

The Customs Journal

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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," 93, Fairfax Road, Hornsey, London, N.8.

It is essential that all matter for insertion in the forthcoming issue should reach the Editor on or before the Monday preceding day of publication.



Important Notice

Subscribers and contributors are asked to note the change in the Editorial address. Mr. D. T. Sutherland commences his duties as Editor with the next issue, and all correspondence in connection with distribution, as well as all matter for insertion, should be addressed to him as from the date of this issue.

Address as follows:—

THE EDITOR,
"THE CUSTOMS JOURNAL,"
93, FAIRFAX ROAD,
HORNSEY, LONDON, N.8.

THE future of the Civil Service Confederation was involved in the most important item on the agenda of the postponed Half-Yearly Conference of that body held on the 29th January.

The report of the Executive contained recommendations regarding the future structure of the Confederation and amendments to the Constitution had been tabled to give effect to this report. Quite briefly, one could sum up this report by saying that it proposed to effect economies at the expense of efficiency.

The C.S.C.A. had tabled an amendment calling for the adoption of the recommendations of the May, 1935, Report, and from the tone of the discussion it was apparent that many Associations would welcome the increased efficiency arising from these recommendations provided there was no possibility of increased subscription rates. The C.S.C.A. amendment was, however, defeated.

A further amendment was eventually adopted to the effect that the Executive should prepare a scheme for putting the May, 1935, Report into operation on the understanding that no increase in subscription rates would be involved.

* * * *

At the same meeting, arising on a motion of urgency, the situation created by the recent discharges of workpeople from Dockyards was discussed, and it was decided to urge upon the Government the necessity for maintaining intact the principle that, in all disciplinary matters, a Civil Servant should be informed of any charge made against him, and should be given the fullest opportunity of defending himself against such charge.

* * * *

A Conference of Retired Civil Servants was convened by the National Staff Side and held in Caxton Hall on January 25th.

It was decided to appoint a Committee to consider and report upon the practicability of

organising a body or bodies to which all retired Civil Servants could be invited to belong. It was thought that, if concrete proposals could be framed, these might in due course be submitted to the Service with a view to ascertaining whether adequate support could be found for any such Organisation as might be suggested.

The Committee consists of Messrs. Bowen, Stuart-Bunning, Court, Nevill and Stammers and will meet at an early date. Retired Civil Servants are invited to communicate with these gentlemen regarding any points or interests which they may consider should be taken into account in the proceedings of the Provisional Committee.

* * * *

The resignation (as from 31st March, 1937) of Mr. H. W. Freeman from the post of General Secretary, Launch Service Association, has created a problem that our Launch Service colleagues will find rather hard to solve. The arduous nature of the work connected with Staff Side negotiations is such that they may find difficulty in persuading one of their members, most of whom are getting on in years, to undertake the task.

It is understood that consideration is being given to the alternatives of amalgamation with a larger Association or the election of joint secretaries.

During Mr. Freeman's four years of office he has done much to improve the conditions in the Launch Service and his successor or successors will find much of the way prepared for further improvements.

* * * *

Friday the 5th February was a day of farewells.

At 3 p.m. the largest office at H.Q. was taxed to capacity when a gathering of friends met to wish Mr. W. J. Roberts God-speed. The feeling of sadness at the parting with this old friend and colleague was accentuated by the fact that he was obviously suffering from the after-effects of a recent illness. We heartily endorse the good and true things said of him and express a fervent hope that he will speedily return to full health.

In the evening a party of fifty assembled at Pinoli's Restaurant, London, as hosts to Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Lupton. The Dinner, the entertainment, the speeches and the little testimonial all served to mark the occasion as a fitting memento of the many years of friendly contact.

* * *

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of members of the above Association will be held in Room 10, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W.1., at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, 5th March, 1937.

The Report and Accounts for the year will be circulated to members prior to the meeting. Immediately following the Annual Meeting a Special General Meeting will be held to consider proposed amendments to the Rules.

* * * *

An inter-port Football match will take place at Southampton on the 23rd February between the London Club and Southampton Waterguard. Special arrangements have been made with the Southern Railway and reduced fares will be available. It is expected that the usual large contingent of supporters will travel with the team.

* * * *

Notices of two important social functions have been received.

The first relates to the Annual Dance of the C. & E. Sports Club to be held at Victoria Hall, London, W.C., on Thursday, March 4th. Tickets (3/- each) obtainable from Mr. C. W. Kingett, H.M.C. & E., 5, Jewry Street, London, E.C.3.

