

The Customs Journal

No. 675

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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

ECHOES.

ONCE again some of our journalistic friends have been away on their holidays. The smuggler's cave—of which there must be thousands—has again suggested an infallible "scoop," and we are now about to enjoy some hair-raising stories of "Smuggling on the South (or any other) Coast," with full-page headlines and similarly attractive captions. These may be guaranteed on any day when no murder has to be reported, or the domestic happiness of film stars is "staying put." We suppose that the time is far distant when some long-suffering editor will cheerfully slaughter the bright young man who returns from his vacation at Muddelcombe-on-Sea after spending far too much obtaining "local colour"—and something else—in the bar parlour of the "Waterman's Arms," and desire to hit the high-spots with smuggling mania.

Till that day comes we will have to be content with the variation that ingenious newsmen can put into any old story. We have enjoyed the fast motor-boats and criminal fishermen. What a good one was the lobster pots, and how we would like to meet our old friend, the ex-officer in the "Black and Tans." The day-tripper and the bulky old lady who apparently has been to spend a few weeks with her

daughter and yet passes through Dover (or Folkestone, or Newhaven, or anywhere else that is near to your holiday resort) regularly every few days. How much have we been interested in those conversations (always of the policeman-told-the-servant-girl style) concerning "ump-teen" bottles of brandy and liqueurs, etc., and wondered why these zealous guardians of the revenue who set out to expose the smuggling scandal do not introduce their informants to a Customs Officer.

What good fun it is, though, to read about private planes and illegal landings; false bottom chests; and lights on dark and dirty nights with fast motor-cars rushing from the coast to London and a "market." It may have been a jaunt to the cove for an evening bathe—but who would spoil a good story?

We know one of our colleagues who would, and we must admit that it is irritating to find one's seizure of ten years ago made the *raison d'être* for a sensational smuggling article in 1930. We could have told them a more up-to-date yarn, for we believe we know just a little about the topic. As it is, it is our every-day task to make the introduction, and we will heave a grateful sigh the next time we meet our friend the smuggler.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

THESE Comments are being written at the seaside, in an atmosphere of peacefulness, yet hardly conducive to the kind of effort necessary for concentration upon immediate Association happenings. Also, the writer is not directly in touch with current matters, and for these two reasons this feature of the Journal will be somewhat brief on this occasion.

* * * *

It seems to be the appropriate moment to mention a proposal that has been made from time to time regarding holiday arrangements. The matter has not so far reached the stage of discussion in the pages of the "Customs Journal," but it would be interesting and useful to hear the views of members. The proposals referred to are in connection with the possibility of setting up some scheme providing for exchange of residences between members desiring to do so during the holiday season. The Preventive Staff is particularly well placed for arrangements of this kind because there are so many stationed at seaside resorts. It is one of the few instances where our conditions of service do not operate against our getting a little fun out of life, and it is to be hoped that this admission will not be used against us at the Arbitration Court.

Anyway, there seems to be something in the idea, and though it is not the intention to develop the theme here, one can hope that some of our energetic members will get their heads together, and even if the proposal to exchange residences cannot be worked into a practicable scheme, perhaps some other idea will emerge which would be beneficial to those of us who find the annual holiday rather a problem. Now is the time to start such discussion, so that if anything materialises some action could be taken for the next holiday season.

* * * *

There will be some members who will say that this kind of thing is no concern of the Association. On the other hand, some strong arguments can be brought to show that Associations would be much more effective in carrying out their prime function of endeavouring to produce a reasonable measure of contentment for their members, if a broader view were taken as to the methods that should be used in this endeavour.

One can, of course, agree with the argument that the time of Association officials under present conditions is too well occupied, and should not be wasted on idealist schemes. But that is no reason why the Association should not point the way for others who have more

time for the work. There are several indefatigable workers in the social and sporting life of the Department, and they should be encouraged by an acknowledgment that their activities are a definite aid to the Association.

* * * *

The successful efforts that have been made by the London Staff to lay the foundation of a Preventive Staff Sports Club ought to have far-reaching effects. Eventually this club will link up all clubs throughout the kingdom, and will encourage the formation of new clubs in the provinces.

At a recent meeting of the Club in London it was decided to open the winter season with a dinner to be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. This will take place in October, and is expected to be a highly successful affair.

The Club Committee, at the same meeting, discussed the question of awarding the handsome cup that has been presented to the Club by the Inspector-General. It was decided to make the award to the best all-round sportsman of the year, and a sub-committee of well-known popular sportsmen in the Department was elected to make the choice.

