

The Customs Journal

No. 665

April 19th, 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

THE BUDGET.

THERE is nothing in the 1930 Budget which in any way affects the Preventive Staff so far as their aims for decent pay and conditions are concerned. It even seems necessary to point out that nothing in any Budget could have any adverse effect upon the Preventive Staff. Not only because pay and conditions could not be worse but also because no matter what changes are effected in the Tariff, there is still the same need all the time on the part of the Preventive Officer to display with consistent skill those qualities of diplomacy, tact, and personality, which are his essential stock-in-trade.

If all Customs duties could be abolished tomorrow the Preventive Staff would still be a most important arm of the Public Service. At the moment the miscellaneous duties performed on behalf of other Government departments are apparently regarded by the Customs and Excise authorities as alien and undesirable necessities. In any case, they are always pushed into the background when their importance is argued by the Staff. It is certain that they get very little valuation in a salary claim.

Nevertheless, if it ever came to pass that the Customs Tariff were entirely abolished, these duties would immediately spring into prominence. They would probably be then remunerated on similar lines to those performed by the Immigration Staff.

The Preventive Staff would then become a most important instrument to such departments as the Ministry of Agriculture; the Home Office; the Public Health Authorities; the Admiralty; and the Board of Trade. The work under these departments would at least be equal in volume and importance to that now performed by the Immigration Staff.

Unfortunately, the proximity of the Preventive Staff to the Officer Grade, credited with the collection of some £250,000,000, results in an overshadowing of the Preventive Officer's work in protecting this enormous revenue. The proportionate value of this work is regarded somewhat lightly—at least so far as remuneration is concerned. If this work were valued in accordance with the standards of the other departments already mentioned—with particular reference to the Home Office—the Preventive Staff would be content.

To return to our subject title, members of the Preventive Staff have no need to fear or hope that any Budget can affect their salary claim. Everything depends upon a change of heart on the part of the powers that be. They can, if they so desire, see that the Preventive Staff are performing duties at least equal in importance to those of the Immigration Staff and the various other departments referred to.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

THE sudden and tragic death of our colleague, Mr. A. W. P. Densley, must have come as a stunning shock to the many people who knew him. His activities in the Association caused him to be well known throughout the kingdom. He was one of those who took part in the formation of the Preventive Staff Association, and has been a member of the Council from the beginning. He was also on the Executive Committee, and the Waterguard Sectional Committee.

It was but a few days before his death that he attended an Executive meeting in London, and his fellow members on the Committee will retain a last recollection of him as an enthusiastic worker, full of vigour, and deeply interested in those important matters which just now are of such vital interest to the Preventive Staff.

"Percy" has been taken from us at a time when we can ill afford to lose anyone experienced in Staff Side work; but the thoughts of everyone will be for the widow and children who have been deprived of their breadwinner just at the moment when his service success warranted so much rejoicing.

He has fallen a victim to one of the many dangers with which all those who work in the Preventive Service are surrounded every day. It is certain that those he has left behind can rely upon practical sympathy from his brother officers.

* * * *

A meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee has been arranged for the 24th April, for the purpose of further discussion on the Salary Claim. It is hoped that the lengthy consideration which the Board have been giving to the case will by that time have resulted in something definite, but it is not improbable, because of the reasons mentioned in these columns on previous occasions, that some further time must elapse before we see the result of our patience.

* * * *

Many letters have reached the Association Office from Preventive Officers anxious to know whether or not they are likely to be called for the next examination for Chief Preventive Officer. Owing to the new system of examination, there is some anxiety amongst those officers who are within possible range. They are naturally afraid of being dropped upon unexpectedly.

From informal enquiries that have been made it is now understood that there is no need for anxiety because all candidates will be officially informed in plenty of time before the examination.

* * * *

A very interesting discussion on the Civil Service cost-of-living bonus took place in the House of Commons recently. The speeches generally condemned the bonus system as being unsatisfactory to everyone.

Replying to the discussion the Financial Secretary said, "There has been almost a consensus of opinion that the time has come when we ought to get back to a fixed scale instead of depending on the cost of living. It would, I think, be improper for me to express an opinion on that point, as the matter is really one for the Royal Commission on the Civil Service. They will, no doubt, weigh up this question from every aspect."