The second notice is in regard to the Fourth Annual Dinner-Dance of the Horticultural Society. This is to be held on Friday, 19th March at Chiltern Court, Baker Street, W. Tickets are 10/- gentlemen and 8/6 ladies, obtainable from Mr. A. O. Austin, Branch 7, A. & C.G., Marlon House, E.C.3.

Bristol District Meeting.

Unusual enthusiasm was evinced at a meeting of Bristol District held at Bristol on 29th January, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. P. Smith, and both P.O.s and A.P.O.s were well represented. Naturally there was much difference of opinion on the all-important subject, Reorganisation, but the whole question was delved into in good spirit. In view of the increased work and responsibility and apparent stagnation falling to the lot of A.P.O.s, it was unanimously recognised that some form of compensation was due to the grade; but the bone of contention was the introduction of the Junior P.O. grade. The outcome was a resolution adopting the Reorganisation Scheme with a modification which, briefly, omitted the Junior P.O. grade, but provided the A.P.O. grade with the compensations incorporated in the scheme, viz., a higher salary scale for A.P.O.s who succeed in the P.O. examination after six years' service, and the utilization of such officers for P.O.s' duties on the prerogative of the superior Officer when the superior Officer when occasion demands.

Other matters dealt with were: Bicycle Accommodation at Avonmouth, and Continuous Watch at Bristol on Sundays, which is at present schemed for Tidal Attendance.

F.S.

Mr. A. S. Lupton, C.B.E.

Mr. and Mrs. Lupton were the guests of the Waterguard at Pinoli's Restaurant, Wardour Street, London, on Friday evening, February 5th, when an excellent dinner was partaken of. On their arrival, Mrs. Lupton was presented with a bouquet of red carnations, and she with her husband made the round of the guests, of whom there were about fifty.

The occasion was presided over by Mr. W. H. Powell, who, following the Loyal toast, gave the toast of Mr. and Mrs. Lupton, which was received with musical honours and cheers. Mr. Powell referred to our long association with Mr. Lupton, both officially and in the sports activities of the Waterguard. He had always given us a square deal, and his retirement would be greatly regretted by a large Service. But this was not a good-bye to Mr. Lupton, but *au revoir* to Mr. and Mrs. Lupton, for we looked forward to many more meetings in the future.

Mr. Woodford spoke of his association with Mr. Lupton away back over thirty years or so, and gave some anecdotes looking back to their time together at Somerset House. Then followed Messrs. Dover and Howard, captains of the football and cricket teams respectively, while Mr. Merron voiced appreciation of Mr. Lupton's valuable activities in connection with the Working Men's College at Euston, and mentioned the class on Police Court Procedure which he had been instrumental in forming there several years ago, advantage of which was taken by a number of Waterguard Officers.

After Mr. Musset had spoken, the Chairman read letters of regret at inability to attend from Mr. Ferguson (Southend), Mr. Gotts (ret.) and Mr. Hughes (Gravesend). Telegrams of congratulation were received from the Waterguard staffs of Southampton, Liverpool, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Wales, Hull and the Tyne, when Mr. Powell asked Mr. Lupton to accept a gift of a pair of pipes "to add to his vast collection."

Mr. Lupton's reply revealed his very deep interest in the welfare of the Waterguard, and he assured the company that he and Mrs. Lupton would always follow with close attention the activities and progress of this department, both officially and in its social aspect.

The guests were entertained during the evening by Mrs. Lupton, Mr. Woodford, Mr. Harts-horn, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Standing, Mr. Fox and Mr. Westcott, with Mr. Colan at the piano, the whole atmosphere being that of a family gathering.

Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council.

The one hundred and ninety-second meeting of the Council was held at the Custom House, E.C.3, on Wednesday, 27th January, 1937, the Chair being taken by Sir G. Evelyn P. Murray, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

The Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. Morton, M.B.E., on behalf of the Staff Side, paid tribute to the fair and generous manner in which Mr. A. S. Lupton, C.B.E., had negotiated with the Staff Side, and wished him full contentment, good health, and happiness in his retirement. The Chairman associated the Official Side with the Vice-Chairman's remarks, which, he said, would be conveyed to Mr. Lupton.

Remuneration and Establishment.

