

The Customs Journal

No. 674

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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

NOT CRICKET.

WE have neither the ability or the desire to enliven the Journal with a sporting treatise, but in these days of "Test" it is not surprising if our thoughts upon mundane matters should, when circumstances warrant it, result in the use of a saying that has a definite meaning to cricketers and non-cricketers alike.

In our last issue we published an effort by our tame poet dedicated to that strange being the non-member. To our surprise his lines have met the eye of at least one of those "reapers who do not sow," and to say no more the incident shows the danger of looking where one shouldn't. Anyway, there is wrath in the bosom of a tender soul, and he is hurt so greatly that he must unburden his sorrows unto us. Well, whatever may be the valuation of a non-member, poets are precious, and some knowledge of their retiring disposition prevents us from obliging our correspondent, even though we are sure that our rhymester would at least emerge with head "bloody, but unbowed."

It is reflection upon this rather paradoxical situation that draws from us the sporting simile, and in the hope that we may be as fortunate in our readers as was our contributor in the last issue, we propose to ask a rather pertinent

question. What does one do with a conscience that, apart from allowing us to read a periodical maintained by our colleagues (at their expense, and not one's own), prevents us from belonging to an Association whilst content to receive the benefits of associated activity? That may appear to many of our friends to be a peculiar question, but we assure them that there are peculiar people, and peculiar consciences.

Examination of one's conscience is time well spent, though there are occasions when it does not increase one's mental comfort. We would ask some of our so-called colleagues to take that risk, and we feel that their subsequent action might result in the possession of a conscience that would not prick so easily. We are certain that it would help us to think better of them, and they would naturally react.

In case they also have caught the prevailing complex we would state that we know of a team also engaged in a "test" of the fight-to-a-finish calibre. Their interests and conditions depend upon the result of the match. The man who will take the advantages of victory without "playing the game" has caused our hard to insult an inoffensive amphibian. We would merely remind him of a glorious game.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

THE Annual Conference this year proved as highly successful as in past years. There were many lively debates. Problems for discussion were tackled vigorously and thrashed threadbare. It is interesting to note that the growing tendency on the part of Districts to allow their Conference delegates a reasonably free hand has resulted in adding more vim to the general debates. There is nothing so discouraging to a delegate as for his constituents to tie him up with instructions which, in effect, debar him from entering into these discussions.

* * * *

One of the most important matters for consideration was the question of how to reconstruct Headquarters machinery for the management of Association business during the coming twelve months. This problem had arisen since the previous Conference, and was due to the fact that in the ordinary course of events it had turned out that the four chief posts in the Association were now held by members of the Preventive Officer Grade. The General Secretary's intimation that he intended resigning immediately after the conclusion of Arbitration Court proceedings, helped to clear the situation, but in itself created a further subject for careful and lengthy consideration.

That the whole problem was eventually settled to the satisfaction of everyone is something upon which the Conference is to be congratulated. The situation was full of possible pitfalls, the safe and successful negotiation of which depended upon a broad view being taken of all the circumstances.

* * * *

The unanimous decision to designate Mr. W. H. Powell for the post of General Secretary on it becoming vacant was undoubtedly actuated by his obvious qualifications for the work. A long experience of close contact with every phase of Association activity, together with a proved ability for Staff Side work and negotiation generally, are qualities that could not be overlooked in making this choice.

This appointment was coupled with a decision to elect from the Assistant Preventive Officer Grade an Assistant Secretary to take over Mr. Powell's place when the time arrives for him to vacate that post. The intervening period will be used in finding a suitable candidate for election.

* * * *

In the election of the new Executive it was arranged that there would be no disturbance of the usual rule which provides for equal numbers of Preventive Officers and Assistant Preventive Officers on this Committee.

* * * *

The Report to the Conference regarding progress in the negotiations with other Preventive Service organisations on the question of closer co-ordination stated that letters had been sent to the various Associations some months ago, suggesting a meeting of representatives for an informal talk on the situation. No meeting had taken place because the Chief Preventive Officers' Association had had some difficulty in coming to a decision. Their letter finally declining the invitation to attend the informal conference had only recently been received.