* * * *

At a Harwich District meeting recently, a resolution was passed urging the Association to take steps for introducing a scheme for training new entrants to the Preventive Service. It is interesting to see this new proposal popping up again. No doubt as time goes on the demand will become louder.

It should be clearly understood, however, that the Association has already once tackled this problem. A scheme was actually adopted by the P.S.A. Council, and subsequently appeared on the agenda of the Waterguard Sectional Committee and was discussed with the Official Side. It turned out, that there were practical difficulties in the way of implementing the scheme, and eventually the proposal was withdrawn. The solution to this problem is not very easy to find. Possibly the Harwich District will make proposals along definite lines, and have the matter sent for the Council agenda this year.

* * * *

As things are at present, the young A.P.O. depends upon his Preventive Officer for any training in his work. If the A.P.O. gives, and is permitted to give, full assistance in all the work performed by the P.O., there is no doubt that he can rapidly gain knowledge by this means.

The preliminary course of instruction in Customs and Excise regulations which is provided by the

V.E.S. ought to be of great help to any young A.P.O. who aspires to perform intelligently his duties as assistant.

Some of our junior members have a desire to go much further than this, however, and consider that the only satisfactory method is to give opportunity during the first few years of service for officers to officiate at various types of ports.

* * * *

Now that Budget secrets are common property, we learn that there is nothing to cause drastic changes in Customs and Excise staffing. So far as the Preventive Staff is concerned, there is no change in the Tariff.

The little green book of duty tables issued by the Association is due for reprint, but the necessary details had been left uncompleted pending the Budget announcements. The work of reprint will now proceed immediately. The new book will contain additional information which will be extremely useful to every Preventive Officer. As soon as copies are ready notice will be given in the Journal, but it would be helpful if those requiring to be supplied would notify Association Headquarters now.

* * * *

District Secretaries are reminded that the annual Conference is fast approaching. Three months notice of any amendments to the Constitution is necessary, and any other resolutions for the Conference should be sent up at least two months before. The earlier these are received the easier it is for the Headquarters staff to get through the strenuous preparations for the Council Meeting.

Preventive Staff Association

Head Office :

Thames Chambers,
13 Beer Lane,
London, E.C.4.

Telephone : ROYAL 4279

President : W. G. Thomson

General Secretary : J. Merron

Organising Secretary : J. T. Sutton

Assistant Secretary : W. H. Powell

SOUTHAMPTON.

A meeting of the Southampton branch of the P.S.A. was held at the Alexandra Hotel on Thursday, 3rd April, 1930.

The following Association officers were elected for the year 1930/31:—

Mr. Tarrant, P.O., Chairman; Mr. Jones, A.P.O., District Secretary; Mr. Stanford, P.O., District Organiser; Mr. Matthews, A.P.O., Journal Correspondent. Local Committee: Messrs. Mathers, Tarrant and Rugg, P.O.s; Messrs. Shortland, Baulch, and Jenkinson, A.P.O.s.

Matters appertaining to local conditions were discussed, and a vote of confidence was passed in Mr. R. H. Maynard, P.O., on his being elected South Coast Councillor for the P.O. Grade.

CARDIFF.

On Friday evening, April 4th, at the "Old Arcade" Hotel, a local Association meeting was held. In opening, Mr. G. O. Warne (Chairman), referred to the unhappy death of one who had been one of the Association's assets and, in particular, a mainstay of South Wales activities. Mr. Densley would always be in mind whenever meetings were called for Association purposes. Those present stood in silent respect to the memory of a comrade. On resuming, Mr. Warne said he could not pass further without congratulating the successful candidates in the recent examination for promotion to Preventive Officer. Mr. Densley's death must be mentioned in this respect, but to Messrs. G. A. Lovell and A. W. Browne he tendered his heartiest good wishes. Mr. Lovell made a suitable response.

Much ground was covered by the items on the agenda, and as the meeting was well attended very representative and satisfactory results were obtained.

Some matters were deferred until the District meeting of Friday, 11th inst.

A District meeting was held on Friday, 11th April, at the "Old Arcade Hotel," Cardiff. Mr. G. O. Warne, P.O., Penarth, was in the Chair. Before dealing with the business of the evening, the Chairman touched upon the subject of Mr. Densley's death and the Local Organising Secretary was asked by the meeting to thank Headquarters for the correspondence relating thereto.