The Council were able to discharge from the agenda, by agreement on the Staff Side claim, the item dealing with the creation of "allow-anced" posts for Typing staffs, and four such posts, each carrying an allowance of 6/- per week, are now in existence. Such satisfactory conclusion was not possible in the case of a further item concerning the performance of cleaning duties at Folkestone Custom House, the Official Side re-affirming their view that the work was not sufficient to justify the employment of a full-time cleaner. Disagreement was consequently recorded on the Staff Side claim for full-time and direct employment of a cleaner.

Two Officer Grade Committee agreements governing the minimum credits allowable in respect of certain Sunday night—Monday morning attendances on landing duties were ratified, the normal week-day minimum of three hours being credited. In dealing with the Staff Side claim for an increase in the daily pay, from 5s. 8d. to 9s. 3d., of an extra man employed as a Land Preventive Man on the Land Boundary, the Official Side claimed that the man in question was not normally called upon to undertake the full duties of a Land Preventive Man, and they offered 7s. 6d. per day. This offer was adjourned for Staff Side consideration. The Council decided to appoint an 'ad hoc' committee to consider and report upon Official Side proposals regarding the reorganisation of the Technical Branch.

Staffing and Methods of Work

A considerable number of Committee decisions on staffing and allied questions came up for consideration, and Woman Pension Officer Station schemes in the Brighton area were agreed, whilst a formula was accepted for the purpose of assessing the additional allowance for work in connection with Registrar's Returns in Woman Pension Officer Stations. Excise Station schemes and adjustments were agreed

upon for certain stations in Dover, Sheffield and Edinburgh Collections and time attendance schemes for stations in Edinburgh and Belfast Collections were also approved. The Belfast item concerned the scheme for the part-time attendance of an Unattached Officer at a normal station and a Land Boundary Post, and the Staff Side agreed to such scheming as an exceptional case in the peculiar circumstances of the particular work. In reconsidering a Dundee disagreement on a number of Collection Unattached Officer posts the Staff Side did not press for the inclusion of sick-leave as part of the regular foreseeable employment and agreement on five posts was reached. Local decisions on staffing arrangements in Leith and Dundee Collections were adjourned at Official Side request, and the Official Side promised enquiry into the operation of a scheme of attendance at Markinch. A scheme for the staffing of the four London Central Export Stations was adjourned after the Staff Side had asked for the apportionment of the eight Fixed Relief Officers among the four Stations—two to each, and for the replacement of two Unattached Officerships, agreed locally, by two Fixed Officerships. A disagreement from Newcastle on an Official Side proposal for the introduction of a temporary scheme for Newcastle Port District as an experimental measure prompted the Staff Side to ask what lay behind this unusual proposal, which did not embody firm staffing figures but which seemed to involve some reduction in staff. The Official Side said that the position was exceptional and some experience under the new conditions, designed to meet a necessary re-arrangement of staff, was necessary before firm proposals could be tabled. No decision had been reached as to staff, and figures would be tabled in the normal way in due course. The item was adjourned for further consideration by both Sides.

Office Accommodation, etc.

A satisfactory solution, involving the removal of an unsightly boiler from the Free Goods Station, Belfast, was arrived at, and a disagreement on accommodation in Cambridge was found to be capable of local solution, and was accordingly referred back.

A Watcher Grade Committee agreement on the issue of mackintoshes to certain Watchers was referred back for clarification.

Suggestions Committee.

The constitutional point arising from the proposal to adopt a Station Register in Customs Stations was satisfactorily disposed of at the meeting, the Staff Side stating that they had no reason to be dissatisfied with the manner in which the matter had been left as recorded in the Minutes of the discussion on this question.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, 24th February, 1937.

Retirement of Mr. W. J. Roberts.

The Inspector-General's accommodation was severely tested on Friday, February 5th, when a number of Service colleagues bade farewell to Mr. W. J. Roberts, Inspector. The number present would have been greater had it been possible to give longer notice to those who were associated with the presentation. Mr. Roberts, however, whose forty years or so of service have been remarkably free from sickness, had been compelled to take sick leave recently, and it had been necessary to await news of his return before making arrangements.

The Inspector-General, Mr. C. M. Woodford, was in the Chair, supported by Mr. Maclaren (Deputy I.G.W.) and Messrs. Purser and Kay (Inspectors), and the attendance of thirty or so included representatives of the Secretaries' Office and all ranks of the Waterguard. Mr. Woodford's speech showed that Mr. Roberts had done more than earn the full appreciation of his colleagues—he had gained their affection; and he had shown that, despite the rough and tumble and the hardships of earlier days, the Service included men in those times who were capable of rising to the highest administrative Waterguard posts, and of filling those posts with credit to the Service and to themselves.