The presenting of this cup by Mr. Woodford confirms the national aspect of the Club. It will no doubt cause provincial clubs to seek affiliation with London.

* * * *

By the time the Journal appears the Mass Meeting that has been arranged to take place at the Central Hall, London, as a protest against the reduction in bonus, will be a thing of the past. It is a bad time of the year to hold such a meeting because of the risk of a small attendance, owing to the holiday season. But, if the hall were only half full it would sufficiently demonstrate the fact that Civil Servants are very far from being satisfied with the present position. There can be no doubt that even the part reduction that is to take effect will prejudice our chances of a favourable settlement when consolidation comes along.

* * * *

The Press has again been in eruption, belching forth smoke and steam regarding smuggling. It is remarkable what these efficient publicity people can imagine when copy is short.

Probably, however, these outbursts do serve a useful purpose. They serve to remind people that the prevention of smuggling is really a most important matter, and that those who

protect the revenue in these days must be very well trained in their work, and of a totally different type to those of the old days. Successful revenue protection to-day requires from the staff to which this is entrusted a wide general knowledge, apart from an intimate knowledge of intricate regulations.

* * * *

It is expected that the examination for Chief Preventive Officer will take place in the early part of October. At the moment of writing there is no definite news on this point. There is reason to think that the result of the examination will not be long delayed, and it seems likely that the candidates will know their fate before the end of the year.

Such a large assembly of Preventive Officers from all parts of the kingdom has never been known before. It should be a very interesting gathering. Each of the candidates will be in London for at least two days.

* * * *

The claim of the Unattached Officers to have applied to them the terms of the National Council Agreement on Subsistence, comes before the Arbitration Court on October 9th at 11 a.m.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Barker, W. E.
Beswick, R.
Cairns, A. J.
Dando, A. T.

ENGINEER-MECHANIC :—

Colter, J.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Spear, P., Manchester to London.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Gaillie, W. W., Glasgow to Bo'ness, Edinburgh.
Head, G. W., Glasgow to Clydebank, Glasgow.

PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Smith, H., North Shields, Newcastle to Manchester.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS :—

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UPPER SECTION :—

Rich, E. J., Bristol.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS, LOWER SECTION :—

Abbott, J. W., Gravesend, London.
Dowland, H., West Hartlepool, Sunderland.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Atkins, T. W., London.
Eglin, T., Immingham, Grimsby.

VACANCY.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, LOWER SECTION :—

Grangemouth, Edinburgh, 12.10.1930.

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,—The present unwieldy system of issuing amendments to General Orders, Codes and Instructions appears to be thoroughly out of date, and badly requires exchanging for a simpler and more time-saving expedient. The innumerable amendments to General Orders, in most cases going back a great many years, take up much more valuable time than is warranted by their importance, time which could be spent in more useful official duties.

Under the old Customs system a General Order held good until cancelled and replaced by a fresh one pertaining to the same subject. In addition, we were supplied with decently-bound Codes, but now, in addition to receiving them in halfpenny numbers, we are expected to act as expert book-binders, and the unlucky wight who, through no fault of his own, happens to be inexperienced at this game (perhaps not having served an apprenticeship to it), gets it in the neck from his superiors.

The array of Codes, amendment slips, instructions and other gear issued during the twelve months is something marvellous, and on stations where a double set of these have to be kept it would require the whole of one's time to be spent on this duty alone to the exclusion of everything else. It is high time that this was altered, and a simpler system evolved out of the present chaos.

Yours, etc.,

"PROGRESS."

The Annual Conference, 1930.

The Council of the Preventive Staff Association met at Anderton's Hotel, London, on August 6th, 7th and 8th, under the Chairmanship of the President, Mr. W. G. Thomson.

The full Council was present on each day.

Messrs. W. G. Thomson (President), J. Merion (General Secretary), J. T. Sutton (Organising Secretary), W. H. Powell (Assistant Secretary), W. E. Standing (Editor), G. W. Grace and J. A. O'Connor (Gravesend), P. W. Howard and J. Shooter (Hull), R. Kewley and A. E. Farmer (Liverpool), T. O. Hughes and M. J. Sullivan (London), A. P. Angus and J. Johnstone (Scotland), R. H. Maynard and H. L. Bouch (South Coast), C. W. Morgan and F. Warren (South Wales), L. Gardiner and G. Hyde (Tyne), D. R. Cronin, A. Richardson, P. Spear and F. S. Worner (additional Councillors) (25).