The chief business of the meeting was the election of district officers.

Mr. G. O. Warne was again elected as Chairman, and Mr. C. Finch, A.P.O., was elected as a new Vice-Chairman.

Messrs. A. N. Pucknell, P.O., and C. H. Goodliffe, A.P.O., were elected to the offices of District Secretary and Organising Secretary respectively.

Mr. Warne said it was customary to elect the local officers for Cardiff at this meeting.

Mr. S. Steadman had no opposition as L.O. Sec., but voting was keen for other offices.

Mr. A. H. Sweet, A.P.O., was returned as Whitley representative for that grade; but the P.O.s' representative was not elected. Mr. Warne had withdrawn his name this year in favour of "new blood" and because he has many calls upon his time. Mr. J. Helm, P.O. voiced the appreciation of the meeting regarding Mr. Warne's six years as P.O. Whitley representative.

The District Secretary was asked to approach P.O.s (nominated), to see if one would accept the office.

The Chairman at this juncture congratulated Mr. F. Warren, A.P.O., on having been returned unopposed as Councillor. The meeting accorded congratulations to which Mr. Warren suitably replied.

Auditors were elected as follows:—Messrs. G. J. Hurford, P.O., and C. F. Shaw, A.P.O.

The Journal Correspondent (N. A. Ramsay, A.P.O.), was returned to office by the Chairman's casting vote.

The Barry representatives raised some points which are being dealt with by the District Officers, *i.e.*, Caps, Mackintoshes. The Salary Claim was mentioned and the meeting expressed confidence in Headquarters.

Mr. S. T. Gatheridge, A.P.O., raised the question of First Aid Boxes to all Watch-Houses. The meeting considered the matter worthy of attention.

The meeting was well attended but it is unfortunate that now young officers are so keen there is a falling off in the attendance of experienced members.

To the Electors,
Tyne Area.

Gentlemen,—Having accepted nomination as a candidate for election to the Council of the P.S. Association, I take this opportunity of soliciting your vote.

I pledge myself, if elected, to faithfully represent your views and to exercise my energies always in your interests.

I am, gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
L. GARDINER, P.O.

BARRY DOGS

The annual General Meeting was held on April 4th, 1930, with Mr. Howell, P.O., in the Chair. Before commencing the business of the meeting, the Chairman reminded the members of the sad death of the late Mr. A. W. P. Densley, A.P.O., ex-Councillor of Cardiff, who was well known locally, and a vote of condolence to his wife and family was passed, the members standing in silence.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Chairman: Mr. F. W. Howell, P.O.; Local Secretary, Mr. J. Burke, P.O.; Local Organiser, Mr. R. Beavers, A.P.O.; Local Auditors, Messrs. R. Naish, P.O. and A. Lewis, A.P.O. Local Whitley representatives:—Mr. A. S. Nichol, P.O. Grade, Mr. R. Beavers, A.P.O. Grade.

A lively discussion on general and local matters followed, an outstanding item being general dissatisfaction with the quality of the present issue of official mackintoshes.

A well attended meeting terminated at 9.45 p.m.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

to APRIL 7th, 1930.

APPOINTMENT.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER -
Topping, A.

TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section -
Whettingstall, E. P., Unattached, Office of I.G.W., to Folkestone, Dover.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS—

Croker, W. H., Londonderry, Belfast to London.

Cussen, J., Manchester to London.

Keilty, F. C., London to Maryport, Preston.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS—

Bell, G. R. B. P., Blyth, Newcastle to Newcastle.

Hall, R. D., Newcastle to Whitehaven, Preston.

Rundle, P. K., Port Talbot, Swansea to Millom, Preston.

PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section to Upper Section—

Lundberg, F. J., Folkestone, Dover to London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section (Unattached)—

Sinnot, R., Connah's Quay, Chester to Office of I.G.W.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS—

Cumberlidge, L. N., North Shields, Newcastle to Londonderry, Belfast.

Spear, P., London to Manchester.

Sunley, W. H., Hull to Truro, Plymouth.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS—ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS—

Field, J., Millom, Preston.