Subsequent speakers spoke in the same vein, and it is evident that there is genuine regret that the Service has said farewell, officially, to one we can ill afford to lose. The speakers included Mr. Maclaren (Deputy I.G.), Messrs. Purdy and Whettingstall (Waterguard Superintendents), Messrs. Purser and Kaye (Inspectors), Messrs. Howell, Barrett and Walker (Secs. Office), Mr. Merron (Waterguard Surveyor), Messrs. Cattel and Standing (C.P.O.s), Mr. B. T. White (C.P.O. ret.), Mr. Coulthard (I.G.W. Office) and Mr. W. H. Powell (P.O.).

Mr. Roberts was asked to accept a mahogany writing desk, with an antique silver hot-water jug for Mrs. Roberts, with the sincerest good wishes of his Service friends. In making the presentation, Mr. Woodford suggested that it should be rummaged; and Mr. Roberts demonstrated that he had not forgotten the art. Indeed, he proved that it was not impossible to get results from a new desk. Mr. Roberts was deeply touched by the friendly efforts to mark his retirement in as pleasant a manner as possible, and expressed his thanks in a characteristic speech.

Several telegrams and many letters couched in eulogistic terms were received, and extracts were read from those of Mr. Dow (Collector, Newcastle), Mr. Burkey (W.S. Hull) and Mr. Sheehan (Wgd. Svr., Leith) as representative of the correspondence.

Civil Service Confederation.

HALF-YEARLY COUNCIL MEETING.

The Thirty-fourth (Half-yearly) Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Friday, 29th January, 1937, in the Council Chamber of the Federation of British Industries, 21, Tothill Street, S.W.1, when Mr. F. Cooper (President), presided over an attendance of 66 representatives of 34 constituent organisations in addition to 26 members of the Executive Committee.

The principal business before the Council was to consider a Report presented by the Executive Committee on the proposed reorganisation of the Confederation, and this Report was formally moved from the Chair.

An amendment was moved on behalf of the Civil Service Clerical Association in the following terms:—

“That this Council Meeting decides to adopt the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Special Committee on Confederation Activities submitted to the Council of the Confederation in May, 1935, and adopted in principle by that body, and instructs the Executive Committee forthwith to prepare the necessary constitutional amendments to give effect to the recommendations contained in that document in order that such amendments may be considered at the next Annual Council Meeting of the Confederation, and, if approved, given effect to forthwith.”

After discussion the amendment of the Civil Service Clerical Association was put to the vote and defeated on a card vote, 407 votes being recorded in favour and 504 votes against.

A further amendment was then moved on behalf of the Professional Group to the effect that the Executive Committee be instructed to prepare a scheme for the putting into operation of the Fifth Report of the Special Committee on Confederation Activities as submitted to the Council of the Confederation in May, 1935, on the understanding that no increase in subscription rates would be involved.

The amendment of the Professional Group was subsequently withdrawn in favour of an amendment moved on behalf of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation to the effect that the Report of the Executive Committee on proposed reorganisation be referred back, with an instruction to the Executive Committee to prepare a further Report, based upon the principles of the Fifth Report of the Special Committee on Confederation Activities, to be submitted to the Council with financial proposals.

The amendment of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation was adopted on a card vote by 475 votes in favour to 411 against, and was subse-

quently adopted as a substantive motion, on a card vote, by 479 votes in favour to 435 against.

The question of dismissals of Civil Servants from the Dockyards was raised as a matter of urgency, and, on the motion of the Government Minor and Manipulative Grades Association, seconded by the Civil Service Clerical Association, a resolution was unanimously adopted in the following terms:—

“This Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation views with the gravest misgivings the recent discharges of workpeople from H.M. Dockyards, and also of Mr. H. S. R. Easthope, a member of one of the Organisations affiliated to the Civil Service Confederation, from the Army Signals, Devonport, and subsequently from Devonport Dockyard, no specific charges having been made against them, no opportunity having been afforded them for pleading guilty or not guilty, nor an opportunity given of defending themselves.

This Council therefore urges upon the Government the necessity for maintaining intact the principle that, in all disciplinary matters, a Civil Servant should be informed of any charge made against him and should be given the fullest opportunity of defending himself against such charge.”

