

# The Customs Journal

No. 676

September 20th, 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*

## RE-ECHOES.

AS we forecast in the last issue of the Journal the season of "sensational smuggling" is now in full blast, and our friends of the half-inch headlines are really busy. On this occasion, however, to judge from the effort of the "Special Representative" in last Sunday's paper, there has been much deep thinking, and a new thought has emerged. For some time it has been the cry of "aliens" and the "week-end trip with no passport farce." Now it is the "week-end is the smugglers' harvest." Well, we have always felt that our Sunday "off" was a luxury that the revenue paid for, despite the fact that most often it is a case of Sunday "on" in order to earn our daily bread. But now we discover, according to our "Special Representative," that as far as preventing evasion of Customs Duties is concerned we might have been off duty all the time, and so with all our colleagues.

For now we hear that the Revenue is jeopardised to the extent of a mere three million pounds because of the absence from 1 p.m. on Saturday to 9.30 a.m. on Monday of the eight Investigation Officers (whoever they may be). It is but human if we wonder what we have been doing on the night watch, or on the many Sundays it has been our misfortune to be on duty. And how we have longed for a job that finished at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. But how dare they smuggle after 6 p.m. (a sufficiently late hour), and in such awkward places too that the mysterious eight have to cover the whole of the British Isles. Some proposition, as the Yankee saying goes, but still the remedy is obvious according to our "Special Representative." Put the ghostly eight on the 'phone and they need not have any office hours at all, and apart entirely from sacking the clerk those three millions would be saved. To paraphrase the saying, that would be some reorganisation.

Talking about 'phones reminds us that we have at times discovered smuggling, and we have worried not a little because it was after office hours. We must plead guilty, however, to the fact that we have never gone outside our own branch of the Service in the 'phoning direction.

It was good Sunday morning reading for all that. What with yachts and motor lorries specially equipped with short-wave wireless, and wary excise officers so much employed on routine work that they cannot deal with special smuggling cases even when they take place on Sundays. We should hear no more about that Preventive unit, but what the said officers are saying about the routine part of the matter we can only imagine. The same remark applies to the recent case of smuggling saccharine in teddy bears. It was only about ten years ago, and if our "Special Representative" would like to hear about a few more we would refer him to the "King's Customs." We would like to hear the candid comments of the officer who made the discovery by "accidentally treading on one of the toys," but doubtless he is sufficiently consoled by the special reward that the Board were pleased to grant him for being so careless with his tread.

We are sorry, but in the interests of the Revenue we must point out to the would-be week-end smuggler that, although we are not always on the 'phone, quite a few of us will be about on Sundays and every other day for all that after 6 p.m. We leave the subject for another week or so in the hope that the special representative of the "Sunday Express" will introduce his informant to any member of the Preventive Staff from the Inspector-General downwards. We can assure him that in our case it is always "business as usual" whether the premises are being reconstructed or not.

## CURRENT COMMENTS.

THE holiday season is fast disappearing, and, in fact, so far as Staff Side circles are concerned it is already gone. Whitley activity is again in full swing. In our own particular sphere the large tasks we have in hand are being settled down to in real earnest. The temporary but inevitable disorganisations due to the vacation period have had the effect of slowing down operations in connection with the Salary Claim. There is, however, compensation in the fact that this business can now be continued with redoubled vigour by our negotiators after their much-needed spell of recuperation.

\* \* \* \*

The Joint Committee of Customs and Excise Associations re-opened proceedings with a very heavy agenda at its meeting on September 9th. An important item was the discussion that took place on the new draft Constitution of the Committee. It was found impossible to conclude the discussions, and the matter was adjourned until the next meeting. There was much controversy as to what percentage of members of a Grade should entitle an Association to represent that Grade on the Joint Committee. This question was of chief interest to the Clerical classes because of the existence of rival organisations catering for these classes.

\* \* \* \*

We in the P.S.A. are fortunate in being without difficulties of this kind. At the present moment the Preventive Service is represented on the Joint Committee by three Associations, i.e., the P.S.A., the Chief Preventive Officers' Association, and the Superintendents' and Inspectors' Association. Our own Organisation is by far the largest of these, but though we think that the other two Grades should be with us in one organisation, we have shown no inclination to use the Joint Committee as a means to achieve our desires. We are content to await the time when our friends can readily see that no important movement by the P.S.A. can be without direct effect upon every Grade in the Preventive Service. Many are already beginning to realise that the whole burden of expense and labour in the fight for better pay and conditions for the Preventive Staff is being borne by the P.S.A., despite the fact that the other Grades must benefit if success attend our efforts. When

this is fully realised it is certain that their attitude of being interested spectators will give place to one of generous co-operation—but it will be too late in any case for the "big push" before us.