Pullin, H. G., Bristol.

ENGINEER MECHANIC—

Charlton, H., North Shields, Newcastle.

VACANCIES.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Lower Section, Inverness, 27.5.1930.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Southampton, 21.5.1930.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Immingham, Grimsby, 2.6.1930.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER, *Connah's Quay, Chester.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER, Poole, Southampton, 3.6.1930.

*An allowance of £25 per annum for performing Long Room work, etc., plus £10 per annum for Registry of Shipping work, is assigned.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS

Coulls, H., Preventive Officer.

Donovan, M., Engineer Mechanic.

Hinds, G., Preventive Man.

Jones, D., Boatman.

King, W. J., Preventive Officer.

Lock, F. C., Preventive Man.

Nicholass, T. J., Preventive Officer, Upper Section.

Rooney, T. J., Preventive Officer.

Taylor, J., Engineer.

Williams, S. J., Preventive Officer.

Civil Service Confederation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 31st March, 1930, at Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster, when Mr. George Chase presided over an attendance of twenty-one.

On the subject of sick pay for unestablished classes it was reported that correspondence was proceeding with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence, in connection with the request made by the Confederation for the reception of a deputation on the subject of the grant of sick pay to certain unestablished classes.

Correspondence was received from the National Staff Side forwarding copies of communications received from the Staff Sides of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Trade Departmental Whitley Councils regarding the housing of Government staffs in basement accommodation. This matter was referred to the General Purposes Committee of the Confederation for consideration and report.

It was reported that the amalgamation between the Association of Executive Officers and other Civil Servants (affiliated to the Confederation), and the Society of Civil Servants (not affiliated to the Confederation), negotiations for which had been in progress for some time, had taken effect as from the 31st March, 1930. The new organisation is known as the Society of Civil Servants (Executive, Directing and Analogous Grades).

In connection with certain Military Service cases, *i.e.* (1) Enlistment before Appointment, (2) Duration of War Contracts, and (3) Enlistment without Permission, it was reported that steps had been taken to draw attention to these long-standing questions in discussion on the Estimates in the House of Commons, and explanatory memoranda had been circulated to a number of Members of Parliament. (These matters were raised in the House of Commons in debate on Monday, 31st March, 1930, when substantial use was made by a number of Members of Parliament of the facts contained in the memoranda drawn up by the Confederation).

On the subject of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, it was reported that the information which had been sought from Associations, concerning instances where claims put forward to the Treasury or Departments, had been met with the reply that consideration could not be given to them inasmuch as the subjects desired to be discussed were within the terms of reference of the Royal Commission, was practically complete, and it was agreed that the information should be considered by the General Purposes Committee with a view to action being taken.

Correspondence has recently been received from the Customs and Excise Federation on the subject of the promotion of Departmental Clerical Officers on provincial rates of pay to the Officer Grade in the Customs and Excise Department, it being

claimed that the men promoted should have their salary adjusted to the London scale, the grade to which they were promoted not being subject to provincial differentiation. This matter had been discussed Departmentally, when disagreement had been recorded, and notice given that the question would be raised nationally. This matter was referred to the National Staff Side with a view to being taken up on the Standing Joint Committee on Reorganisation.

In connection with a claim put forward by the Customs and Excise Stores Branch Association for increased increments to Warehousemen, in which the assistance of the Confederation had been requested, it was reported that a case was being drafted for presentation to the Industrial Court.

The General Purposes Committee reported that it had had under consideration particulars concerning the Lloyd Memorial (Caxton) Seaside Home at Deal, Kent a Convalescent Home in connection with the Printing and Allied Trades, the facilities of which had been made available to the Inland Revenue Stamping Department Association. Further consideration was given to this matter by the Executive Committee, and, as it transpired in the course of discussion that members of other Civil Service organisations would be eligible for the advantages to be secured under this scheme, it is proposed shortly to issue a communication to constituent organisations on the subject.

The General Purposes Committee also reported that it had had under consideration a memorandum on the subject of Departments whose functions are being reduced and the effect on staffs of shrinking complements, and that this document had been referred to the Civil Service Clerical Association and the Executive Officers' Association for report.

