

The Customs Journal

No. 669

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Fortnightly

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Prestige	101	Great Stuff this Efficiency!	105
Current Comments	102	Civil Service Confederation	106
P.S.A.	103	Answers to Examination Questions	107
Civil Service Confederation	104	Sport and Social	108

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

PRESTIGE.

NEXT to a satisfactory conclusion in the Preventive Staff salary claim, nothing could be more potent in enhancing the prestige of the Association than the strong line that is being taken at the present moment in regard to the latest phase of the negotiations. We would go so far as to say that the attitude of the Association will have the effect also of improving the morale of the staff, where there might otherwise have been a gravely reverse effect. Loss of faith in the Association would have been the last straw.

Not only would a false move have shattered the P.S.A., but it would have confirmed the already deeply rooted belief amongst the staff that there is, and always has been, a deliberate intention on the part of the authorities to evade the cost of giving long overdue justice to the Preventive Service.

We do not share the view that there is deliberate intent, but it must be admitted that the consistency with which practical facts well known to the staff seem to be ignored on every occasion gives colour to the belief held by the average member of the Service.

We believe that this apparently stone-wall attitude against the truth of the situation is due to a genuine misunderstanding of the practical side of Preventive Staff work. It is obvious that this is the Association point of view also.

The authorities assure the staff that much anxious consideration has been given to the salary claim, and the staff would be wise to accept this as actual fact. They will then be able to appreciate the theory that adequate information on practical points was not available when the matter was being considered.

It is important that members examine the situation with calmness and common sense. This will help the Association far better than the nursing of resentment against the powers that be. It must be realised that if the duties of the Preventive Staff were simple to understand, there would be no problem to solve; there would be no misunderstanding by the authorities; neither would there be grounds for a salary claim.

We have no doubt that the Association will at last succeed, because the truth must in the end come to light, and perseverance overcomes all difficulties. In the meantime, we are concerned lest the members of the Preventive Service should become discouraged and soured. In the interests of efficiency in the Department this must not happen. The prestige of the Preventive Staff is very high. The Association by its attitude in the present crisis has not only maintained its own prestige but has helped to preserve that of the staff by warding off a danger likely to undermine it.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

A REPORT of the meetings of the Executive and the Waterguard Sectional Committee, referred to in the last issue of the Journal, has now been sent out from Headquarters. Every member should by this time have full knowledge of the Official Side proposals, and of all that has happened in connection with these proposals, and our Salary Claim.

As a matter of fact, the stream of indignant letters and postcards that have reached the Association offices during the past week makes it more than obvious that all the membership is fully acquainted with the position. In addition to these expressions of deep feeling, there have also been hastily summoned District Meetings at which resolutions have been passed urging the Executive to fight to the last ditch.

The Executive Committee has not any intention of pursuing any other course. There are clear instructions from the membership through the Council. Also, the Committee well understands the feeling that exists amongst the various grades in the Preventive Service on the question of remuneration. The Association would not be worth while if it acted contrary to these things—if it ignored the true situation. But, the Association is worth while, and this fact has been well demonstrated by recent events.

There will, of course, be the inevitable few unthinking individuals, who in their disappointment will regard the present situation as proving the P.S.A. to be an ineffective organisation. Those who can think more deeply and are capable of shrewd judgment, will, however, realise that P.S.A. activity on this major issue has resulted in obtaining from the Official Side a very full and searching examination of the Preventive Staff claims. The substantial offer that has been made, even though it is not acceptable, can be regarded, because it has been made, as a definite achievement. It is an important step forward towards our goal.

With the help of the new spirit that has been infused into the membership by the latest developments, that goal will ultimately be reached. It is significant that already there are whole Districts where the members have pledged themselves to see that the Association will not be lacking in funds to see the whole business through. When members make such pledges spontaneously, it is evident that the lessons of the past have been well learned.

It seems likely that the June meeting of the Departmental Council will see the end of the departmental negotiations on our claim. In that event preparations for arbitration will be rapidly pushed on.

The Staff Side statement for the Arbitration Court would probably be much more lengthy than the original Salary Claim statement and would not be in quite the same form. This is a very heavy task and one which means weeks of concentrated activity on the part of the Headquarters Staff.

