

# The Customs Journal

No. 682

December 13th, 1930

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*

## INQUIRY

ONE of the things that have puzzled the Preventive Staff for several years is that the authorities have not deemed it wise to set up a special staff of officers trained in the art of detection, for the purpose of investigating circumstances, where it is alleged that smuggling practises are rampant. So much has been said in the Press on this subject of smuggling that some notice must be taken of it. But, the only way to satisfactorily clear up these cases, even though most of them are pure invention, is by expert handling by an experienced staff. It is certainly in the public interest that attempts at smuggling should be prevented, but it is equally essential that the Customs and Excise Department be in a position to say confidently when these sensational allegations are unfounded.

We think it can be said, without reflection on the present Inquiry Staff, that there is every reason for establishing a special detective staff recruited from the Preventive Service, under the direct control of the Inspector-General. This would be a staff particularly expert in purely Customs work, but, from their training, capable of all work in connection with detecting any fraud upon the revenue.

No one of experience will deny that there is no other place than the Preventive Service for attaining the necessary knowledge and training for this kind of work. The young probationer from his first day of duty is thrown amongst members of the travelling public of all grades of society—seafarers, commercial travellers, and holiday-makers. He begins with a vague idea of things but it is not long before he becomes acquainted with the frailties of human nature. He understands from a psychological point of view the

kind of subterfuge likely to be adopted by persons who desire to bluff the Customs. He learns as a child learns to talk, and eventually develops a special sense which enables him almost automatically to detect irregularities. Not infrequently the lay observer has asked, "What made you take that action?" in cases where a smuggler has been bowled out. And, in many cases the officer himself cannot explain. He has acted as an individual trained in the detection of smuggling, and it is second nature to him.

We repeat that there is only one department where training of this kind can be obtained, and that is in the Preventive Service. Sooner or later this truth will be realised, and the Preventive Staff Association policy of advocating an Inquiry Staff for Customs purposes, recruited from the Preventive Service, will come to fruition.

For some time to come there will be many objections to the creation of such a staff. It will be said for instance that members of the Preventive Staff otherwise suitable for this kind of work would be lacking in education. That, of course, is an old-fashioned idea, and it would be interesting to hear the opinions of our members in this respect. If members of the Preventive Staff fully realised that they were thus dubbed, it is probable that the correspondence columns of the Journal would be overloaded.

Another possible objection to the employment of the Preventive Staff on special inquiry work is that owing to their low rate of pay, they would have difficulty in carrying out their duties without substantial financial assistance. It is certain, however, any expenditure by the department in this way would be well repaid.

## CURRENT COMMENTS.

BY the time these notes appear all Districts will have been informed by Circular from Headquarters of a new and important development in connection with our case for arbitration. The Official Side have proposed a reorganisation of the Waterguard supervising grades. The question has been referred to the Waterguard Sectional Committee and a definite scheme is ready for discussion. At the moment of writing, the full details are not available, and if they were, it would not be possible to discuss them here. It can be said, however, that the scheme if it comes into effect will make revolutionary changes in the higher grades.

\* \* \* \*

One important effect of this new move will be delay in getting our salary claim to the Arbitration Court. Until the new proposals are disposed of, either by agreement or by disagreement, it will be difficult to secure terms of reference for the Court. It is very improbable that the strength of our case for increased pay for the Preventive Officers and Assistants will be impaired. If the proposed changes came into operation, it would be necessary, however, to make some minor modifications in the written statement of the case. The chief arguments would remain unaffected.

\* \* \* \*

An early meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee is being arranged, and in the meantime informal discussions are taking place between the Preventive Staff Association, the Chief Preventive Officers, and the Waterguard Superintendents.

Endeavour is being made to hold a meeting of the Executive Committee this month, but in any case the Committee will meet very shortly. They will have a very difficult problem to grapple with, and the sooner it is tackled the better. Before the meeting takes place it will be necessary for the members of the Council to examine the new proposals and to indicate their views for the guidance of the Executive.

District Secretaries have been asked to arrange local meetings forthwith, so that Councillors may attend to hear the opinions of their constituents in time to communicate with Association Headquarters before the Executive meeting.

A sufficient number of circulars have been sent to District Secretaries to enable copies to be supplied to officers at isolated places and who cannot attend meetings in the large ports.

A joint meeting of the Uniform Sub-Committee took place on Tuesday, 2nd December. Amongst the several items dealt with was the question of the period of wear for mackintoshes. The complaint as regards the dye of these garments was gone into, and there seems every possibility that this will be put right. As to the wearing qualities of the mackintoshes, the Official Side are seeking additional evidence from various districts before proceeding with the discussions.