A copy of this resolution has been sent to the Prime Minister, the Leader of H.M. Opposition, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War, and to the Press.

C.P.O. Grade Meeting.

A meeting of the C.P.O. Grade (London Group) was held at Victoria Station, London, on the 29th January, to discuss the position referred to in the E.C. Circular upon Reorganisation. In view of the importance of the discussion invitations to the meeting had been extended to members of the Grade stationed at ports within easy reach of London. As a result representatives from Southampton, Dover and Gravesend, and almost all the C.P.O.s stationed in London, were present.

The meeting discussed the decision of the E.C. to refer the Scheme back to the Councillors and instructed the Grade representatives to support ratification of the Council's previous decision upon the Scheme.

It was generally agreed that in convening this meeting the Secretary of the London C.P.O. Group had acted wisely in ensuring that upon this vital question for the Grade its representatives should be in no doubt as to the majority opinion on the aspirations of the C.P.O. Grade in so far as the Re-

organisation Scheme and relevant questions are concerned.

The meeting unanimously adopted a motion of confidence in the General Secretary and in appreciation of his untiring efforts to better the conditions of the Service in each of the Grades represented by the P.S.A.

Changes in the Staff

to February 8th, 1937.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Bigmore, T. J. S.
Hargraves, R. A.
Ker, H. K.

TRANSFERS.

WATERGUARD SURVEYOR :—

Gowan, P. H.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Maxwell, R. L. L., Peterhead, Aberdeen to Newcastle.

Shooter, J., Newcastle to Hull.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Bremner, D., Burntisland, Dundee to Leith.
Burgoyne, P. V. W., Newhaven, Brighton to King's Lynn, Norwich.

Innes, J. A. D., Leith to Holyhead, Chester.
Leeburn, W. J., Holyhead, Chester to Newhaven, Brighton.

Raspison, H. J., Dover to Cardiff.

Rickson, E. A., Liverpool to London.

Simons, A. W., London to Dartmouth Plymouth.

PROMOTIONS.

WATERGUARD SURVEYOR TO ASSISTANT INSPECTOR, UNATTACHED :—

Green, G. W., Grimsby.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO WATERGUARD SURVEYOR, UNATTACHED :—

Edwards, W. M., London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER, UNATTACHED :—

Stevens, F. H., Hull.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Hooper, E. J. G., Newhaven, Brighton to Leith.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT—ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Hird, J. T., Newcastle.

Laidman, G., King's Lynn, Norwich.

DEATH—PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Hurford, G. J., Cardiff.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Rhodes, A., Hull.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Osborn, W., Preventive Man.

Robinson, G. S., Preventive Officer.

Rowland, A. J., Preventive Officer.

Plymouth News.

The first week in February has been an eventful one for P.S.A. members in the Plymouth District. On Thursday, 4th, a district meeting was held at the Mikado Café, specially to discuss the motion affecting the reorganisation scheme—"Are you prepared to endorse previous Council's instruction that the Executive Committee should proceed with the adopted scheme?"

Everyone with the welfare of the Association at heart realises how important to us all this motion is, particularly having regard to the views—widely divergent—which have been expressed in the columns of the Journal. It was therefore rather disappointing that a comparatively small attendance rendered the discussion rather limited. Sickness and the calls of relief service in the outports accounted in some measure for the disappointing attendance. Letters from the outports expressing opinions on the reorganisation scheme were read and the resolutions contained in them counted as votes. With these 'post votes' the 'yeas' and 'noes' on the motion were evenly divided, and the Chairman was not prepared to make a casting vote, in view of the small and unrepresentative gathering. Thus the meeting was not prepared to give the Area Councillors instructions to proceed with the proposed scheme. Two further motions were, however, put before the meeting and carried. These motions concerned the reorganisation scheme and were to the effect that the District Secretary should canvass all the members of the Plymouth District, and that the General Secretary should take a Referendum of all the staff covered by the P.S.A. in regard to the further progress of the scheme.

Before concluding, the meeting unanimously expressed the good wishes for a happy retirement to Mr. Fell, Waterguard Superintendent. A vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Low, A.P.O., terminated the proceedings at 9 p.m.

Customs and Excise Sports Club.

ANNUAL DANCE.

Those who were present at the last Annual Dance will be interested to learn that this event will be held again at NORTH HALL, VICTORIA HALLS, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on THURSDAY, MARCH 4th, 1937.