On the 3rd and 4th June, the National Staff Side gave evidence before the Royal Commission on the subjects: Cost-of-living Bonus; Super Cut; General Principles upon which Remuneration should be based; and the National Minimum Wage.

The evidence submitted in regard to the Bonus has now been printed in booklet form, and is being supplied to Associations affiliated to the National Staff Side at the cost of 2d. per copy. Members desiring copies can obtain them by applying, through their District Secretaries, to the P.S.A. Headquarters. It is necessary that orders be sent in promptly.

The booklet contains much interesting matter, and an opportunity for the ordinary Civil Servant to learn all there is to learn about the history of the Bonus, and the principles upon which it is based.

* * * *

Inquiries have been received from time to time regarding the possibility of an examination this year for entry to the Assistant Preventive Officer Grade. It has now been announced that an examination will take place in August, and that the number of vacancies will be round about forty.

On previous occasions, the comparatively small number of candidates sitting for this examination has caused a good deal of comment. It will be interesting to see if the prospects of an improved Preventive Service will cause a larger number of the general public to risk the hardships and obvious inconveniences attaching to a Preventive Officer career.

* * * *

Most of our members will be sorry to hear that "Ham's Year Book" is to cease publication. This has been rumoured many times but it has now become a fact. There will be no "Ham's" next year. It has been a most useful book in its time, and even though of late years some of its information has had to be curtailed it was valued as a means for ready reference in many matters.

Something will certainly have to take the place of this very handy publication, if only for the Establishment Lists. Possibly that greatly under-rated publication, the "Staff Annual" will make its appearance once again.

* * * *

All members of the Preventive Staff will be greatly pleased to hear that on Friday, 13th June, the Inspector-General attends at Buckingham Palace, where he will have the O.B.E. conferred upon him.

Mr. Woodford's policy of making himself known personally to his staff whenever possible has already earned him much popularity, and the disposition he has shown to seize every opportunity to acquaint himself with the practical conditions under which the Preventive Staff works has caused him to be much respected.

The whole Staff congratulates him upon the honour he has received.

Preventive Staff Association

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Organising Secretary : J. T. Sutton

Assistant Secretary : W. H. Powell

LONDON.

Mr. T. O. Hughes presided over a large meeting of the London members at St. Katherine Dock Hotel, on Thursday, June 5th.

The following were elected to fill the District offices:—Chairman, Mr. T. O. Hughes; Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. J. Sullivan; District Secretary, Mr. F. R. Fisk, District Organiser, Mr. R. A. Stocker.

The decision of the previous meeting regarding additional A.P.O.s for Victoria Baggage was confirmed.

Equalisation of Sunday and Public Holiday duty within the port was agreed to, and it was decided that the scheme should be put into operation during the present annual minute.

In discussing the proposals of the Official Side in the matter of the Salary Claim, the meeting was unanimous in endorsing the action of the Executive Committee, and pledged its whole-hearted support. A resolution, embodying these sentiments, and also the view that additional supervisory posts were unnecessary in the Preventive Staff, was passed by a unanimous vote.

SOUTHAMPTON.

A special meeting of the Southampton branch of the Association was held at the Alexandra Hotel on Monday, May 26th, to discuss the Official Side proposal regarding the Salary Claim.

A long and heated discussion culminated in a resolution expressing grave dissatisfaction with the counter proposals of the Official Side and registering a strong protest against the attitude of the Official Side towards the claim. The resolution also pressed for the taking of the claim to arbitration.

LEITH.

At a district meeting of the Leith branch on Wednesday, June 4th, the following were elected for the coming year:—Chairman, Mr. Gordon (P.O.); Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ford (A.P.O.); District Secretary, Mr. Gunn, (A.P.O.); District Or-

ganiser, Mr. Crowe (P.O.); "Customs Journal" Correspondent, Mr. Church (P.O.).

An animated discussion took place on the subject of the salary claim, and a resolution was unanimously carried urging the Executive to proceed with the claim for increased salaries for the P.O. and A.P.O. grades. The resolution also urged the Executive, in presenting a claim for increased salaries to the Arbitration Board, to demand an independent enquiry into Departmental conditions.

Finally, the meeting passed a vote of confidence in the headquarters staff of the P.S.A. This vote was also unanimous.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

To JUNE 2nd, 1930.

TRANSFER.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section:—
Girvin, W. A., Southampton to Dundee.

PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section to Upper Section:—
Wilson, D., Dundee to London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section (Unattached):—
Purser, C. R., London to Office of I.G.W.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT—PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—
Hough, E., Southampton.

DEATH.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—
Densley, A. W. P., Cardiff.

Hull Prosecution.

The steward of the s.s. "Jacobus," from Porsgrund, was charged on June 4th, with concealing 1.52 proof gallons of U.U. spirits and .15 proof gallon of Imitation Rum, and was fined £10, or 54 days in default. Ten of the bottles were found in a false bottom of a locker in the steward's storeroom by Mr. W. Thompson (A.P.O.), and three bottles were found among bedding, etc., in the master's berth by Mr. E. Thomson (A.P.O.).

Civil Service Confederation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 12th May, 1930, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, when Mr. George Chase presided over an attendance of 25.

It was reported that success had been achieved with regard to one of the principal points put forward by the Foreman's Association of India, in which assistance had been rendered by the Confederation, i.e., the claim for free passages to England, and it had been announced in the House of Commons on the 5th May, 1930, by the Secretary of State for India that free passages had now been granted with effect from the 1st April, 1930.

On the recommendation of the Finance and Organisation Committee, it was agreed to admit to membership the Principal Viewers' Association (Technical and Supervisory Grade), on a basis of 14 members, 8 at the Stores Inspection Division, Dideat, and 6 at the Royal Army Clothing Department (Inspection), Pimlico.

With reference to the claim for increased increments for Warehousemen put forward by the Customs and Excise Stores Branch Association, in which assistance is being rendered by the Confederation, it was reported that terms of remit had been agreed and sent to the Ministry of Labour for transmission to the Industrial Court, and that the President and Honorary General Secretary of the Confederation would be associated with representatives of the Stores Branch Association in the presentation of the case to the Court.

It was reported that a communication had been received from the National Staff Side, stating that the Subsistence Committee of the Staff Side had recently had under consideration the position of departmental negotiations on *per noctem* rates on classes not covered by the National Council Report, and had come to the conclusion that, before final agreement is signified departmentally by staff representatives to rates which may be proposed by the Official Sides reference of these rates should be made to the Subsistence Committee of the National Staff Side.

The General Purposes Committee reported that it had had under consideration the replies received from constituent organisations to the enquiry made as to whether Associations had had any experience of salary or other claims being met with refusal of consideration by the Treasury, or departments, on the ground that the Royal Commission on the Civil Service is considering questions of a similar character to those desired to be made the subject of discussion. After considerable discussion, a recommendation of the General Purposes Committee was adopted by the Executive Committee

to the effect that the case, as revealed in the communications received from Associations, was not of such a character as to justify a general claim to the Government at this stage that the undertaking of the Chancellor had not been generally carried out.

(The undertaking of the Chancellor referred to was the statement made, in reply to a deputation from the National Staff Side on the 16th July, 1929, to the effect that the Chancellor found himself largely in agreement with the deputation as to the unsuitability of a Royal Commission for the purpose of enquiry into detailed matters, and that there was no intention of leaving such matters in abeyance, or of reserving for the Royal Commission questions which could more suitably be dealt with through the agency of Whitley Councils or the Arbitration Court.)

It was, however, agreed that, if any Associations desired their particular cases to be looked at again by the Confederation, this could be done.

Some discussion took place on the question of departments whose functions are being reduced, and the effect on staffs of shrinking complements. It was reported that this subject had recently been under consideration at the Annual Conference of the Civil Service Clerical Association, and it was anticipated that definite proposals from the Association would be embodied in a memorandum and submitted in due course to the Confederation. It was agreed that, in the meantime, the whole question be remitted to the General Purposes Committee, with powers of enquiry, for consideration and report to the Executive Committee.

On the subject of Basement Accommodation, which had been referred to the Confederation by the National Staff Side, arising out of correspondence received by the National Staff Side from the Staff Sides of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Trade Departmental Whitley Councils, it was reported that a recommendation had been sent by the Confederation to the National Staff Side that the subject of Basement Accommodation should be tabled for discussion as a general question on the National Whitley Council, and that this recommendation had been adopted by the National Staff Side.