This Sub-Committee has done excellent work in the past owing to a good co-operative spirit between the Official and Staff Sides. At the recent meeting the same spirit prevailed, and it can be expected that the small crop of minor matters that has now arisen will be dealt with as successfully as were the major issues some little time ago.

\* \* \* \*

The Sub-Committee of the Departmental Council, set up to examine the complaints of bad housing accommodation suffered by members of the Department stationed at places in the north of Scotland, held its first joint meeting on Friday, 5th December. The troubles of officials who have been transferred to this part of the kingdom were described by the Staff Side. Several distressing cases of bad housing accommodation were mentioned. The Officer Grade, Clerical Grades, and the C.P.M. Grade are chiefly concerned. So far, there have been no complaints from members of the Preventive Staff. Any of our members desiring representations to be made in this matter should notify the Association now.

\* \* \* \*

At the half-yearly Council meeting of the Civil Service Confederation, there was much discussion on the question of deputies for Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side. The Civil Service Clerical Association moved that in the unavoidable absence from the National Staff Side of an elected representative, the Association to which that representative belongs shall appoint the deputy.

Hitherto, vacancies in this way have been filled from "runners-up" in the elections for the National Staff Side, and thus the Confederation, as a whole, could control the selection of all representatives.

The object of the resolution was to modify Confederation control and to delegate more power to individual Associations in respect to National Staff Side representation.

So long as the Confederation constitution remains as it is, this resolution must be wrong in principle. The members at the meeting were evidently impressed with this fact, with the result that the motion was heavily defeated on a show of hands. On a card vote being demanded, however, the motion was finally carried.

\* \* \* \*

There has been a slight rise in the cost-of-living figure. At October 1st, it was 56, whereas for November, it is 57. The figure for November last year was 67.

\* \* \* \*

As this is the last issue of the Journal before the 25th, the opportunity is taken to wish all our members a very happy Christmas.

**Preventive Staff Association**

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*President : W. G. Thomson*  
*General Secretary : J. Merron*  
*Organising Secretary : J. T. Sutton*  
*Assistant Secretary : W. H. Powell*

**Changes in the Staff.**

To DECEMBER 8th, 1930.

TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, Lower Section—  
Purser, C. R., Unattached, Office of I.G.W.,  
to Port Talbot, Swansea.  
Seavell, E. H., Port Talbot, Swansea to  
Bristol.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

DEATH—ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER—  
Alford, J. F., Teignmouth, Plymouth.

VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER—  
Southampton 21.1.1931.  
ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS—  
Grangemouth, Edinburgh, 1.1.1931.  
Holyhead, Chester, 1.12.1930.

**Presentations.**

**Mr. C. W. J. MORGAN.**

During the interval of a most enjoyable whist drive at Reynold's Lounge, Newport (Mon.), on November 29th, the opportunity was taken to present Mr. C. W. J. Morgan with a handsome clock to mark the occasion of his promotion to the grade of Chief Preventive Officer. The presentation was made by Mr. J. W. Dawson (Collector), who expressed the pleasure which he, and the Newport staff generally, felt at Mr. Morgan's success. Messrs. Rolls, Cattell, Owens and Payne spoke in support.

In his response, Mr. Morgan said that he was proud to feel that in leaving Newport he carried with him the good wishes of the staff, and thanked his colleagues sincerely for the handsome present and for the good will which prompted it. He also referred to the great personal interest which the Collectors take in their staff.

**Mr. G. E. N. GRIFFITHS.**

At the Victoria Hotel, Newport (Mon.), on November 22nd, Mr. G. E. N. Griffiths (P.O.), was presented with a clock on the occasion of his transfer to Folkestone. A good attendance was eloquent of the popularity enjoyed by Mr. Griffiths.

The presentation was made by Mr. A. H. Rolls (C.P.O.), who said that, although he had known Mr. Griffiths for only a few weeks, it was evident that he was held in high esteem by his colleagues and friends at Newport. Messrs. Duncan, Reece, O'Brien, Morgan and others who supported, wished Mr. Griffiths every success in his new port, and spoke of their regret at his departure, which broke a long and happy association with them. Mr. Griffiths suitably responded.

Mr. Harding, without whom no Customs function at Newport can hope to be complete, presided at the piano, and the remainder of the evening was spent in happy and harmonious union.