At a Staff Side meeting of the Suggestions Committee on September 10th, the draft of the new Instructions in regard to Smuggling (Vol. I, Part 1) came under consideration. There was a lengthy discussion, and the P.S.A. representatives secured the adoption by the Staff Side of several suggestions to amend the Draft.

Amongst these suggestions was one which aimed at removing the restriction as regards spirits and cigars in connection with the Chief Preventive Officer's discretion to offer the "option" on goods up to the duty limit of fifty shillings. It is contended that the C.P.O. should be allowed to use this discretion in the case of **all** tobacco goods.

Another suggestion made was that the Preventive Officer be permitted to undertake this responsibility when no Chief Preventive Officer was available. There are very good reasons for this suggestion, and the Staff Side had no difficulty in agreeing.

Arising from a discussion of the Draft in general, the Committee considered suggestions for providing more adequate information for the guidance of officers when conducting smuggling cases in Court. These suggestions were accepted, and one can hope that eventually the Official Side will agree to them. There is no reason why officers should have to learn such things by humiliating experiences in Court.

\* \* \* \*

The rank and file of the Civil Service are gradually beginning to forget the existence of the Royal Commission. The inevitable slowness of the Commission's investigations is no doubt accountable for this. So far no pronouncement has been forthcoming in regard to any Civil Service problem, and it will likely be some considerable time before the first report appears. The hearing of evidence has taken longer than was expected. There are still several Organisations that have not been heard. During October the National Staff Side will be submitting evidence in regard to Superannuation, and the

employment of women in the Civil Service. As regards the latter question there are many who anticipate far-reaching recommendations from the Commission. The employment of women in the Preventive Service is not so impossible as some people imagine. The great safeguard at the moment against the introduction of women to our Department is the poor pay. The female who would be prepared to accept the pay would not be of the class capable of passing an open competitive examination such as is set for entrance to the A.P.O. Grade. But there is a feeling in certain quarters that baggage examination is a special sort of job requiring special qualifications apart from those possessed by the ordinary P.O. or A.P.O. If such an idea were to prevail, then this particular work would be better paid. It would be regarded as separate from ordinary Waterguard duties, and the moment that view is generally accepted the door is wide open for women Customs Officers, to be employed solely on baggage examination.

\* \* \* \*

Elsewhere in this issue appears a report of the Mass Demonstration at the Central Hall, Westminster, to protest against the reduction of bonus.

The remarkable fact about this meeting is that, despite the unfavourable time of the year for such a Demonstration, there were so many turned up that the hall was packed to capacity, and there was a large overflow meeting in another hall. This was hardly expected even by those who are in a position to know only too well the bitter feelings that exist amongst Civil Servants regarding bonus conditions, and it should remove any impression that bonus hardships are regarded as a minor detail by the rank and file of the Service.

\* \* \* \*

The claim made by the Warehousemen in the Stores Branch of the Customs and Excise for increased increments has been decided against by the Arbitration Court. The case was heard in July this year.

\* \* \* \*

An article on Smuggling, appearing in the "Sunday Express" on September 14th, has excited a good deal of comment amongst the Preventive Staff. It is not that our people are unfamiliar with this kind of stuff, but there is an impression that the writer is not so unfamiliar with the construction of Customs staffs as his article would indicate. Unfortunately, it is not possible to deal with these people who present misleading information to the public. The whole article is absurd but is disturbing.

## 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

## Changes in the Staff.

TO SEPTEMBER 15th, 1930.

APPOINTMENTS.

### TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, LOWER SECTION :—  
Connor, R., Lerwick, Aberdeen, to Wes:  
Hartlepool, Sunderland.

Moloney, C., Unattached, Office of I.G.W.  
to Lerwick, Aberdeen.

Sinnott, R., Unattached, Office of I.G.W. to  
Plymouth.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—  
Weston, B., Dover to Plymouth.

EXCHANGE :—  
Atkinson, J. P., Blyth, Newcastle, with  
Collings, G. P., Newcastle.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT :—  
PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—  
Johnson, R. E., Sunderland.