A report was presented by the General Purposes Committee on the subject of a resolution emanating from the Admiralty Draughtsmen's Association, which had been the subject of discussion at the last Half-yearly Council Meeting and had been referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and report to the forthcoming Annual Council Meeting. The resolution was to the effect that efforts be made to secure definite Staff Side representation on Promotion Boards, and, after considering the existing procedure in the Admiralty and the use made of the promotion machinery in other Departments, the General Purposes Committee recommended that no action be taken on the resolution. The Executive Committee endorsed this recommendation and the matter will be reported upon accordingly to the forthcoming Annual Council Meeting.

Further consideration has been given to the question of Injuries on Duty, and it was reported that, as a result of consideration on the Joint General Purposes Committee of the National Whitley Council, the various matters which have recently been under consideration under this heading have now been cleared up with the exception of two outstanding points, (1) the question of Third Party Risk, on which reference has been made to the Ministry of Transport, and which it is hoped will be satisfactorily cleared up by the passage of

the Road Traffic Bill now before Parliament, and (2) the question of the inadequacy of the provision made under the Injury Warrant, which has been referred to the Superannuation Committee. It was agreed to note the outstanding points referred to and to leave the matter over until it was known whether or not the Road Traffic Bill would be passed into law.

Correspondence has been received from certain constituent organisations on the subject of questions arising from the putting into effect of the Government decision to give six days annual leave with pay to industrial workers. This matter is at present the subject of discussion in the Admiralty, and correspondence is taking place with the Staff Side of the Admiralty Administrative Council on the subject.

A lengthy discussion took place on the subject of compulsory retirement, arising out of a report presented by the General Purposes Committee, in pursuance of a reference given by the Executive Committee at its last meeting that the General Purposes Committee should recommend a policy to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee endorsed its previous decision:—

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

but referred back to the General Purposes Committee a proposal:—

“That all established Officers who have completed not less than 30 years' pensionable service or the age of 60 years, whichever is later, should be compulsorily retired, subject to extension to complete a broken year. In no case shall an officer be retained beyond 65.”

The Executive adopted a recommendation that sick leave for unestablished staff up to 12 months in any period of 4 years should count for increment and gratuity, and this matter is being sent forward to the National Staff Side with a view to appropriate action being taken.

A resolution was moved on behalf of the Civil Service Clerical Association:—

“That deputies for National Whitley Council representatives should be selected by the Executive Committee, having regard to the Groups to which the National Whitley representatives belong.”

After discussion the resolution was voted upon but not adopted.

A report was given by Mr. W. E. Llewellyn on the proceedings at an informal consultation which he had attended in Geneva, on the 21st and 22nd March, 1930, at the invitation of the Director of the International Labour Office, to consider certain Civil Service questions which had been the subject of investigation by the International Labour Office, and to select questions for further investigation.

Answers to Examination Questions.

(Published by arrangement with the V.E.C.)

FIRST PAPER.

Question 4 (a) What are the instructions governing the issue of inward surplus stores to French merchant vessels whilst in British waters?

(b) As a Preventive Officer on boarding duty you visit a coastwise vessel. What action would you take to satisfy yourself that the vessel is a *bona fide* coaster, and has been so employed for a considerable time?

(c) (1) Give the meaning of the expression “ship laden with a grain cargo.”

(2) What does “grain” mean in this connection?

(3) State fully what action would be required of you as Preventive Officer on the arrival on your station of a vessel laden with a grain cargo.

Answer 4 (a) Special instructions govern issues to French vessels and give effect to a concession that on these vessels, except when carrying only coastwise cargo, the consumption of surplus stores on board is permitted during the whole of their stay in British waters.

(b) I would call for the production of the vessel's cargo books and the last Inward Clearing Bill (if any).

I would see that the cargo book contained the name and port of registry of the vessel; the master's name; the port of loading and the port to which bound; the time of departure from and arrival at each port; and the general description of the cargo carried. Any verification of details could be made by reference to the ship's log book.

If satisfied, I would certify after the last entry in the book thus:—“Inspected,” stating rank, port and date of the inspection.

In the event of any irregularities coming to my notice I would report the facts to the Collector.