**Mr. T. W. JONES.**

On Thursday, November 27th, the Waterguard staff at West Hartlepool met to make a presentation to Mr. T. W. Jones (P.O.), who had retired from the Service earlier in the month after a period of 38 years, many of which had been spent among those present. The gathering was presided over by Mr. P. G. Donovan (P.O.), and after he and a number of those present had spoken of their association with their guest, Mr. R. Connor (C.P.O.), addressed Mr. Jones in a well chosen speech, and asked him to accept a gift as a token of the good wishes of his old colleagues. The gift took the shape of an eight-day lever clock in an oak case, together with a briar pipe. Mr. Jones suitably replied.

## The Promotion Problem.

By "PLOUGHMAN."

The coming promotion crisis threatens to overshadow all Association activities in the near future; that is, if we are to accept the statements of our friend "Marcus," who appears to be a well-informed student of Waterguard affairs. If examined in detail, perhaps the position would not be quite so black as he depicts it, yet there is no gainsaying that promotion on a qualifying basis is gradually leading to a promotion block. I make bold to say, however, that his remedy, competitive examination, will not appeal to the majority of the staff, particularly to those people now facing this patch of depression.

At the moment we are being treated to the great spectacle of over 70 per cent. of the candidates qualifying at the P.O.s' examination, and nearly 50 per cent. succeeding at the C.P.O.s' examination, thereby spoiling the great game of skittles for the remainder. But turning to another correspondent, "W.M.S.," I find a suggestion in his article that will shortly become an accomplished fact, namely, that A.P.O.s should endeavour to obtain 100 per cent. successes at the P.O.s examination, and he suggests that when this happens the scope of the department's activities will be extended. I agree that this idea has possibilities in a couple of directions, and is a solution to the problem that would be welcomed by all, but our prospects of achieving this end are very remote, and we should be ill advised to let the future take care of itself.

To take up a new line of argument, I suggest, in the first place, that the subject of promotion cannot be treated as a whole, and that the P.O.s' and C.P.O.s' examinations are vastly different propositions. The one examination calls simply for an extensive knowledge of the regulations and the ability to apply them, which is within the bounds of every A.P.O., and which the near future will shew to be possible. But the C.P.O.s' examination calls not only for these qualifications, but for something far different that cannot be had by the routine of learning from books of instruction. Supervisory work in this or any other department demands a stringent examination, in order to promote only those men who, in addition to their knowledge of regulations, possess the ability to control staff and large blocks of work.

Under this heading, one can never visualise the likelihood of 100 per cent. successes at any examination, although it is quite feasible that one batch of candidates may be better than another, as the recent examination has shewn. The present system is fair, in that every man who is capable

of a C.P.O.ship attains that position, though promotion to a higher grade; but, examined closely, there are long-suffering aspirants. Competitive examination would, on the other hand, redress the ratio with regard to staff strength, but would have the effect of an unfair repercussion on the men who, although they attained the standard of efficiency now demanded, could not be promoted owing to the limited number of vacancies. Thus, each system has its disadvantages, and support of one or the other depends on a "shining light," or "steady plodder" temperament. The general service rule for promotion to similar posts is by competitive examination, and, despite the cut-throat method involved, it does, at least, give every man the opportunity of competing for promotion within a reasonable time.

At first glance, the A.P.O.s' problem appears identical with that of the P.O.s, *i.e.*, method of promotion to a higher grade; but examined closely, this is not the case. Whereas a supervisory post demands certain natural ability, which all men do not possess, the work of a Preventive Officer is purely executive, and requires but a deep knowledge of regulations, which all A.P.O.s can possess by applying their energy to the codes. In addition to that, they have now the advantage of organised study under the V.E.S., the type of entrant is improving rapidly with the open examination, and, generally, there is a keener spirit abroad to study regulations.

All these factors are gradually bringing us to the 100 per cent. success stage at the P.O.s' examination, and, as in the other case, we must consider the best means of staving off any block in promotion.

How can we achieve this? By competitive examination or by an extension of the department? The latter solution does not rest with us. It is in the lap of the gods, and will remain there for some considerable time. For the former, there is no justification whatever, unless we desire to see the position entirely reversed at a future examination, when the candidates would all qualify under the present system, but over 70 per cent. fail on the competitive basis.

Therefore, it would be unfair to introduce this method into an examination, of which the primary object is not to discover those men of exceptional ability for supervisory work, but to safeguard the department against A.P.O.s who have taken insufficient interest in their duties attaining to responsible posts.