### VACANCIES.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION :—  
Weymouth, Southampton, 20.10.1930.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—  
Gravesend, London, 31.10.1930.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—  
\*Faversham, Dover.

\*An official residence is provided at a reduced rental, and there is an allowance of £20 per annum for performing Long Room Work, etc.

## BY THE WAY.

Those responsible for organising the Bonus Demonstration on September 4th did their work well. They knew the feeling running right through all grades of the Civil Service, and they knew that the Central Hall at Westminster, with its smaller hall, would not be sufficient to accommodate all the demonstrators.

They were right. The large hall was full, the small hall held an overflow of 1,500, and many had to be content with remaining outside. There was no mistaking the temper of the meeting when that tremendous "AYE" rang out when the resolution was put. The text of the resolution appears on another page.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. W. J. Brown, M.P., who followed the Chairman at the main meeting, was at his best. He urged the necessity of doing our best to destroy the impression that the Civil Service gets anything like the compensation as represented by the Ministry of Labour index figure. Only those in the Service in receipt of £91 5s. per annum, or 35/- per week or less, get full compensation. Those in excess of that figure up to £200 per annum receive compensation down to half, and those at scales above £200 per annum receive 30 per cent. downwards.

There are approximately 150,000 Civil Servants receiving more than 35/- per week, and, therefore, getting less than full compensation, 150,000 to whom the 1920 agreement represents a definite reduction in the standard of life. If the 1920 agreement represented a reduction, why did the Civil Service accept it? It must have been for one of three reasons—the everlasting charity of the poor (laughter), the fact that it was the best agreement we could wring out of the Treasury at that time, or because it was understood that it was intended as a temporary measure and not by any means as a permanency. Mr. Brown was amazed at the patience of the poor man. If we accepted the 1920 agreement, it was not because it was a just agreement, but because it was the best that could be obtained at that time. It was thoroughly understood by the Government and the Staff that it was merely a temporary measure in the years immediately following the war.

A request was made by the Staff in 1928 for a new agreement, and not even then for full compensation, but that the area of full compensation should be increased from £91 5s. to £160 per annum. Negotiations were carried on for a year and then reached a deadlock. A new Government came in and decided to set up a Royal Commission. It seemed that the conditions of the Civil Service would not be worsened while the Commission was engaged on its task. Simultaneously, the Chancellor suspended the drop that would have taken place, a fair and logical thing to do. If this had been maintained, the necessity for this meeting would not have arisen. The Chancellor has refused to ask the Commission for an interim report on the bonus question. In these circumstances the least the Government can do is to maintain the standard of remuneration while the justice of the Staff's claim is being considered.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. C. A. W. Sanders was the last speaker to address the meeting, having already addressed the overflow in the small hall. He was not in agreement with demonstrations such as this. He was a lover of, and preferred, orderly negotiation. But there are times when, after years and years of striving, one finds oneself in such company as this (laughter). The attendance at this meeting was indication enough of the feeling of the Service. We must look much farther than the benefit of immediate compensation. We must look at its effect upon the figure at which the bonus will eventually be consolidated. Unfair treatment now will seriously prejudice salaries for the next twenty years or so.

\* \* \* \*

The Staff Side of the National Whitley Council has submitted a claim to the Royal Commission for consolidation of the bonus with salary on the basis of a cost-of-living index figure of 70, and that full compensation at this rate be paid on the first £160 of basic salary, 75 per cent. of the full rate on that part of basic salary between £160 and £250, and 50 per cent. of the full rate on basic salary in excess of £250.

P.A.R.

## Civil Service Confederation.

### COST-OF-LIVING BONUS CAMPAIGN.

Central Hall Demonstration, 4th September, 1930.

Following upon the official announcement that the Civil Service Cost-of-Living Bonus would be paid upon the basis of a Cost-of-Living Index Figure of 65 for the six-months period commencing 1st September, 1930, compared with the figure of 70 upon which bonus had been paid for the previous twelve months, the Staff Side of the Civil Service National Whitley Council forwarded a protest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the failure of the Government to maintain payment of the bonus at 70, while the Cost of Living case was before the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, this being the figure at which bonus had stood at the time the Cost-of-Living issue was referred, at the instance of the Government, to the Royal Commission.