After a deal of discussion the Council decided to instruct the Executive to take no further action in regard to the Chief Preventive Officers' Association, but to proceed as early as possible to meet the other Associations concerned.

* * * *

The old question of how to deal with the non-member cropped up once more, and once more came to the same old conclusion. There is only one way to deal with the man who refuses to belong to the Organisation of his fellows, and that is to stir up his self-respect, if any. If he has none, then there is no other means, and in any case such a man would not be a desirable member. We are fortunate in having very few of this type in the Preventive Staff. It would be miraculous if we had none.

Some of the Conference delegates thought that it might be possible to prevent non-members from obtaining copies of the "Customs Journal," and a suggestion was made that where it was known that a non-member regularly read the Journal he should be asked to pay for it. After some discussion the matter was dropped. Any non-member who happens to read this will know, therefore, that his coppers are still safe. His colleagues in the Service have no weapon strong enough to penetrate an armour of shamelessness.

* * * *

The Report of the year's working of the Educational Section caused much satisfaction. It was decided that since the scheme had now proved itself to be a thoroughly efficient and a permanent concern, the time had arrived when the fees charged could be justifiably increased in order to bring them more into proportion with the value given. Slight increases in the fees of the different courses provided were therefore proposed and agreed to. It ought now to be possible to give better recompense to those whose arduous task it is to examine papers and instruct pupils.

Arising from this Report there was a rather heated discussion on the question of the obligations of tutors undertaking appointments under the Scheme. Despite very strong differences of opinion that existed at the beginning of the discussion, the matter terminated in a manner creditable to everyone who took part in the debate.

* * * *

The recently inaugurated course of training in administration for C.P.O. candidates, introduced under the auspices of the V.E.S., came in for much enthusiastic appreciation from those Councillors who had had opportunity to see the papers. The tutor's methods were described as excellent and extremely helpful.

A resolution was moved and carried unanimously expressing the appreciation of the Conference in regard to the method and substance of the tuition.

* * * *

The Comments made here in connection with Conference happenings must not be regarded as a full account of the proceedings. The usual report will appear in the next issue of the Journal. A detailed report is not possible until the shorthand notes of the Conference have been transcribed, and as this is a rather lengthy business the information is not available in time for the current issue.

An interesting event in connection with the Conference took place on one of the evenings when a cricket match was arranged between the London Preventive Staff team and a scratch team drawn from the Conference delegates. The game was both amusing and interesting. The Council team showed some unexpectedly good form, and succeeded in winning the match. It must be admitted, however, that the London team were very gallant. They were voted jolly good sports by all the visitors.

The Inspector-General was an interested spectator, and stayed to see the end of the game in spite of the somewhat showery weather.

* * * *

The Civil Service Confederation is arranging to hold a Mass Meeting of Civil Servants in the Central Hall, London, on September 4th, to protest against the reduction of bonus that is to take place in September. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance. Every one who can get there should make a point of attending.

Civil Service Confederation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

At the Executive Committee meeting of the Civil Service Confederation, held on Monday, 11th August, 1930, it was decided to arrange a Mass Demonstration of protest against the decision of the Government in reducing the Cost-of-Living Bonus of Civil Servants as from the 1st September next, and to demand that the existing basis should be maintained until the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, which has the general question of the Cost-of-Living Bonus under consideration, has reported.

The Albert Hall not being available, it was decided to hold the meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, 4th September, and a sub-committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

Our Girls.

Readers will be pleased to hear that Miss Hilda Gwynnee Johnson, daughter of Mr. L. Johnson, late Waterguard Superintendent at Hull, successfully passed her examination for the B.A. Degree at Manchester University last month.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

TO AUGUST 11th, 1930.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Black, T. A. ; Dacre, H. G. ; Hawkins, R. W. ;
Richards, E. G.

MATE-IN-CHARGE :—

Prynn, L. G.

TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION :—

Jenkins, G. H., Unattached, Office of I.G.W.
to Gravesend, London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Hannah, H. S., Dundee to Middlesbrough,
Sunderland.
Self, W. G., Grimsby to Immingham,
Grimsby.
Smith, F. W., North Shields, Newcastle, to
Weymouth, Southampton.
Whiting, J., Middlesbrough, Sunderland, to
Dover.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Bowen, W., Cardiff, to Weymouth, South-
ampton.
Brown, J. F., Glasgow to Swansea.
Burns, J., Greenock to Ardrossan, Greenock.
Clarke, G. T., Bristol to Southampton.
Gardner, J., Southampton to London.
Gray, W., Glasgow to Bo'ness, Edinburgh.
Lindell, R. A., Portishead, Bristol, to Bristol.
Miles, J., Plymouth to Exmouth, Plymouth.
Paterson, L. P., Barry Dock, Cardiff, to
Cardiff.
Raspison, H. J., Boston, Grimsby, to Dover.
Simison, C., London to Boston, Grimsby.
Stuart, G., Troon, Greenock, to Itchenor,
Brighton.
Tindale, R. B., Swansea to Middlesbrough,
Sunderland.
The transfer of Mr. H. J. Charlton from
Glasgow to Clydebank, Glasgow, notified in
O.W.O. 26/1930, has been cancelled.

PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION TO UPPER SECTION :—

Evernden, G. W., Plymouth to Bristol.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, LOWER SECTION (UNATTACHED) :—

Hannam, S. P. G., Appledore, Plymouth, to
Office of I.G.W.
Jones, E., Littlehampton, Brighton, to Office
of I.G.W.
Spencer, S. T. G., Weymouth, Southampton,
to Office of I.G.W.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Gilbert, H. E., Weymouth, Southampton, to
North Shields, Newcastle.
Long, S. C. C., Bo'ness, Edinburgh, to
Dundee.
Mitchell, M. C., Leith to North Shields,
Newcastle.
Murphy, S., Liverpool to Grimsby.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS :—

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION :—

Fox, S. T., Newhaven, Brighton.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Taylor, G. J. E., Southend, London.

MATE-IN-CHARGE :—

Morgan, E. A., Southampton.

ENGINEER MECHANIC :—

Mason, T. S., London.

VACANCIES.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Appledore, Plymouth.

(An official residence is provided at a re-
duced rental, and there is an allowance of
£30 per annum for performing Long Room
work, etc., plus £10 per annum for Registry
of Shipping Work.)

Littlehampton, Brighton.

(An official residence is provided at a re-
duced rental, and there is an allowance of
£25 per annum for performing Long Room
work, etc., plus £10 per annum for Registry
of Shipping Work.)

Methill, Dundee. 27.9.30.

Sunderland. 5.9.30.

Teignmouth, Plymouth.

(An allowance of £30 per annum for per-
forming Long Room work, etc., plus £10 per
annum for Registry of Shipping work, is
assigned.)

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Coppard, D. A., Preventive Officer.
Dennis, W. R., Boatman.
Roberts, C., Preventive Officer.

"SECONDS OUT - FOR THE ARBITRATION BELT - "ROUND" (about) 1930



"LACK OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL NOT BE THE VICTOR"

J.T. SUTTON

"We will support you to the last BAWBEE" (including ABERDEEN)

A-ANGUS (Scotland)



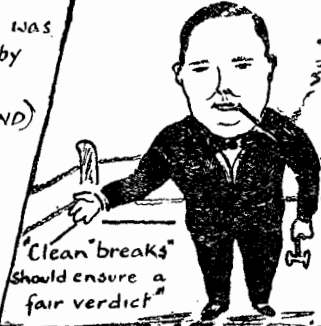
"All we ask for is 'CRICKET' expressed by BAULCH cum Grimmelt cum Tate (S-Coast)



OUR M.C. (W.G Thomson)



A "LEVY" was introduced by G-GRACE (GRAVESEND)