In connection with the Provincial Differentiation Sub-Committee of the Standing Joint Committee on Reorganisation, it was reported that the Official Side had stated that they could not see their way to continue discussions on this Sub-Committee, which had been appointed to consider certain aspects of the question, on the ground that the question of provincial differentiation, including a claim relating to classification of Post Offices, was coming before the Royal Commission. It was decided that the Confederation representatives should raise this matter on the National Staff Side, with a view to the matter being pursued further.

Great Stuff This Efficiency!

by W.M.S.

In the proposed reorganisation of the Waterguard, there was talk of increasing the supervisory posts. A "botching" process, as the Editor, in the last issue, truly observes. Like the old tale about the American army, we should all soon be colonels. When that period arrives, the efficient instrument for Revenue protection so desired by the authorities will become rather deficient in aim and purpose. When it becomes the privilege of about 70 per cent. of the members of the department, some to initial journals and the others to watch the few doing the protecting business, another reorganisation will be due in earnest in order to make the Waterguard an efficient instrument for Revenue protection.

Any increase in supervising posts in order to bring the Preventive Staff under immediate supervision must necessarily be in exact proportion to the numbers in the Preventive Officer grade. It was admitted by the Official Side in 1918, "that an emergency may occasionally occur when a Preventive Officer has to take immediate steps on his own responsibility." It was pointed out during the progress of the present claim that, in effect, almost every incident of a P.O.'s duty is an emergency, as it were. In other words, he must always act on his own responsibility. The very nature of the duties of the Waterguard precludes any other solution to the proper administration of the Customs regulations, and makes the Preventive Officer a more responsible person in his own department than the Landing Officer is in his, and certainly more important than the clerical officer. Hence the necessity for a well-trained and efficient Preventive Officer. If increased supervision is now to be the solution, then it follows that a C.P.O., a P.O., and an A.P.O. must trek about together. Certainly a more sociable arrangement for the night watch! But it has yet to be found out whether the C.P.O. would be any more capable of acting on his own responsibility than the P.O. is now. If the authorities are afraid that the present P.O. is not thoroughly efficient—and there has been no complaint nor indication in that direction—why not adopt means for ensuring greater efficiency in that grade? As immediate supervision by a C.P.O. is physically impossible in any emergency, unless he is constantly with the P.O., would it not be more economical to call the latter a C.P.O. if it is the name that means greater efficiency? The whole thing is so bewildering that one is at a loss to know where efficiency and responsibility is supposed to begin in the Department now. In passing, it is as well to note that it was a Staff Side claim that evidently raised any doubts as to the efficient administration in the department.

When one considers that it has been the expressed opinion of professional and business people that, in their dealings with the public, the officers of the Waterguard department are more efficient than the

Customs Officers of any other nation, the insinuation about the necessity for additional supervising posts has a quality not very digestible.

It is manifestly clear that the Preventive Officer to-day must of necessity be highly efficient and be a very responsible person. There was never a period in Customs history when an officer had to pass the same searching examination to get the salary he gets for the multifarious assortment of regulations he is called upon to administer. When a member of the "Officer" grade is at liberty to work with the "book" at his elbow, or to look things up, of necessity generally, because he is not a trained officer to the same extent as a P.O., the latter must be virtually a walking encyclopædia on his station. Yet, with all the strides made in the direction of ensuring greater efficiency amongst the lower grades in the Waterguard through efforts made by the members of the staff themselves in order to build up an efficient department, the P.O. and A.P.O. grades are apparently to be treated as of less value than members of other departments where salaries, surmounting those of the Waterguard, are progressive, and where proved efficiency counts for very little.

It is greatly to be feared that the creation of additional supervisory posts, to the definite neglect of the appeal of the lower grades for better conditions and salaries, is not the correct method of improving the efficiency of the department. In the Waterguard to-day, we have officers who are second to none compared with other branches of the C. and E. This has even been admitted by Collectors. The training they get in their early years, and the knowledge they require to absorb, make them as highly efficient as any other officer who is allowed to carry out wide individual responsibilities, without irritating supervision—a factor which has already been condemned. The responsible Revenue protecting officers are the P.O.s and the A.P.O.s, working under a system which ensures efficiency in the administration of Customs regulations, Revenue protection and detective work. It is their interest the authorities would do well to advance if they desire to still further increase the efficiency of the department.