In support of the National Staff Side protest, the Civil Service Confederation decided to hold an all-grades demonstration in London, in order to give an opportunity for the manifestation of the feeling of the rank and file of the Civil Service on the all-important question of the bonus. The demonstration was accordingly held on the evening of Thursday, 4th September, 1930, and the fact that the Confederation had accurately gauged the extent and intensity of the existing feeling on the subject was proved beyond question by the overwhelming success of the meeting. The large Central Hall, Westminster, the largest hall it was possible to obtain for the date decided upon, was filled to capacity by an audience which displayed the utmost enthusiasm, while the small hall was also packed by an overflow meeting.

Mr. George Chase, the President of the Civil Service Confederation, presided, and was followed by Mr. W. J. Brown, M.P., a member of the Executive Committee of the Confederation and the General Secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association, who, having reviewed the history of the Cost-of-Living Bonus question in the Civil Service since the signature of the Agreement of 1920, and especially the course of the negotiations of the last two years with a view to the revision of the Agreement, moved a resolution in the following terms:—

"That in view of the Government's reference of the Cost-of-Living Bonus question to the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, this Mass Demonstration of Civil Servants of all Grades protests emphatically against the Government's decision to reduce, as from the 1st September, 1930, the rates of bonus which Civil Servants have received for the last eighteen months, and since the date of the appointment of the Commission,

"The Demonstration affirms that the present levels of remuneration of Civil Servants of all grades do not adequately provide for the increase in Cost of Living over pre-war levels, and insists that the standard of life of Civil Servants—of whom 150,000 are in receipt of an inclusive salary not exceeding £3 per week—should not be further worsened.

"The Demonstration directs attention to the low percentage of compensation granted to Civil Servants in receipt of pre-war salaries in excess of 35s. per week to meet post-war increases in the Cost of Living, and asserts that the reduction in Bonus now to be imposed by the Government will still further lower this inadequate basis.

"The Demonstration demands that the Cost-of-Living Bonus, being now *sub judice*, shall not be reduced below the rates applicable at the date when the Bonus question was referred to the Royal Commission for consideration and report."

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. A. J. Brown, the Assistant Secretary of the Association of Officers of Taxes, and supported by Mr. C. W. Gibson, L.C.C., Divisional Organiser of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr. C. A. W. Sanders, the Honorary Treasurer of the Civil Service Confederation, was carried unanimously, a great shout of "Aye" ringing through the hall in response to the Chairman's call, and not a single dissentient voice being heard.

At the overflow meeting, Mr. Ross Wyld, Vice-President of the Civil Service Confederation, presided, and the meeting was addressed by the same speakers as the main demonstration.

The Confederation feels that its action in taking the initiative in this matter, and providing an opportunity for the expression of rank and file feeling on the bonus question, has thus received ample justification, and that the revelation of Civil Service opinion on the matter has been so unmistakable that its existence cannot be denied. Telegrams of support from Civil Service organisations—both inside and outside the Confederation—were received from all over the country.

The stewarding arrangements, which worked admirably, were undertaken by the Civil Service Clerical Association, and were in charge of Mr. C. Hollock. Thanks are also due to the Organist, Mr. H. C. J. Churchill.



# SUMMARY of AUDITED DISTRICT ACCOUNTS

for the Year ended 31st March, 1930

## INCOME.

District.	Balance Brought Forward.		Subscriptions		Total
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
LONDON	3	15 4	201	12 6	205 7 10
LIVERPOOL	5	10 7	127	4 0	132 14 7
MANCHESTER	0	0 8	43	2 0	43 2 8
SWANSEA	0	0 11	55	17 6	55 18 5
CARDIFF	2	16 1	112	12 3	115 8 4
BRISTOL	0	3 11	41	16 8	45 0 7
PLYMOUTH	0	4 7	49	16 0	50 0 7
SOUTHAMPTON	4	3 11	120	6 0	124 9 11
DOVER	0	0 5	56	1 3	56 1 8
GRAVESEND	0	5 4	76	11 6	76 16 10
HARWICH	0	1 11	36	12 4	36 14 3
GRIMSBY	0	6 7	46	11 0	46 17 7
HULL	—	—	61	6 6	61 6 6
HARTLEPOOL	1	12 3	66	4 0	67 16 3
TYNE	0	6 7	71	4 0	71 10 7
LEITH	—	—	80	12 0	80 12 0
ABERDEEN	0	4 3	55	7 0	55 11 3
GLASGOW	0	5 2	46	10 6	46 15 8
BELFAST	3	7 9	20	3 0	23 10 9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£23</b>	<b>6 3</b>	<b>£1,372</b>	<b>10 0</b>	<b>£1,395 16 3</b>