"Clean breaks" should ensure a fair verdict"

"LONDON'S "Full weight" is in the Fight"

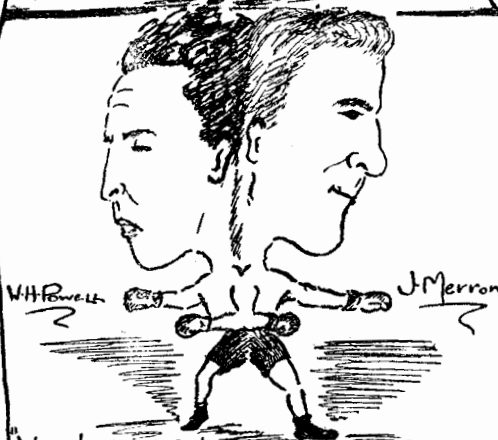


M-SULLIVAN & T-HUGHES



"We should back this project to the last waistcoat button, black or brass".

J. Shoofler (Hull)



W.H. Powell

J. Merron

"We who represent you are as one in the determination to fight for just remuneration"

One left with the impression that it required more than a trip to NORWAY to acquire the fighting spirit which was exhibited by the Councillors. Let us hope the result will be a different one than that usually obtained by our fistic champion.

Buster

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

HULL.

The quarterly meeting was held at the Metro-pole Rooms, West Street, on Friday, 18th July. Mr. Codd presided, and, in opening the meeting, expressed his regret that at the last meeting he made no reference to the valuable services rendered by Mr. Crooks, the late D.S., during a period of eight years. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Shooter, both of whom referred in eulogistic terms to Mr. Crooks's work. It was unanimously carried.

The items set down for the Annual Conference came under review of the members. Messrs. Howard and Shooter ably explained the various motions and items, and discussion followed. Keen interest was naturally shown in the progress of the Salary Claim, and it was resolved that this meeting of the Hull P.S.A. approves and supports the action of the E.C. in their efforts to secure equitable treatment of the Waterguard Salary Claim.

Local affairs came under discussion, and the distribution of "Journals" was criticised, allowing as it does for the non-member to read them and often a member not to get one.

The question of the A.P.O.s' leave was discussed, and it was proposed that the Superintendent be approached to call for a ballot of the A.P.O.s with a view of taking summer and winter periods in lieu of the present one period leave. The summer leave to consist of twelve days and the balance in the winter.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chair.

GLASGOW DISTRICT.

Notice to Outport Members.—Mr. R. E. Wood is now District Organiser vice Mr. J. Denby, and all subscriptions should in future be sent to him c/o H.M. Customs and Excise, Mavisbank, Glasgow, S.W.1.

CARDIFF PROSECUTION.

In a recent prosecution at Cardiff Police Court, a ship's steward and two railway employees were charged jointly with concealing and landing 2.15 liquid gallons of cognac. Mr. A. W. Browne (A.P.O.) stopped the two railway employees at the exit to the docks, and when questioned they each admitted possession of a bottle of cognac. The spirits were said to have been purchased from the steward of the s.s. "Vasco." Mr. Browne visited the vessel, and investigating further, discovered 1.17 liquid gallons of spirits, the property of the steward, concealed in the saloon and poop.

The steward was fined £10/19/4 and the railway employees £1/10/3 each.

HULL PROSECUTIONS.

A sailor of the s.s. "Vesta," a Finnish vessel from Kotka, was charged at the Hull City Police Court with concealing 4½ lb. tobacco o.s., and was fined £2/17/2 or 30 days in default. The goods were discovered behind the lining of the forecabin by Mr. Middlewood, A.P.O., who had to unscrew the table from the bulkhead before the goods could be extracted.

A fireman and the cook of the s.s. "Vechtstroom" from Amsterdam were charged at the Hull City Police Court with concealing 3½ lb. and 5 lb. tobacco o.s. respectively. The former was fined £3/10/- or 30 days in default, and the latter £4 or 30 days in default. The goods owned by the fireman were discovered by Mr. Brewster (A.P.O.) between the mattress and bunk boards in the offender's berth. Those owned by the cook were discovered by Mr. W. Thompson (A.P.O.) beneath a locker in the cook's berth.