The authorities might do worse than seriously examine the Preventive Staff Association's standing policy that Landing and Shipping duties are properly Waterguard duties, and could be more efficiently carried out by officers with Waterguard training and Departmental knowledge. History will shew that the amalgamation of the Waterguard and Landing branches in 1860 resulted in the production of a highly specialised Customs Officer, and made a more economical and efficient Customs Department than any move that has been made since their separation in 1891. And since 1900 things are, as the Hieland man said, getting better not very fast.

To the least casual observer, it is clear that if the Preventive force is not a highly efficient and contented body as the first line of defence in the Revenue Service, the other branches may as well close down. If it is found that reorganisation is necessary, something will surely have to be done about it.

Civil Service Confederation.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Twentieth (Annual) Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Friday, 20th May, 1933, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. George Chase presided over an attendance of 73 representatives of 40 constituent organisations, in addition to the officers and other members of the Executive Committee.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Honorary Treasurer's Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1930, and the Report on Parliamentary and Publicity Work, were presented and adopted.

The Annual Report revealed the fact that the membership of the Confederation is now over 67,000, an increase of nearly 10,000 members in the last two years, and the Financial Statements showed that the financial position is now more satisfactory than has been the case for some time past.

A letter was read from Mr. G. A. Finch, of the Customs and Excise Federation, who had recently retired from the Civil Service owing to impaired health and had consequently relinquished his Association and Whitley activities. The Council placed upon record an expression of appreciation of the past services of Mr. Finch on the Superannuation Committee of the National Whitley Council and in other capacities.

Some discussion took place on the question of salary and other claims put forward by Associations which had been refused consideration by the Treasury or Departments on the ground that the matters desired to be made the subject of discussion were coming before the Royal Commission. This matter had been the subject of investigation by the General Purposes Committee and the Executive Committee of the Confederation, when a decision had been reached to the effect that the case, as revealed in the communications received from constituent organisations, was not of such a character as to justify an approach to the Chancellor of the Exchequer at this stage. It was stated, however, that the position would be kept constantly under review.

On the subject of establishment of unestablished classes, it was reported that particulars had been supplied by the Confederation to the National Staff Side of claims for establishment made by unestablished classes within the Confederation, for consideration in connection with the Staff Side evidence to the Royal Commission on establishment of unestablished classes.

Further correspondence with the Treasury on the subject of sick pay for unestablished classes was reported. Requests to the Treasury for the reception of a deputation on this matter had been met with a reference to Departments, and an enquiry being made of the Treasury as to whether Departments would be given a free hand to deal with applications for sick pay, a reply had been received to the effect that Treasury sanction is required for the grant of sick leave privileges to any individual Civil Servant or class of Civil Servants, whether general or Departmental, or for the in-

crease of privileges already enjoyed. The position which has now been reached will be reviewed by the Committee of the Confederation on Sick Pay for Unestablished Classes at an early date.

It was reported that the claim of the Customs and Excise Stores Branch Association for increased increments to Warehousemen, in which assistance was being rendered by the Confederation, had been fixed for hearing before the Industrial Court on the 1st July, 1930.

Success had been achieved with regard to a claim put forward on behalf of the Warehouse Supervisors' Association for increased annual leave for certain officers employed in the Stationery Office, and agreement had been reached providing that the leave of Assistant Warehouse Supervisors should be increased from 15 days to 18 days per annum, rising to 21 days after five years' service, taking effect as from January 1st, 1930. The basic salary scale of the grade concerned is £140-5-160 per annum.

It was also reported that the claim put forward by the Stores and Clothing Inspection Department Viewers' Association for improved salary scales, in which assistance is being rendered by the Confederation, was being pursued, and a request had been sent in to the War Office for the reception of a further deputation on this matter.

Reference was made to the progress of the Civil Service Nursing Aid Association, it being reported that over 3,000 persons had now been accepted for membership and that the Association had begun to pay benefit claims.

Arising out of the Report on Parliamentary and Publicity Work, it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to those Members of Parliament who had rendered assistance during the past 12 months, by way of Questions to Ministers and by other means, in securing the redress of Civil Service grievances.

A resolution on the subject of Age of Retirement, moved on behalf of the Inland Revenue Stamping Department Association, was withdrawn after some discussion, it being agreed that proposals for amending Departmental practice were more suitable for Departmental action.