(c) (1) The expression “a ship laden with grain” refers to a vessel carrying a cargo of which the grain portion is more than one-third of the registered tonnage of the vessel. Reckoning for every ton of registered tonnage, 100 cubic feet or two tons of grain.

(2) “Grain” means any corn, rice, paddy, pulse, seeds, nuts or kernels.

(3) On the arrival on my station of a vessel “laden with grain,” I would inform the nearest Board of Trade Surveyor by the most expeditious method, using Form Surveys 124.

If the case is urgent, I would notify the Board of Trade Surveyor by telegram or telephone and forward the Form Surveys 124 in confirmation.

These directions, however, would not apply to a foreign ship with grain cargo not bound to a port in the U.K. which comes into port for any purpose other than landing or embarking passengers or taking in or discharging cargo or taking in bunker coal.

REVENUE ADJUSTMENT.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Not the least interesting of the duties which may fall to the lot of a Waterguard Officer in charge of a small port are those which, under the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, provide the means by which the adjustment of Revenue as between Great Britain and Northern Ireland is made in respect of duty which has been paid (but not repaid) on goods removed between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Now the Government of Ireland Act set up, as everybody knew it would, two separate Governments in Ireland. It granted to each of them certain powers, but restricted freedom of action in certain other matters. For example, no Government in Ireland has power to make laws concerning quarantine. All Ireland is still part of the United Kingdom for the purposes of Public Health. Notwithstanding this, the "Health" questions are solemnly put on every occasion when a vessel arrives from the Irish Free State, and there are places where an Officer would be in danger in losing touch with the health regulations were it not for something the Government of Ireland Act did not do. The waste of stationery does not really matter.

However, to return to our subject. No adjustment is required in respect of shipments to and from the Irish Free State, inasmuch as the duty paid is repaid on exportation to that particular part of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

On the other hand, duty once paid is not repaid when goods are removed to (or from) Northern Ireland. The necessity for the adjustment of Revenue, therefore, is at once apparent.

The procedure is simplicity itself!

All persons who ship goods of a kind liable to duty, excepting the duties imposed on lace and embroidery, silk and artificial silk, translucent and vitrified pottery, cinema films, and on goods liable to K.I. Duty, to Northern Ireland, are required to furnish particulars whether the duty has been paid or not. The particulars are to be set forth according to the Import and Export List on the approved form of specification (Form 126 Sale). This document is of two kinds, one for goods of a kind liable to a specific duty, and the other for goods of a kind liable to an *ad valorem* duty. This form of specification is required to be furnished within six days of the sailing of the ship. After numbering and dating, the document is forwarded to Accountant and C. General, the envelope being marked N.I. Trade.

A complete manifest of the vessel's cargo is required in respect of each voyage in trade as above and the number of the specifications should be noted against each item on the manifest. Outstanding parcels are thus kept well in view, and an explanatory note to the shipper, together with

a copy of the Notice No. 98, will invariably result in a ready compliance with the regulations.

At some ports there is an arrangement with the Railway Co., under which the production of a manifest is dispensed with.

The writer has had several months' experience at such a Port. The number of specifications there was rather large, over 84,500 being received for the year 1929.

The check here consists in comparing the specifications with a list prepared in Northern Ireland. This list is an extract of dutiable items from a manifest produced to the Collector there. These extracts, probably eight or nine each month, may be full or only partial extracts, but, as it frequently happens that parcels are short-shipped on one particular day, the specifications for almost every day come within the range of the check. The Specification Nos. are noted against the relative items in the extract, and a list is prepared of outstanding items. The list is handed to the local railway people who usually manage to produce a few of the missing specifications.

Then begins the task of rounding up the odd ones. Another list is prepared, this one of the goods obviously of a kind liable to duty. It is "up" to the railway company to get these specifications.

A further list is necessary of goods in respect of which it is advisable to make further inquiry. For example, goods described as "Preserves" may on investigation turn out to be sausages or polony. Such an item would be so marked on the extract, and the word "Free" written in.

With each request for information regarding the nature of goods, it is usual to enclose a copy of the appropriate notice to shippers, and to point out that there is no question of any duty being charged.

The writer has experienced no difficulty in securing a ready compliance with the regulations, but has received apologies for delay—usually the result of writing for a supply of the Forms 126—and assurances of attention to the matter in the future. This correspondence has perhaps taken longer than the six days allowed, but in view of the large number under review it is rarely that further action is necessary.