J. T. SUTTON,  
Organising Secretary.

## EXPENDITURE.

District.	District Expenses.		Amt. to Gen. Fund.	Balance C/D.		Total.
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	
LONDON	8	5 3	192	19 10	4 2 9	205 7 10
LIVERPOOL	4	4 1	126	1 5	2 9 1	132 14 7
MANCHESTER	3	8 4	39	14 0	0 0 4	43 2 8
SWANSEA	4	17 1	51	0 0	0 1 4	55 18 5
CARDIFF	9	1 3	104	0 9	2 7 1	115 8 4
BRISTOL	1	9 2	43	0 0	6 11 5	45 0 7
PLYMOUTH	0	12 10	49	7 0	0 7 9	50 0 7
SOUTHAMPTON	3	6 2	117	13 3	3 10 6	124 9 11
DOVER	2	16 2	53	5 0	6 0 6	55 1 8
GRAVESEND	8	0 4	68	10 0	0 6 6	76 16 10
HARWICH	1	11 2	35	2 0	0 1 1	38 14 3
GRIMSBY	2	0 3	44	8 5	0 8 11	46 17 7
HULL	0	19 6	60	7 0	—	61 6 6
HARTLEPOOL	5	1 9	61	10 0	1 4 6	67 16 3
TYNE	1	3 3	69	19 0	0 8 4	71 10 7
LEITH	2	14 5	77	17 7	—	80 12 0
ABERDEEN	1	5 9	54	0 0	0 5 6	55 11 3
GLASGOW	4	14 6	42	0 0	0 1 2	46 15 8
BELFAST	1	4 11	22	5 0	0 0 10	23 10 9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£66</b>	<b>16 2</b>	<b>£1,312</b>	<b>12 6</b>	<b>£16 7 7</b>	<b>£1,395 16 3</b>

J.T. SUTTON,  
Organising Secretary.



## The Preventive Service Sports Club.

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The new club recently formed in London is now firmly established. The two old London clubs have at last wound up their affairs, and their assets and liabilities have been taken over by the new club. The subscribing members, I hear, are increasing gradually in numbers, and judging from the enquiries lately received should, by the end of the year, place the club in a very strong position.

The cricket section was the first to fly the new colours, and by the time this issue appears will have played the last game of the season. I believe their programme has been highly successful, for although they certainly have not won any championship or trophy, they have played more games this year than in any previous season and have lost fewer matches; and although not in the top half of the C. & E. League, they are also not at the bottom, a place they have come to regard as entirely their own, having been the wooden spoonists in this League for the last three years. One very bright feature of this section is the number of young and promising players discovered. At least ten new players come to my mind who have played this year. One or two other members have expressed a wish to play next season, and I am asked to inform all intending cricketers for 1931 to notify the Section Secretary, Mr. G. H. Baldwin, in good time so that adequate arrangements may be made to cater for all.

The football section, under the able control of Mr. C. F. Lowe, has commenced its season full of enthusiasm. The team is practically the same as did such yeoman service for the old North Side. In fact, last year's record somewhat influenced the Committee when entering the team in an A.F.A. Thursday League and the C. & E. Competition. I understand that Mr. Lowe would like to see some more young members take up this section.

The swimming section has been discussed, but I am unable to give any definite information at the moment. I do know of at least one member who has taken up this sport very seriously and has been training now for some months, and I have no doubt we shall hear more about him after the "Gala."

Did you read "Current Comments" in the last issue?

That paragraph having reference to this club! You did!!

Weil, make a note of this date—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29th, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London. This is the night of the FIRST ANNUAL DINNER of the new club. Make a note of this before you read any further; someone may pinch this copy or it may be mislaid.

Also make a note of an earlier date, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, the club's first dance at Plashet Grove.

As these dances of the old North Side Club were such a success, we are continuing them this winter, and with a new and stronger band. These dances will be held every first Friday in the month (note the convenient night). It is hoped to hold dances on the South Side also, but details of these will be published later.