Mr. Thomson, in opening the proceedings, referred to the late date of the Conference, and stated that it would be appreciated that this was due to the large volume of work performed recently. He extended a welcome to the new members, and expressed pleasure in seeing several familiar faces again. At this stage the Chairman referred to the absence of a very valuable worker, the late A. W. P. Densley, who, as the result of a distressing accident, lost his life by drowning. He expressed the feelings of all present in appropriate terms.

The Chairman referred to the steady progress that had been maintained during the past twelve months, and to the immense amount of work involved in bringing the Salary Claim to a critical issue.

Valuable work had been performed in strengthening the Association. It had never been so strong as at present—it is a highly-organised body with splendid machinery at its disposal. The direct results of the progress were apparent in the enhanced prestige of the department. The old prejudice against the Waterguard had faded away against the continued advance of the Association.

In reviewing the work of the past year, the Chairman stated that there was a steady advance in the education of members within the Association. The year had seen the V.E.S. blossom forth into its second year of examination, and the attendant successes spoke volumes for an organisation which educates the younger element.

The Salary Claim had reached that stage when they had to refer the case to Arbitration. He did not think the average member appreciated the enormous amount of work that was going to take place at Association Headquarters—he hoped Councillors would try to convince their constituents of the big fight they had in front of them. He would like to see the members as enthusiastic as the officers had been in the preparation of the case.

In making his report, the General Secretary observed that most of the matter to which he could refer also figured in the report of the Executive Committee, and it was agreed that discussion might conveniently be deferred until the consideration of that report. In the course of his speech he mentioned various reasons which would render necessary his early withdrawal from active Association work. He said that in the event of his re-election by the present Council he intended to tender his resignation, provisionally, which meant, in effect, that he would hold the office until the conclusion of the proceedings at the Arbitration Court.

SALARY CLAIM.

As a result of serious consideration of the present position with regard to the Salary Claim, the Council was unanimous in adopting the E.C. resolution that the claim should be taken to Arbitration on the question of salary scales only, at this stage.

A lengthy and very informative discussion took place on Arbitration Court procedure.

The question of an official enquiry into Waterguard affairs was deferred for future consideration.

LEVY.

A resolution from one of the Districts was put before the Council suggesting a levy to assist in the prosecution of the Salary Claim. In the light of discussion it was pointed out by the Treasurer that there were ample funds in the hands of the Association to go forward with the claim. It was fully realised, however, that the Executive must consider a situation that might arise as the outcome of the decision of the Arbitration Court. Should such a situation arise, there are sufficient powers vested in the Executive Committee by the constitution to take action along these lines if required. A resolution to make an immediate levy was defeated.

UNIFORM.

Following the consideration of this subject, resolutions were carried that two white covers be supplied with each cap; that two suits of overalls be supplied yearly to each A.P.O., one of the one-piece type and one of the two-piece type; that the question of the issue of mackintoshes be raised, and that certain modifications be sought in the uniform waistcoat.

PROMOTION—P.O. TO C.P.O.

There are practical difficulties in the way of applying retrospectively in this matter. The question received very earnest consideration, and it was agreed to seek that officers who have failed in previous examinations should have a second chance by sitting under the new system.

ORGANISING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mr. Sutton presented Financial Statements under the following headings:—

- Main Association Accounts.
- "Customs Journal" Accounts.
- Vocational Education Section Accounts.
- Distress Fund Accounts.

Dealing with the general situation, he reported that outlook was very good. There was an upward trend in subscriptions—the total income for the past year being £1,312 as compared with £1,291 the previous year. Expenditure had, however, increased, and that was mainly due to the expense of the enlarged Council. Detailed explanation of items of expenditure were given.

The "Customs Journal" Accounts showed that the forecasted saving of £100 was being maintained; actually the Journal was being produced at £103 less than in previous years.

The Vocational Education Section Accounts indicated the close of a very successful year. The loan from P.S.A. Main Account has now been repaid.

It was decided that the fee for the Advanced Course be increased to 25/-, and that the fee for the C.P.O. Courses be increased to £2/2/-.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SECTION.

A member of the Council questioned the advisability of publishing answers to examination questions in the columns of the "Customs Journal," and suggested that the practice should be discontinued. As a result of subsequent discussion the suggestion was not accepted.

There was considerable controversy over the question of V.E.S. tutors taking private pupils, and the Council decided that no tutor should be appointed under the scheme unless he gave an undertaking not to take private pupils.