Reference was made to certain Military Service cases, concerning which action had been taken on the initiative of the Confederation during the past year, i.e., Enlistment before appointment; Enlistment without permission; Duration of war contracts; and Colour Service to count for pension. It was stated that the interest of a number of Members of Parliament had been secured in these questions, and that the matter was being pursued with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

The following were re-elected as Honorary Officers of the Confederation:—President, Mr. G. Chase; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Ross Wyld and Mr. J. W. Chapple; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. C. A. W. Sanders; Honorary General Secretary, Mr. P. H. M. Hoey.

For the six seats on the Executive Committee filled by election at the Annual Council meeting, the following were elected:—Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. R. McC. Beamish, Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. T. W. Rogers, Mr. G. McDouall, Mr. R. D. Crook.

For the eleven seats held by the Confederation on the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service, the following were elected:— Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. C. A. W. Sanders, Mr. G. Chase, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Mr. W. J. Brown, M.P., Mr. G. R. Speed, Mr. R. D. Crook, Mr. P. H. M. Hoey, Mr. R. McC. Beamish, Mr. A. J. T. Day, Miss Rose Smith-Rose.

Answers to Examination Papers.

(By arrangement with the V.E. Section.)

First Paper.

Question No. 8.

(a) Describe fully what action you would take on the arrival on your station of:—

- (1) A British Yacht;
- (2) A Foreign Yacht.

(b) Whilst examining baggage you discover concealed in a trunk belonging to a passenger from Antwerp 2 Revolvers and 100 rounds of ammunition. A closer examination reveals a parcel of revolutionary pamphlets. State what action you would take.

(c) What are the instructions for dealing with non-dutiable merchandise imported in passengers' baggage?

Answer.

(a) (1) On the arrival of a British yacht from foreign, I would first ensure that the requirements of the Public Health Act are complied with.

I would then obtain a list, covered by a declaration by the owner or master, of all the dutiable goods on board showing (i) surplus, (ii) private, and (iii) duty-paid stores. Documentary evidence would be required in the last instance. Stores falling under (i) and (ii) may be cleared on payment of duty, removed to King's Warehouse, or placed under seal on board. Full particulars of the transaction would be recorded in Yacht Store Book (No. 173), which would be left on board. A form of advice (N. 87) would be forwarded to the port at which the yacht will eventually lay up. In the absence of suspicion, an exhaustive rummage would not be made.

(2) In the case of a yacht of *bona fide* Foreign ownership and nationality, and belonging to a recognised yacht club, I would require a list of the dutiable stores, etc., for reference. The stores would not, however, be placed under seal. A notice (Form 470), pointing out the concessions of free use and warning against improper landing of such stores, would be handed to the owner or master.

Other foreign yachts would be dealt with under the regulations applicable to British yachts.

(b) I would detain the revolvers and ammunition, and immediately report the facts to the Station C.P.O. In his absence, the offender would be formally arrested and charged at the district police station.

The police would be informed of the discovery and arrangements made for the concurrent hearing of the Customs and Police charges.

The full facts would be reported on Form 458, and subsequently a Hearing Letter (Form 459) would be prepared and forwarded to the Solicitor.

The attention of the police would be drawn to the presence of the parcel of revolutionary literature, any subsequent action in this connection being left to them.

(c) Non-dutiable merchandise imported in baggage or in crew's effects is liable to fine or deposit in accordance with the following scale:

Value not exceeding £2: No fine.

Value exceeding £2 but not exceeding £10: Fine 2/6.

Value exceeding £10, but not exceeding £25: Fine 5/-.

The latter up to £200 for every £25 or part thereof: Fine 5/-.

Where the value exceeds £200, delivery may be allowed on a deposit of 1 per cent. of the value calculated to the next higher £1.

These regulations do not apply to coin, bullion, diamonds and precious stones generally.

The regulated fine is waived in the case of passengers landing from calling vessels exempted from the requirements of report, provided the goods are freely declared and produced, and entry is made on landing where required by the regulations.

Customs and Excise Departmental Council.

The 117th meeting of the Council was held in the Custom House, London, on 28th May, 1930, the chair being taken by A. J. Dyke, Esq., C.B., C.B.E., Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

PROMOTION.

Agreement was reached on the subject of (a) Reporting Officers and (b) Panel of Promotion Board, for the whole Departmental Clerical Class, and particulars will be given in a forthcoming General Order.