Being satisfied that competitive examination is not desirable for the P.O. examination by no means solves the promotion problem confronting A.P.O.s to-day, and I propose to deal with this in another contribution. For the moment, I am content to say that the two examinations cannot be considered on the same basis, and need tackling on different lines.

## Civil Service Confederation.

### HALF-YEARLY COUNCIL MEETING.

The Twenty-first (Half-Yearly) Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation, was held on Friday, 28th November, 1930, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. George Chase (President) presided over an attendance of 61 representatives of 32 constituent organisations, in addition to the Officers and other members of the Executive Committee.

The Half-Yearly Secretarial Report, the Honorary Treasurer's Financial Statement for the Half Year ended 30th September, 1930, and the Half-Yearly Report on Publicity work, were presented and adopted.

On the subject of sick leave for unestablished classes, it was reported that deputations from the Confederation had attended at the British Museum and the Office of Works and presented the case for the extension of sick leave privileges to certain unestablished classes in these Departments. Arrangements had also been made for a deputation to the War Office.

A statement was made, followed by some discussion, on the subject of the Award recently given by the Industrial Court on the subject of Increases on Promotion, and it was reported that the question of the immediate application of the Award to those classes on whose behalf the original claim was presented to the Court was in the hands of the Associations primarily concerned, as was also the question of the extension of the Award to Departmental Clerical Classes.

The question of the extension of the underlying principle of the Award to further classes was under active consideration by the General Purposes Committee of the National Staff Side. Under these circumstances departmental action was deprecated, it being suggested that associations would do well to refrain from departmental action pending the result of the national action being taken by the Staff Side.

Appreciation was expressed of the successful efforts of the two constituent organisations of the Confederation, the Society of Civil Servants and the Civil Service Clerical Association, who had taken the case to the Industrial Court, and of the services the General Secretaries of these two bodies in presenting the case to the Court.

The Report on Publicity Work dealt primarily with the action taken to counter criticisms in the Press and Parliament of the cost and numbers of the Civil Service, and in this connection appreciation was expressed of the Parliamentary

activities on behalf of the Civil Service of Mr. W. J. Brown, M.P.

Arising out of a resolution tabled by the Civil Service Clerical Association, considerable discussion took place on the subject of the procedure for the appointment of deputies for Confederation representatives on the National Staff Side in the event of the absence of a representative from a meeting of the National Staff Side or National Whitley Council. The resolution was finally adopted on a card vote by 207 to 226, in the following terms:—

"That where a Confederation Representative on the National Whitley Council is unable for any reason to attend meetings of the National Council, or the Staff Side of the National Council, the group of which he was the nominee shall be entitled to appoint a deputy, subject to the proviso that in the case of a woman Representative, the deputy shall also be a woman."

This resolution varies the practice hitherto adopted by which the highest non-elected candidates for the National Whitley Council at the election held at the Annual Council Meeting of the Confederation in May each year had been called upon to attend as deputies.

It was reported that a successful conclusion had been reached with the negotiations which had been proceeding with the War Office for a considerable period on the subject of the claim put forward on behalf of Viewers employed in the Army Clothing Department at Pimlico, in membership of the Stores and Clothing Inspection Department Viewers' Association, the settlement arrived at being on the basis of the transfer of 7/- bonus to basic pay, and an increase of 2/- per week on the basic maximum of the grade.

## Obituary.

### Mr. J. JOHNSTONE.

News has just reached us of the passing of Mr. J. Johnstone, of Grangemouth, for several years A.P.O.-Councillor for Scotland. We understand that death followed an operation for appendicitis, which was performed ten days previously.

On behalf of members of the Council and many others who knew and admired his very fine character, we offer our deepest sympathy to the late Mr. Johnstone's relatives, and mourn with them the loss of one we have learned to regard with affection.

## The Coming Promotion Crisis.

By "GEN."

In diagnosing a complaint, the primary step is to seek the cause. "Marcus" calls such a step "silly non-sense." If he can convince us that the adoption of his suggested strictly competitive scheme would not be likely considerably to benefit his prospects, I am prepared to withdraw. Regarding personalities, he goes a step farther than myself. The innuendo is always more deadly than the direct accusation. In this case, however, his "dog-in-the-manger" reference proves to be a damp squib. It may interest him to know that I have not yet exhausted the FIRST of my two opportunities to qualify for promotion to the next grade. I do not know who "Marcus" is, but apparently he knows "Gen"—or thinks he does!