Members of the Association are also to be requested to refuse to give tuition to non-members of the Association.

THE MACKNEY DISTRESS FUND.

It was reported that there is a balance of £32/13/3 standing in the bank to the credit of this Fund. A proposal to add to this fund £10 from P.S.A. funds was accepted. The sum of 19/7 interest had been earned on the balance mentioned.

BINDERS FOR REVISED INSTRUCTIONS.

There was a unanimous vote on a resolution that binders for Revised Instructions should be officially supplied.

FULL-TIME SECRETARY.

It was suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to explore the possibility of the appointment of a full-time Secretary. In opposition to the suggestion it was argued that a full-time Secretary must have a good knowledge of Departmental regulations, and that the only way to secure the services of such an official would be to take a man out of the Service, if the intention of the resolution was the provision of a full-time General Secretary. A subsequent amendment recommended the employment of a full-time clerk at Association Headquarters. It was pointed out, however, that the expenditure in this direction could not, under present circumstances, be met from Association funds, and it was subsequently agreed to instruct the Executive to examine the possibility of obtaining increased clerical assistance.

FIRST AID BOXES.

A recommendation is to be made that First Aid Boxes be supplied to all Preventive Staff buildings and launches.

TRANSFERS FROM SMALL PORTS.

In response to a motion from Scotland, it was agreed to attempt to secure that A.P.O.s who have served three years at a small port, be given the option of transferring to a larger port at Crown's expense. But as it was clear from the discussion that this would only partially remedy the situation, inasmuch as P.O.s at small ports might also desire to gain experience "prior to an examination," the matter has been remitted to the E.C. to secure uniformity in all cases.

TRAINING OF A.P.O.s.

A resolution calling for a system of training for A.P.O.s was lost. It was pointed out that this matter had been withdrawn from the Waterguard Sectional Committee, and in view of the possibility of reorganisation in the Waterguard in the near future, the question should be left in the hands of the Executive Committee. The time, in the circumstances, did not appear to be opportune for raising questions of training.

ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK AND STAFF ANNUAL.

The desirability of the publication of a handbook by the Association was considered, and in this connection the expansion of the "Duty Tables" already issued by the V.E.S. was thought possible. It could include information not generally accessible, which could be collated by the co-operation of members who may have specialised in certain aspects of the regulations.

It was reported that the C. & E. Joint Committee is already getting down to the task of issuing a Staff Annual.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

In view of the Association being faced with the impending resignation of the General Secretary prior to the 1931 Conference, it was considered desirable that a General Secretary designate should be nominated. It was recognised that it was in Mr. Merron's own interest that he should be relieved of all Association responsibilities at the earliest possible moment. He had no intention of resigning during the present negotiations, but he felt that, in fairness to himself, he should take the first opportunity of making way for another. That opportunity would present itself shortly, and as soon as the Salary Claim negotiations had been brought to a conclusion he would discontinue his duties as General Secretary.

The Council unanimously agreed to nominate Mr. W. H. Powell as General Secretary designate.

THE ELECTIONS 1930-1931.

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

At this stage a resolution was moved that on the occasion of Mr. Powell taking over from Mr. Merron, nominations should be invited from all members of the A.P.O. grade, nominees to be prepared to reside in London. After discussion the resolution was carried.

Executive Committee: Messrs. Farmer, O'Connor, Shooter, and Worner. Mr. Grace was co-opted.

Editor, "Customs Journal": Mr. Standring.

Vocational Education Section Committee: Messrs. Foster and Steel.

Waterguard Sectional Committee: Messrs. Farmer, Merron, O'Connor, Shooter, and Sutton.

Joint Committee, C. & E. Associations: Messrs. O'Connor, Powell, Merron and Sutton.

Departmental Whitley Council: Messrs. Merron and Powell.

Civil Service Confederation Council: Messrs. O'Connor, Powell and Sutton.

Suggestions Committee: Mr. Hughes.

Votes of thanks concluded the Conference, one to the General Secretary for his valuable services to the Council, and one to the Chairman. Appreciation was also expressed for the manner in which the Headquarters staff had made the visiting Councillors comfortable.

* * * *

On the evening of the first day of the Conference, the Councillors, together with a few London members of the staff, took part in a motor-coach visit through a portion of the county of Surrey, including part of the North Downs. A halt was made at a famous beauty spot, Box Hill, and a very fine view was obtained of the surrounding country; the evening, fortunately, being very clear.