The arrangements for a Carnival and Cabaret are now well in hand, and it is expected that this popular event will be a greater success than last year. Don't be disappointed. Get your ticket or tickets early. Information concerning the Customs Sports Annual Dance can be obtained from Chas. W. Kingett, Customs and Excise, 5, Jewry Street, E.C.

Presentation.

Mr. A. FELL, Waterguard Superintendent.

The "Continental Hotel" was the venue on 6th February, of a large gathering representative of all branches and ranks of the Customs Service, who had assembled to bid adieu and to see a presentation made to Mr. A. Fell, Waterguard Superintendent, Plymouth, on the occasion of his retirement. An idea of Mr. Fell's immense popularity throughout his division and in Plymouth, could be gathered from the fact there were present the Superintendent of the Board of Trade, the Chief Immigration Officer, the Superintendent of H.M. Office of Works, and representatives of the local shipping and railway fraternities in addition to members of Mr. Fell's staff from places as far apart as Bristol and Penzance; while one old colleague had travelled from Gravesend especially for the occasion. The presentation took the form of a radio-gramophone, and a pendant for Mrs. Fell; and before the Collector (Mr. W. L. Bayly) asked Mr. Fell to accept these gifts with the heartiest good wishes of all concerned, speeches were made by many old colleagues and friends, who, one and all, wished Mr. Fell long life and happiness. Some of the speeches took a humorous turn. One speaker, drawing his comparisons from Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" (The Walrus's famous speech on shoes, ships, sealing wax, cabbages and kings) caused much laughter; another had allusions to records (for the radio-gram) in conveying his good wishes to Mr. Fell. But whatever the style of speech, one and all paid high tribute to the sterling qualities of our late Super. for his kindly, helpful, ever-cheerful presence which endeared him to all his staff so much that he came to be regarded by everyone more as a friend than "the boss." Deeply moved by the sincere good wishes and high tributes which had been paid him, Mr. Fell, in his reply, disclaimed all responsibility for being the cause of these high tributes; he claimed that he thought he was only behaving as he should in all his dealings with his staff, and thanked everyone from the bottom of his heart for their unfailing help to him during his tenure of the Plymouth Superintendentship and their kindness on this present occasion. Telegrams and letters of good wishes were read, including one from Headquarter's Office, after which the company sat down to an excellent dinner. The Royal, Service and other toasts were made during the meal and suitable responses made, after which the company was entertained by some fine singing, the talent being all-Service.

Altogether a most enjoyable evening, of which we, in the West country, see all too few. Even

so, we should not like to lose a Mr. Fell every month. We part from him with regret and sincerest good wishes for long life and happiness for him and Mrs. Fell. May he be the Crown's worst bargain ever. C.H.S.

Merseyside News.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death, late in January, of Mrs. Easter, the wife of Mr. W. G. Easter, P.O. Mrs. Easter had many friends in the Service, and will be remembered for the many acts of kindness shown to officers in the various ports at which Mr. Easter and she were stationed. We offer our sincere condolence to Mr. Easter in his bereavement.

Whist Drive and Dance.—A successful Carnival Dance and Whist Drive was held at Boot's Corner Café on Thursday, January 28th. The Waterguard Superintendent, Mr. B. J. Herrington was present, accompanied by Mrs. Herrington, with Messrs. Angus and Little, Waterguard Surveyors, Messrs. Titherley, Atwill and Francis, C.P.O.s, and their ladies, and the evening went with that certain swing which has become the rule at Liverpool P.S.A. functions. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Herrington, amongst the winners of which were Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw and Mr. R. Gander.

The flashlight photograph taken during the evening has developed very well and copies may be obtained through Mr. F. Hope, A.P.O. Landing Stage.

The Committee of the Social Club are to be complimented for providing yet another happy evening.

Football.—On Wednesday, January 27th, the F.C. was narrowly defeated by Windsor United in the semi-final tie for the Jenkins Cup. The game was played at typical cup-tie pace, neither side relaxing for a moment. All the scoring took place in the second half when the ball refused to run favourably for Customs, but we went down fighting and hope to have our revenge another day.

Result: Windsor 2, Customs 1.

The following week (February 3rd) we regained confidence with a good win over the hefty St. Paul's Stoneycroft side by 4 goals to 3. The ground was like a mud bath but our players seemed to revel in it. The goals were scored by Kieran (2), Quine and Day, the last-named scoring with a gem of a header which flew into the net like a bullet. Features of this game were the half-back play of Archer and Quine and the corner kicks and pattern weaving of Pollock, who, like a liqueur, improves with age. J.W.D.