Frankly, "Marcus" has proved rather disappointing. I hoped for something more pungent and satisfying from his second effort. Unable to produce fresh arguments, he gives us a re-hash of his original article with a trifle of "sob stuff" thrown in. He makes no comment on my suggestion of a plebiscite, possibly because he is convinced that he knows what is good for us better than we do ourselves.

I want "Marcus" to understand that it is not "silly nonsense" to endeavour to get at the reason why a writer wishes to foist what he declares to be a sovereign remedy for a complaint, real or imaginary, upon our Service. An alleged remedy, moreover, which those of us who have considered the question at length know to be not even a palliative, but a quack nostrum which, ultimately, would only aggravate the complaint. At the rate of 8 P.O.s called for each C.P.O. vacancy, we can almost visualise ourselves in the happy position of having A.P.O.s called to sit for C.P.O. before they have passed for P.O., all their seniors having been disposed of by "Marcus's" Miraculous Method.

Again, experience does not shew us that strict competition gives us the best men. Even the present less drastic method does not truly reflect the capabilities of the candidates. Can anyone refuse to admit that the last examination for

C.P.O. failed to give us all the best men and to keep out all the less able?

I should have welcomed my old friend "W.M.S.," the Winston of the Waterguard, into the arena had he remained on the ground like "Marcus" and myself. We thought we were discussing a matter of moment and seeking a solution. "W.M.S." comes floating along and tells us we are wasting time. We should look farther ahead and think imperially. He then soars aloft like a moth (aeroplane, not insect), into the realms of fancy and sees stretched out before him that Utopia where the Customs and Excise Department has but one door through which entrance may be obtained, and on that door, blue in colour, is painted, in letters of gold, the word WATERGUARD. A wonderful dream; but, nevertheless, a dream. And there are men in other branches of the C. and E. Department who will make it their business to see that it remains a dream. No, "W.M.S.," it is waste of effort to use a sledgehammer to drive home a tin-tack. Come back to earth and tell us how you reconcile your statement in the first paragraph of your article—"that the insistence of seniority promotion, instead of promotion by merit, is to advocate a retrograde step," with your statement further down the page "that the aim of the grade should be to shew 100 per cent. passes at each exam."

Apparently we have on foot a high-brow movement where the welfare of the average member is to be sacrificed to the ambition of the favoured few. Now is the time to squash this movement, and it is up to the average member to insist at his local and district meetings that no fantastic scheme on the lines of "Marcus's" suggestion is thrust upon him.

No personal motive whatever prompts me in carrying on this discussion, but simply a desire to stimulate interest and, by example, to persuade others to express their views—whether favourable to mine or otherwise is immaterial—in our journal.

## 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 COMING PROMOTION CRISIS.

Sir,—I have read with interest the letters of "Marcus," "Gen.," and "W.M.S.," regarding the coming promotion crisis, and must say that I am surprised that more letters have not been seen in the Journal concerning this important matter. Truly, the apathy of the younger generation of both P.O.s and A.P.O.s is pathetic. I cannot understand members not taking up the present controversy to eliminate, as fairly as possible, the handicap and injustice under which they are labouring, and will continue to labour as long as the present promotion schemes are in operation.

Everyone must agree that, in the main, "Marcus" is correct in his assertions, and that all passes over 2/1 and 8/1 in A.P.O. and P.O. examinations are depriving the younger members of the respective grades of part of their chance of promotion, and delaying their chance for a considerable number of years.

I would like to know if the members of the P.S.A. are in favour of the change in the promotion schemes, and this can only be shown by a referendum taken on this point by the Association itself.

I notice that neither "Marcus" nor "Gen." advance any concrete forms of reformation from the present unfair system. This destructive criticism will not help, but will only hinder, and will lead us into the slough of despond, and on the whole, will make for a totally dissatisfied staff.

The ideal remedy is proposed by "W.M.S.," but I fear it will be some considerable time before his solution will be a *fait accompli*. Other grades in H.M.C. and E. are very jealous of holding their own and I think that that bye-pass will not relieve our present congestion. One way out of the difficulty would be a higher qualification stan-

dard—say 80 per cent. instead of 66 2/3 per cent. Another would be stricter marking of the examination papers, but I do not think either of these would be satisfactory as the staff would not be cognisant with the details of the marking, etc., and this would only cause further confusion and dissatisfaction. A further scheme, however, I append below.