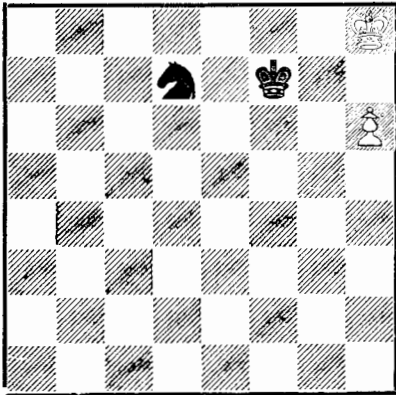
The time taken in this work may safely be put down as half-a-day, occasionally perhaps more, and then there is the usual Long Room and Station duty to be performed. Unfortunately, at this port, for some obscure reason, an "Officer" has been employed on the work. Naturally enough, with so much time on his hands, he wonders about it, and says lots of very interesting things about it. There is, however, a fly in the ointment. "The job," he says, "is too good to last." This sounds rather like a note of tragedy, but at least it is a statement born of a knowledge of the facts, and with it the writer profoundly agrees.

"O.K."

SPORT AND SOCIAL.

Customs Preventive Staff Chess Club

PROBLEM No. 52.



Black to mate in two.

Solution to No. 51.

Key move—White.
1 R—R5.

On March 15th, a match between Surrey and the Civil Service, played at the Ministry of Health, resulted in a win for the County by 20½—20½, although the first twenty boards showed a lead of the Service team by 10½—9½.

The Cable Match between London and Washington will take place at the Royal Automobile Club on April 12th. It will be remembered that the last contest was annulled as the result of an appeal to the Federation Internationale D'Echecs, so that at present London are two wins up and only require a third to retain possession of the Insull trophy. An excellent team has been got together, namely, Sir Geo. Thomas, Victor Buerger, R. P. Michell, E. G. Sargent, W. Winter and F. D. Yates. This is the same team as played last year with the exception that Sir Geo. Thomas comes into the place of M. E. Goldstein, who is now living in Australia. It is reported that the Washington team will consist of G. E. Bishop, S. Mlotkowski, N. S. Perkins, I. S. Turover, and N. T. Walker. Admission by ticket only (Hon. Sec., G. R. Hardecastle, 285, Galpins Road, Thornton Heath).

In the International Team Tournament at Hamburg, the British representatives will be: Sir G. A. Thomas (Capt.), F. D. Yates, Mir Sahab Khan, V. Buerger and E. G. Sargent.

K. Abnes is expected to play in the mixed British and foreign twelve-a-side tournament at Scarborough in June.

E. D. Bogoljuboff is now a naturalized German citizen. It will be remembered that he was one of the interned Russian chess masters in Germany during the war. He married a German wife, we believe. (Brit. Chess Mag., April).

KENT COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION. CLUB CORRESPONDENCE MATCH.

Final Round Pairings.

White.	Black.
Rev. W. E. Evill, Canterbury C.C. v. F. G. Boodle, Dover.	
Miss Andrews, Lyceum Ladies' C.C. v. R. E. Dudley, London.	
S. H. Matthews, Irvine v. W. W. Hunt, Rochester C.C.	
W. W. Bishop, London v. F. W. Tagg, Orpington C.C.	
E. T. Sandford, Newport v. S. Allen, Sevenoaks C.C.	

Scores of 1st round are not yet to hand.

RETIREMENT.

Mr. E. Marrable, Collector, London Port, retires from the Service on May 13th next. It is felt by his colleagues that on his departure he should receive some tangible expression of their esteem and good wishes which will serve to remind him of his long association with this Department. Subscriptions are cordially invited and should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Johnson, Room 9, Custom House, Lower Thames Street, London, E.C.3, as early as possible, preferably before May 5th next.

Retirement at Millom.

Mr. James Field, who retired a week or two ago, completed just over eleven years' service at that port, and had served in the Department over forty-two years. He entered the service in London in 1888, subsequently removing to Folkestone. He later served as second officer at Padstow, later doing duty at Par and Sandwich, from whence he transferred to Millom.

We understand that Mr. Field is settling at Deal.