Tyne Topics.

ANNUAL WATERGUARD DINNER AND PRESENTATION.

The north-east coast was well represented at the first Annual Waterguard Dinner & Concert, held at the Grand Hotel, Tynemouth, on Monday, the 1st February, among those present being Mr. Dow (Collector, Newcastle), Mr. McInnes (Assistant Collector), Mr. Madden (Waterguard Superintendent), Mr. Clough (Waterguard Surveyor), Mr. Cubitt (Chief Immigration Officer), and Officers and friends from Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Newcastle, North Shields, Blyth and Amble.

Mr. Clough took the chair—with a mounted ship's bell on the table as the insignia of his office.

"The King" preceded dinner, a well-chosen event to which the Waterguard and friends did the justice expected of them.

Before the concert, Mr. Clough read a letter from the Inspector-General, in which Mr. Woodford expressed his great regret at his inability to attend and in which he referred to his indisposition. Mr. Clough crystallised the feelings of all present in his hope that the I.G.W. would effect a speedy and full recovery.

Later in the evening a 'phone message from Mr. Kerr (to whom the Tyne district is no strange land) was passed on, Mr. Kerr regretting that pressure of work kept him in London.

The entertainment was light and pleasing. Special mention must be made of the orchestra with Mr. Jeffries at the piano, Mr. Howland and friends. Their opening medley of old-time songs was a winner. Topical songs by "Old Faithful" D. Whyte, and "Tricks" by Mr. Gaggie (I decided not to play "Nap" with friend Gaggie) were very well received, and were followed by the toast "Our Visitors" by Mr. Leatherbarrow.

"Mr. Shooter and Piano" had a fine time with impromptu verse and song—Norman Long and Stan. Holloway combined! He was followed by Messrs. Bennett and Clough in an old favourite duet.

The presentation to "Joe" Hewitson, late Senior Engineer, was made by Mr. Madden, who expressed, on behalf of all the staff, the hope that Mr. Hewitson would live long to enjoy his well-earned rest. Speaking in glowing terms, Mr. Moore (present Senior Engineer), referred to his predecessor's sterling qualities and capabilities as a nurse to recalcitrant moving parts.

Mr. Hewitson expressed his regret at leaving the Service after 40 years' association with the Waterguard, and said that he hoped to attend the Annual Dinner for many years to come.

Mr. Dow responded to the toast "Our Visitors" in a kindly and characteristic speech which was thoroughly appreciated. He was followed by Mr. Cubitt, himself a one-time Waterguard officer.

Further music and song brought to conclusion a highly enjoyable and successful function.

Our thanks are due to the Committee for the organisation and achievement of this, the first, we hope, of a series which will run as an annual event to which we may look forward with pleasure.



Correspondents using a nom-de-plume are assured that names and addresses (which should be given), are strictly confidential.

Freedom of the printed word is frequently allowed to enable a clear and adequate expression of views. The opinions expressed, however, are not necessarily held by the Editor, who accepts no responsibility for them.

Dear Sir,

UNION OR—ONION?

Each issue of the "Customs Journal" during these last weeks has proved beyond doubt that it will be unnecessary to adopt Mr. Burke's suggestion of additional expenditure to ensure a more "lively" journal. It must be obvious that such "liveliness" can only be brought about by P.S.A. members exhibiting their interest and convictions through these columns. Spending money will not improve this organ if contributions are not forthcoming from ourselves. The 'C.J.' should be neither a comic paper or a general newspaper but a medium to express the will of our members and report the actions of our leaders. I am certain that the correspondence on Reorganisation has caused practically every member to look forward with interest to the arrival of our Journal. This bears out my contention re Mr. Burke's proposal. Regarding the proposed Reorganisation Scheme it would be futile at this stage to attempt a forecast of the final result, but it must be evident that after the fiery discussions, disagreements, hard words and bad feeling, a "Phoenix" (in the form of something beneficial to the Service) should inevitably arise from the ashes. The Waterguard or Preventive Service