That every A.P.O., when reaching the age of 30, with a minimum of 10 years' service, should be allowed to sit for the examination following his 30th birthday, or tenth anniversary of his date of entrance. The number of attempts would be unlimited, the first two only, however, being at the Crown's expense as at present. This would give every A.P.O. over thirty, whether failed or not, a fair chance of promotion.

The P.O. could have, say, an age limit of 40, with a minimum of 10 years' service in that grade, and similar conditions as to the number of attempts.

The C.P.O. could be limited to 50 years, etc.

Would not this scheme, with modifications as required by the majority of the staff, smooth out the present ebb and flow of the promotion tide, and at the same time give a strict and fair chance to all concerned? The glorification of a few would be practically eliminated.

There is another point, however, I would like to draw out, and that is that under the present scheme and the one formulated above, no account is taken of the aspirant's qualities during the service as A.P.O., or P.O., when the examination is held. True, we have promotion reports periodically, but they can be of little use, and I would like to see incorporated in a scheme some benefit for the good, steady plodder, who, after all, is the backbone of our Service.

Now, come on, you Association officials, and get to work and find out what the staff wants in this matter. If the majority do not want a change, well, enough said; if they do, map out a scheme and make it fair to all. *Nil desperandum.*

Yours, etc.,

"CEE BEE."

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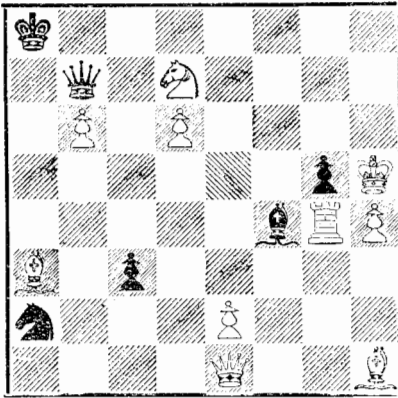
**To ensure inclusion in next issue all copy must be in the hands of the Editor by Saturday, December 20th.**

# SPORT AND SOCIAL

## Customs Preventive Staff Chess Club.

### PROBLEM No. 66.\*

Black.



White.

White mate in two.

### Solution to No. 65.

White.                      Black.

- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 1. ---   | Q-Q5  |
| 2. Kt×Q. | P×Kt. |

Civil Service League result:—versus Ministry of Health III., lost 2½ to 7½ (2 games by default). Messrs. Murray and Bishop won, Mr. Steel drew.

On Saturday, 22nd November, Messrs. Smallwood at board 97, Dudley at board 98, and Bishop at board 89, played for Kent against Surrey. Mr. Smallwood won. Contest was for the Amboyna and the Ebony Shields.

### CORRESPONDENCE CHESS.

**New Rule.**—If a player sends "Castles" as a move, and such move cannot be made legally, the British Chess Federation have ruled that, the player sending such illegal move must be required

to move his King, but, if moving his King is illegal, no penalty obtains. (W.B., Hon. Sec.).

**Inter-Port Contest.**—Have you sent in your team?

### CHESS TERMS EXPLAINED.

**False Move.** Any move that is opposed to the Laws of the game, which must be rectified or penalised when discovered, at once.

**Forced Mate.**—When the position is such that you are able to mate your opponent, whatever he may do, in a certain number of moves, you have a "forced mate," or can "mate by force."

**Forced Move.**—Either the only move left to a player, or, the only move by which he can escape some loss which is threatened.

**Fork.**—When a piece or Pawn attacks two men at once, it is said to "fork" them; when one of these two men is the King, great loss often occurs. (Example: 8. 6k1, 8, 8, Q2 kt 2 q r, 7 Kt1, 5 P 2. 6 K 1.) White wins; 1 Q×Kt ch 1. Q×Q. 2. Kt B5 ch, "forking" the King and Queen; the King on one line, the Queen on the other; Black must move the King; then 3 Kt×Q, and White wins after queening a pawn.

**Xmas Greeting.**—I am requested to convey the Season's Compliments from the Committee to all members and other Officers interested in the Club.  
W.W.B.

## Newport (Mon.) Whist Drive.

The Collector and Assistant Collector, with a large number of friends from other Departments, were present at a whist drive held at Raynold's Lounge, Newport, on November 29th.

The prize-winners were: Ladies—Miss Ellis and Mrs. Curley; Gentlemen: Messrs. White and Pitt; highest half, Miss Hurley. The lowest scorers were Miss Winch and Mr. Cattell. The prizes were distributed by Miss G. H. Kerr.

A vote of thanks to the organiser, Mr. Davison, brought a very pleasant evening to a close.