At the Hull City Police Court three railway employees were jointly charged in connection with attempting to smuggle 2½ lb. o.s. tobacco and ¼ lb. Cav. tobacco. The offenders pleaded guilty and were each fined £1/14/11 or 20 days in default. In this case a quantity of tobacco had been detained by the L. & N.E. Railway Police at a Railway Goods Warehouse, and subsequent investigation by Mr. Crooks (P.O.) and Messrs. Every, Chapman and Whittaker (A.P.O.s) led to the discovery of tobacco on the person of two of the offenders and also under rubbish in a barrel.

A Customs and Excise Inter-Departmental Football Competition.

It will be no news to the majority of readers of these columns that the Directors of the Customs Fund have generously presented to the Customs and Excise Sports Club a couple of very handsome and valuable trophies as tokens of their appreciation of its past achievements, and as emblems around which the Club may rally the sporting proclivities of present and future members of the Department. Those who were present at the athletic meeting at Chiswick on July 17th will have had the opportunity of inspecting these splendid gifts, which were exhibited on the table containing the prizes and excited the admiring comments of all. The one consists of a full length model of the Custom House and its Quay, and the other is an exact replica in solid silver of the Customs Portcullis and Gateway as copied from the ancient seal of the Commissioners of Customs.

The Sports Club has decided to initiate a scheme of inter-departmental competitions in all sports, and although particulars cannot be given in detail at the moment, the project has as its basic idea a series of competitions in which every type of sport will be represented, and in which every office, dock, district or area will be encouraged to compete. It is understood that one of the trophies (the model of the Custom House) is to be allocated to a scheme whereby the office or area scoring the highest aggregate of points in all sports will have the distinction of holding this trophy.

As part and parcel of the scheme, an inter-departmental association football competition will be arranged, and it is with this that I am at the moment more immediately concerned. Besides counting towards the above scheme of aggregate points, this competition has been allocated a separate trophy all to itself, the second of those mentioned above.

The proposed football competition is, of course, only in its inaugural stages, and no rules have yet been framed. This article is intended merely as a preliminary notice of what is afoot. A great deal of hard spadework will require to be done, and a management committee will have to be instituted. As a first step, however, it is necessary to broadcast the news of the competition, and to ascertain the areas from which teams are likely to be entered. Notices of intention to compete will be accepted, in the first

instance, from any office, sub-office, dock, district, station or other area, and might I earnestly appeal for the good offices of some football enthusiast in each one of the branches or areas of the department to undertake the work of getting together a team or teams to represent his own particular area. Notices of desire to compete should be sent to me at Room 8, Ocean House, Custom House, Lower Thames Street, E.C.3, and it will be much appreciated if the notice could be accompanied by the name of someone willing to serve on a preliminary committee for getting the competition under way.

W. QUIMBY.

Barry Dock Seizure.

The discovery of twelve bottles of whiskey and nine bottles of brandy on the steamship "Ea" (Spanish) at Barry Dock led to the appearance of the steward at Penarth Police Court on a charge of smuggling. The offender was fined double value and duty, £23 and costs. The goods were discovered by Mr. Bugler (A.P.O.) concealed in a space between the top of a tank in the after-peak and the floor of the saloon.

Answers to Correspondents.

"COURAGE SANS PEUR."—Your letter indicates that you are not a member of the Association and we are therefore unable to publish it. Sorry if the lines upset you so badly, but if the cap fits—.

"A.R."—Literature upon the Health and Pensions Acts can be obtained from the Organising Secretary. Your letter has been sent to him.

"TWENTY-THREE ENTRANT."—The time-and-a-half Sunday and public holiday overtime rates resulted from the claim made by the Association before the C.S. Conciliation and Arbitration Board. The four-hour minimum was also gained by that claim.