For the benefit of members of the Launch Service who have kindly made enquiries of the club, I am to say that the club is open to all Launch Service ratings. Any further information and applications for membership can be obtained from Mr. F. R. Fisk, Waterguard Department, King George V. Dock, or 9, Tavistock Road, Stratford, E.15.

While on the point of membership I might add that the club is open, also, to all retired officers; so those of you who are about to "sit on the lawn," don't forget, and keep in touch with your old colleagues by joining the club. R.E.D.

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## Leith Prosecution.

At the Edinburgh J.P. Court on September 5th a sailor belonging to the Dutch steamer "Westland," from Rotterdam, was charged with knowingly concealing 64lb of o.s. Cigars. He pleaded guilty and was fined £12, including costs. (The t.v.d. on the goods amounted to £30 15s. 6d.). The cigars were discovered by Mr. McLaughlin (A.P.O.), and were concealed beneath the wooden flooring of a cargo locker in the after-poop.

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## Hull Prosecution.

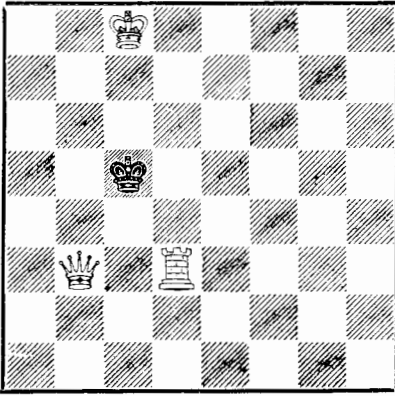
A sailor belonging to the Estonian steamer "Nemrac," from Kotka, was charged at the Hull City Police Court on September 6th, with concealing 5½lb tobacco (o.s.). He was convicted and fined £3 9s. 10d., plus 10/- interpreter's fees. While engaged in the rummage of the vessel, Mr. A. Bleazard, A.P.O., discovered the goods behind a quantity of empty tins in a storeroom used by the crew.

# SPORT AND SOCIAL

## Customs Preventive Staff Chess Club

### PROBLEM No. 61.\*

Black.



White.

White mate in two.

### Solution to No. 60.

White Black.

1. Q—B8. Any.
2. Accordingly.

### TIME LIMIT:—

37. In the absence of agreement to the contrary, either player, on providing suitable clocks, may require a game to be played under a time limit. In such cases, the following regulations shall apply:—

(a) Each player shall make not less than 20 moves in one hour, not less than 40 moves in two hours, and so on; unless some other number of moves to be made within a limited time be fixed by agreement, or by the regulations governing the competition in which the game is being played.

(b) The time of each player shall be separately reckoned.

(c) The time shall run against the player, except when the opponent is considering what penalty he shall exact, *his* time shall run, and not that of the player.

(d) It shall be the duty of each player to ensure the recording of his opponent's time, and no allowance shall be made for error caused by either player's neglect of this duty.

(e) If it be proved that, otherwise than by the neglect mentioned in clause (d), time has been incorrectly recorded for one or both players, such error shall be equitably rectified.

(f) Any move or moves retracted under Law 25 or 35 shall be treated as having been made for the purposes of this Law.

(Will London members note this Law specially please, and that in the Civil Service League above sub-para. (a) is altered to 24 moves in one hour, 36 in 1½ hours, 42 in 1¾ hours, etc., if playing by clock).

## Newport v. Cardiff.

### Cricket Match and Presentation.

Test match cricket faded into obscurity on September 3rd, when, after the lapse of a season, Newport Customs and Excise met their Cardiff colleagues in a local cricket Derby at Newport Athletic Grounds.

The revival of Newport's team is due entirely to the keen interest and practical assistance of the Collector and Chief Preventive Officer, and thanks to them this match was made possible.

The teams were well supported by a truly representative gathering, amongst those present being Mr. J. W. Dawson, Collector, and Mr. E. Rogers, Assistant Collector of Newport; Mr. J. Juniper, Assistant Collector; Mr. J. Moss, Waterguard Superintendent, and Mr. C. R. Purser, C.P.O., of

Cardiff, Mr. F. A. Dove, C.P.O., of Newport, showed his support in a practical manner by playing for the team.

Cardiff won the toss, batted first, and, thanks to the success of their early batsmen, attained the respectable score of 93. Newport, despite the fact that fate attempted to assist them by involving Cardiff's "Bradman" in a motor-car breakdown, could only reply with 31. Both teams played in the true cricketing spirit, and this most enjoyable match creates a precedent which both Newport and Cardiff will certainly follow in the future.