The second evening was spent on the ground of the Preventive Service Sports Club at Eltham, where the London club entertained the Council. A team was picked comprised solely of members of the Conference, and an enjoyable cricket match followed, the Council "winning" the first match it has ever played. Mr. C. M. Woodford, O.B.E., witnessed the match and chatted with the players.

Grangemouth Prosecutions.

At the J.P. Court at Falkirk, the chief engineer of the British steamer "Giralda" was charged with knowingly concealing and unshipping 21/100 proof gallon of brandy, 11/100 proof gallon of u.u. spirits, 52/100 gallon of liqueurs, and 1/6 gallon of sparkling wine. He pleaded guilty and was fined £9/15/- (double value and duty).

At the same Court the donkeyman of the British steamer "Runnelstone" was charged with having knowingly concealed 5 lb. of foreign manufactured tobacco (cav.). He pleaded guilty and a penalty of £5 or 30 days' imprisonment was imposed.

The goods in the first prosecution were discovered by Mr. T. B. Halley (A.P.O.), and in the second by Mr. W. Dyson (A.P.O.).

Bristol Presentation.

MR. E. J. RICH, C.P.O.

Mr. E. J. Rich was the guest of honour at a smoking concert held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on August 29th. The smoker was arranged to mark the occasion of his retirement and to present him with a token of the high esteem in which he was held.

Mr. F. H. Putnam, O.B.E. (late Collector of Bristol), presided in the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. H. Brimelow (Collector, Bristol) who, we regret to announce, was in hospital at Ilfracombe, recovering from an operation.

The Chairman was ably supported by Messrs. A. Edward Howell (Secretary's Office), J. Moss (Waterguard Superintendent), and W. H. Henning and G. W. Evernden (C.P.O.s). Every grade was well represented, and amongst those present were Messrs. Curtis, Peat and Jolliffe (Surveyors), Jenkins (C.P.O., Gravesend), Foley and Harris (Officers), Robinson (Chief Sanitary Inspector), many retired officers, and a large number of officers from the Bristol Long Room.

The programme was excellent. Songs were rendered by Messrs. Watts, Jolliffe and Rich, while Messrs. Daw, Harris and Griffin entertained in a lighter vein. Musical gems were also contributed by the Bristol "C. & E. Players" Messrs. Smith, Jolliffe, Peat, Rust and Foley. Mr. Woodford's song, "Much too Complicated," was sung very enthusiastically by the whole company.

The presentation was made midway in the programme. Mr. Putnam referred to his association with Mr. Rich as one of real pleasure. Messrs. Curtis, Howell, Henning and A. V. Power spoke enthusiastically. Mr. Howell remembered that Mr. Rich had taken an interest in Association affairs in the days when it required some courage to do so. He greatly admired that courage, as undoubtedly it was pioneers such as Mr. Rich who had laid the foundation of the Preventive Service of to-day. Our old friend, Mr. F. Longbottom, who received a splendid ovation when he rose to speak, caused much amusement by going to the Chairman's table to tell him personally what he thought of "Our Guest." He said that he had served practically the whole of his forty years of service with Mr. Rich, and now that he had retired, he (Mr. Longbottom) felt bound to retire himself, so he was leaving the Service in October.

Mr. J. Moss, in making the presentation, referred first to the geniality of the Chairman. He also referred to Mr. Rich's ability as a Waterguard Officer, and stated that his character was of the highest standard. It gave him very great pleasure—it was an honour, in fact—to present to Mr. Rich the beautiful chiming grandfather clock on behalf of the officers in the port of Bristol and outside it.

Mr. Rich feelingly responded. He referred to his happy years in the Service, of the hard old days and of the better days. He paid very high compliment to the Collectors and Assistant Collectors under whom he had served, and spoke of his staff in glowing terms. He thanked everyone for the kind wishes to himself and to Mrs. Rich, and for the gift which he would value very highly.

Following a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Griffin expressed the sincere appreciation of the Preventive Staff to Mr. J. W. Smith (Assistant Collector), and thanked him for his valuable advice and assistance. He said that he would like it generally known that Mr. Smith was responsible for arranging the excellent programme. The committee organising the function were Messrs. Pick, Longbottom, Ricks and Griffin.

Presentation at Weymouth.