It was stated that the Board were making as rapid progress as possible in connection with the promotion of a further batch of "P" Class Clerks. SENIORITY.

A Committee decision, involving certain disagreed elements, on the seniority list of Departmental Clerical Officers, down to but excluding Southborough Entrants, was considered by the Council. The discussion was adjourned to permit further consideration of the implications of the Official Side's proposals of a joint list for men and women. LEAVE.

The Staff Side proposal that private leave be taken in half-days under certain conditions by members of the Treasury Classes, other than Executive and Administrative, was re-adjourned at the Staff Side's request.

ALLOWANCES.

It was agreed, without prejudice to the position of other grades, that the allowance payable to Unattached Surveyors under General Order 75/1925, paragraph 40, should be increased from £150 to £185 as from 1st April, 1930.

The Official Side announced that they hoped it would be possible to resume meetings of the Special Committee on Subsistence Allowances at a comparatively early date.

REWARDS.

The Council confirmed a Committee agreement that in view of the introduction of a unit allowance for preventive work, the payment of rewards to Officers in respect of detections made in the ordinary execution of their duty should cease as from the date when the schemes including the unit come into operation, but that consideration be given to any case in which special vigilance has been displayed.

COAST PREVENTIVE STAFF.

Two related Committee disagreements on the duties of this staff were adjourned for Staff Side consideration.

LAND PREVENTIVE STAFF.

The Council ratified two agreements concerning (a) the grant of a fixed travelling allowance to certain Land Preventive Men, and (b) the issue of a book of instructions to this grade.

OTHER MATTERS.

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

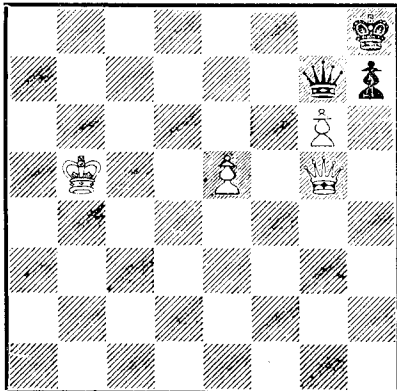
A schedule of suggestions reported by the Suggestions Committee, with notes of action taken thereon by the Board, was communicated to the Council, of which the next meeting will be held on 25th June, 1930.

SPORT AND SOCIAL.**Customs Preventive Staff Chess Club**

Chess is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

PROBLEM No. 55.*

Black.



White.

White to mate in three.

Solution to No. 54.

White. Black.

1. Q—B7. 1. Any.
2. Mates accordingly.

INTER-PORT CONTEST FOR INSPECTOR-GENERAL'S TROPHY:—

F. G. Wood, Dover, gains point against J. H. Stewart, London.

CHESS LAWS—(Continued).

22. Touching Men.

If the Player touch—

(a) one of his own men, he must move it, if he can do so legally.

(b) one of the opponent's men, he must capture it, if he can do so legally.

(c) one of his own, and one of the opponent's men, he must capture the opponent's man with his own; if he cannot do so legally the opponent, at his option, may require that the player move his own man, or that he capture the opponent's man with any piece by which the capture can be made legally. If he can do neither legally there shall be no penalty. (Note the elimination of the K move penalty).

(d) more than one of his own men (or more than two when castling), the opponent may select which one of the men so touched the player shall move, but if none can be moved legally there shall be no penalty.

(e) more than one of the opponent's men, the opponent may select which one of the men so touched the player shall capture, but if none can be captured legally, there shall be no penalty.

23. If the opponent touch, or move, any man or men without having previously obtained the consent of the player, any man or men so touched or moved must be at once replaced, and when the opponent shall next become the player he shall be deemed to have touched it or them and be subject to the provisions of Law 22, as may be applicable. (Note.—Touching accidentally does not constitute a breach of Laws 22 and 23, see also Law 21).

CRICKET.

Cardiff Waterguard, 24. Currans C.C., 36 for 2 dec.

Hull Waterguard obtained a win against the Indoor Staff by four wickets on May 21st. A match with the L. & N.E.R. Police resulted in a victory by the latter by nine runs. On June 4th, the Waterguard team beat a C.W.S. team by 14 runs.

London Preventive Staff C.C. has recorded three wins against G.P.O., South, on May 24th, Pascall's on May 31st, and Registry on June 4th. The latter was a league match.