (sometimes called Castles), two Bishops, and two Knights—and eight "Pawns" for each Player; one set being of a light colour called "White" and the other set of a dark colour called "Black."

5. At the commencement the men should be placed upon the Board in the following positions:—White at one side and Black at the other. A Rook in each corner square, the right-hand rook on a white square; next each rook, a Knight; next each Knight, a Bishop; Queen on the square remaining which is her own colour, i.e., White Queen on white square, Black Queen on black square, King on remaining square. These are placed in a row left to right, white player having white pieces nearest to him, black player having black pieces on the row nearest to him. On the row in front of these pieces stand the Pawns, white with white pieces, etc.

In diagrams the pieces are represented thus:—A crown for the King, a spiked crown (or coronet) for the Queen, a mitre for the Bishop, a horse's head for the Knight, and a castle for the rook. The pawns will be obvious.

(To be continued.)

### Annual Civil Service Dinner.

The date of the annual dinner of the Civil Service has been announced as Friday, Feb. 14th, 1930, at 7, for 7.30 p.m.

Sir Warren Fisher, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., Secretary to the Treasury, will preside.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, K.G., G.C.V.O., has graciously consented to be present.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and other members of His Majesty's Government have accepted the invitation of the Service.

Tickets are 12/6 each, exclusive of wines, etc.

Application on the prescribed form, accompanied by remittance in full, should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Civil Service Dinner Committee, Room 208, Treasury Chambers, S.W.1, not later than January 31st. Priority of application will be considered in the allocation of seats. Each applicant may also apply for a ticket for one guest. In case of a party, all the applications must be sent together and a plan of the seating desired should be attached.

### Presentation at Lowestoft.

At the Custom House, Lowestoft, on December 18th, Mr. G. H. Weller was presented with a barometer, suitably inscribed, on the occasion of his promotion to the position of Preventive Officer-in-Charge at Workington. Mr. J. R. Fuller (Surveyor), in the absence of Mr. J. Dignedan (C.P.O.), presided over a gathering of Mr. Weller's colleagues at Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and in felicitous speeches Messrs. Fuller, Sainty, Durrant, Holmes, Tomlins and Kiddell, for the various grades, and Mr. F. Barcham for the Harbour Authority, testified to the esteem in which Mr. Weller was held in the district, and all wished him success in his new sphere. Mr. Weller thanked the gathering for their good wishes and handsome present, and expressed his regret at leaving them after eight happy years among them.