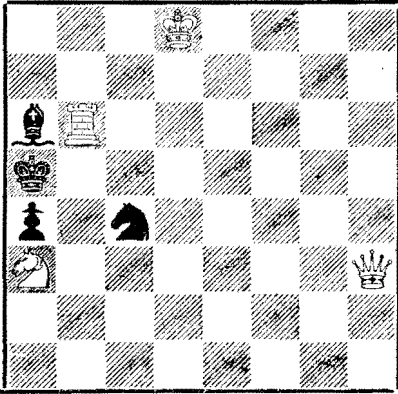
An interesting event took place on Friday, August 15th, at the Custom House, Weymouth, when Mr. S. T. G. Spencer was presented with a set of fish servers and knives and forks on the occasion of his promotion to the rank of Chief Preventive Officer. There was a good attendance from the Waterguard Staff, Launch Crew, Landing Staff and Long Room. Mr. L. Pezzack (C.P.O.) presided, and Mr. C. Williams (P.O.) made the presentation. Tribute was made to the many sterling qualities of Mr. Spencer, with a wish that he and Mrs. Spencer would live long in the remembrance of his colleagues in Weymouth. In replying, Mr. Spencer thanked all for their kindness, and expressed regret that promotion meant severance with so many friends with whom he had spent a very happy time. He hoped that at some future date he would meet them all again.

SPORT AND SOCIAL

Customs Preventive Staff Chess Club

PROBLEM No. 60
by C. CHRISTENSEN

Black.



White.

White Mate in Two

Solution to No. 59 (a).

Black's moves need not be given, but we must note which square he goes to on his 9th and 12th moves.

1. Kt—B2+, 2. Kt—R3, 3. Kt—Kt1, 4. Kt—B5, 5. Kt—K4, 6. B—Q1, 7. B—K2, 8. B—Kt4, 9. B—K6, 10. B—B7 (assuming Black played 9. K—Kt5; if 9. K—R4 or 5 omit White's 10th move), 11. Kt—B5, 12. Kt—Q3, 13. B—Kt4 or R5, as the case may be, assuming Black K is at R5 (a) 14. Kt—R3, 15. Kt—QB2, 16. B—K2, 17. Kt—KB2, 18. Kt—K4, 19. B—Q1, 20. Kt—K3, 21. B—Kt3, 22. Kt—Q1, 23. Kt—Kt2, 24. Kt—R4, 25. Kt—KKt5, 26. Kt—KB3, 27. Kt—Q4, 28. Kt mates.

(a) If Black K is at R4, 13. Kt—R3, 14. Kt—QB2, 15. B—Kt4 or R5 as the case may be, 16. Kt—KB2, and the rest as before, making the 18th move now the 17th.

MATCH WITH THE BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE CHESS ASSOCIATION

An offer of a match with the above Association has been received and accepted. Previously

we have affiliated with Kent County Chess Association, in order to obtain outside play and experience for our outport members. In accepting the above offer the Committee realised that the amount saved in affiliation fees, by not affiliating with Kent County, would enable us to affiliate with the Civil Service Chess Association, and enter a team in a Section of the Civil Service and Municipal League, thus giving to our whole membership outside experience without increased expense to the Club, and it is hoped that every member will take advantage of this chance for outside play and experience.

In the Civil Service Chess League we will in all probability be led at Board No. 1 by the Father of our Club, Mr. J. Smallwood, late P.O., who played recently for Metropolitan Kent against West Kent, and East Kent, winning the former, and losing the latter games.

LONDON CRICKET.

Mr. C. M. Woodford, C.B.E. (the Inspector-General), who has attended both the cricket matches this year between London and Gravesend, remarked that it was good to see a member of the Chief Preventive Officer Grade taking a place in the team. Mr. W. H. Johnson, Gravesend's Chief, captained his side in the first of the matches at Eltham on July 30th, and played wicket-keeper in each game, the latter being played at Gravesend on August 26th.

The match at Eltham was spoilt by the weather, for half an hour before play was timed to commence a terrific storm broke over the district, the ground being thoroughly soaked within a few minutes. It is a wonderful pitch, however, and it was possible to have a knock by five o'clock, although the result was not a fair trial of either team.

There was no doubt about the second game, which was played during the spell of extreme summer weather experienced last week. Gravesend's reply to the moderate score put up by London was certainly decisive, but, as Mr. Woodford indicated, it is not the result that matters so much as the better understanding that clean and healthy sport engenders, and he was clearly delighted at finding the two staffs on extremely good terms with each other. In briefly addressing the teams, he assured them that he would give the maximum support that lay in his power.