After the match a pleasing ceremony took place on the pavilion veranda, where Mr. Moss, on behalf of the Newport Staff, presented two bronze ornaments, a pipe and tobacco pouch to Mr. T. R. Boyd, who recently retired after serving as watcher for a number of years. Mr. Boyd was assured of having the best wishes of those present for his future happiness.

The vanquished then led the visitors to the Victoria Hotel, where defeat was forgotten in the enjoyment of listening to the vocal and musical items given by members of both Staffs.

Doubt still remains as to which side won at Community Singing.

## Foreign Smuggling.

by "VULCAN."

In this country when a smuggler is brought to mind, one generally has the idea of a seaman; yet a few recent cases show how wide the idea of profiting by defrauding the Revenue is, and how all classes of society engage in it. We hear that the German Customs at Aachen recently called upon the driver of a motor lorry to stop for examination. Instead of obeying, however, he increased his speed, whereon the officers opened fire with fatal results to the driver. No less than 2,800 pounds of coffee were seized from the lorry. This is by no means an isolated case of motor lorry smuggling, as the German authorities have recently unearthed a wide-reaching plan whereby 1,400 sacks of coffee have been smuggled at odd times in the tool boxes of lorries leaving the free port of Hamburg, causing a loss to the Revenue of £7,000. Equally recently news is received that no less a person than a bishop has been sentenced to imprisonment of a year and a day by the United States Courts for smuggling by means of diverting wine admitted for sacramental purposes to illegal channels. The extent to which he

smuggled may be calculated when it is considered that he made only one dollar profit on a gallon but made £8,000 per year. Roughly 40,000 gallons of wine must have been smuggled every year through his agency.

## Densley Appeal.

There are still a few of the above lists outstanding and as it is intended to publish the final list of contributions in the next issue of the Journal I will be grateful if they may be sent to me. All these lists are numbered and their return, irrespective of whether any subscriptions appear thereon or not, is necessary for audit purposes.

J. T. SUTTON,

Organising Secretary.

## 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.*

### CODES.

Sir,—With reference to the letter written by "Progress," and published in your last issue, may I say that I quite agree with him? I think the system of issuing codes is also antiquated.

I am a newcomer to the Service, and after making two applications for my codes, some four months later received only part of them. Once again I have applied for a full set.

The incident proves rather amusing when reference is made to "Instructions to Preventive Men," where it states that codes will be issued "on request," and that failure to keep such amended will be taken as an official offence.

How can one be expected to become an efficient officer, and shoulder the responsibilities of such, when the required instructions fail to be issued?

Yours, etc.,

"PROGRESS II."

## HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

Sir,—Exchange of residences, mentioned in your last issue, for the period of annual leave, is a matter that has occupied my mind many times since I first joined the Service.

The practice of mutual exchanges of this kind may be observed in a number of walks of life. It is found to be of especial benefit to the clergy, particularly within the Church of England. Many a country or seaside parson is glad of a holiday in town (not necessarily London), while his brother in town is just as anxious for a change in the other direction. Providing that the periods of leave synchronise, what could be more logical than that the two of them should take up each other's residence for that period?

With the parson, it is very often a busman's holiday, for the arrangement often entails taking charge of the other parish, but much benefit is obtained from the mere change of surroundings. Of how much more value would it be to members of our own department who could exchange without the trouble of taking charge of the other fellow's station?

There should not be very great difficulties in the way of creating a scheme whereby officers could avail themselves of each other's homes to their mutual advantage. Organisation would be necessary so that arrangements could be centralised, and in order to avoid any slipshod arrangements culminating in misunderstandings. As your contributor observes, there must be plenty of people in the department who would be willing to undertake the small amount of work that the scheme would entail.

I can imagine that a certain section may object to the idea; in fact, I have no doubt on this point. But it is a scheme that will only affect those who wish to avail themselves of it. I must say one thing, however, and that is that if such arrangements can be made among other sections of the community, and worked with the amount of success that is met with among the clergy, then I am quite positive that members of the Preventive Staff would experience no difficulty whatever. There is no reason why arrangements cannot be made for next summer.

Yours, etc.,

"HANNIBAL."

## Customs & Excise Orphans' Widows' & War Memorial Fund

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