in its present state does definitely need revision and I agree that the "demand" (quoted by AD REM) should come from ourselves. It must be recognised that our chief administrators are concerned in the establishment of an efficient Preventive Service, and also that it is part of our job (and an important part) to make suggestions with a view to remedying certain defects that there may be. What are those defects as seen by the Staff Side? No single individual can possibly lay claim to fully answer this question, but a compilation of individual opinions and suggestions will greatly assist towards arriving at a general agreement on the main question. Some members will see the defect from only a personal point of view, i.e., as to how it directly affects him from a promotion or monetary stand-point. Others will undoubtedly feel concern that their job as Revenue protectors is seriously hampered by the weak links in the Preventive chain. To repeat, a combination of ideas after considerable paring and rebuilding should bring forth something of advantage to the Service as a whole. The defects from an A.P.O.'s view-point is a long standing one—lack of official recognition of their responsibilities. They contend that it is impossible for a P.O. to fully carry out the whole of the minor and major responsibilities which are laid upon the P.O.'s shoulders, and that the P.O. must necessarily depend a good deal upon proper assistance being rendered by an A.P.O. The latter argue that "if we perform some of these minor duties, at present credited as P.O.'s work, why should not we (A.P.O.s) receive official recognition of this as part of our responsibilities?" I agree that we P.O.s must, sooner or later, admit the logic of this and give our support to a legitimate claim. It seems odd that when a P.O. is so overloaded with work he must delegate some of it to an A.P.O. and when the rush is temporarily over the P.O. appends his signature, etc., to the relevant documents while the A.P.O. appends his to the—appearance sheet. There is also, too, the possibility of a P.O. receiving a Jerquer's query through an A.P.O.'s error when giving this assistance. Why not let the A.P.O.s get some of these kicks as well? The defects from a P.O.'s view-point are quite a few. Amongst these are—Refusal of the Official Side to recognise that P.O.s' work, generally, is executive in character—a low salary scale in comparison with their duties—the existing confusion regarding the examination of cargoes between Waterguard and Landing Officers.

Let me illustrate at least two weak points upon the latter.

(1) A **failed A.P.O.** who is in charge of a small port is empowered to examine (or supervise) bulk goods and rough package goods such as bags of cement, fertilizers, vegetables, etc.,

(see G.O. 5/32 Para. 42A) but a **P.O.** apparently is not capable of performing this work where a Landing Officer is stationed at the port.

(2) According to the G.O. quoted, the discharge of bulk goods is **supervised** by P.O.s. Not **examined**, mark you! In addition to the order, some Waterguard Supervisors have stated it is supervision only and the word examination must not be written on the entry by the P.O. Other Waterguard Supervisors have said the reverse. In the case of certain bulk goods, how on earth are we to know that the goods agree with the entry unless an examination is made? Why quibble over synonymous terms? Unless it is that by recording an examination we should become examining officers and thereby establish our executive status. In any case, without wishing to encroach upon any rights of the Landing Officer, it is fair to ask who can be considered to be in a better position to prevent smuggling through the medium of this bag cargo than the experienced Waterguard Officer engaged in day-to-day visiting and rummaging of vessels carrying these cargoes? Quite a lot can be said on this question but space—or lack of it—prevents more detail. I do not want these points confused with our previous Landing and Shipping claim but I consider they could be assessed on their merits and embodied in our Reorganisation Scheme. Regarding the defects as the C.P.O.s and higher Waterguard Officers see them, I have no intention of presuming to state their grievances. That grievances do exist amongst them is evident, one of the commonest, I believe, being overwork. The remedy does not necessarily require a large increase in supervisory posts but a deeper realisation that in the P.O. and A.P.O. grades there is a body of competent responsible officers who, with their resource and initiative, are capable of executing even more responsible work without requiring additional higher officials to be constantly on the move to see if everything is working satisfactorily. The grievances of the P.O. and A.P.O. grades will never be abolished by an increase of supervisory posts. It must also be accepted that we cannot all become supervisors in the higher grades, due to the limitation of numbers of such posts. We can, however, by our combined efforts, endeavour to make the lower posts tenable, so that while we may not achieve our ambition of promotion, the positions that we do hold can be held with distinction and pride and not with the feeling of discontent that apparently many hold it to-day. At present the Waterguard Department can be likened to a crab-apple tree with a few peaches transplanted on the top-most branches; a few will eventually get those peaches while the majority will get the remaining fruit. Our job is to get together and work with the determination to grow on the lower branches something more edible and a little

sweeter. With reference to the J.P.O. question, while I am sympathetic to the claims of the A.P.O.s, I find I cannot support the proposed introduction of the former grade. My grounds of objection are that an extra grade, wherever it is wedged in, **must** minimise the strength of our claims. In my view, our claims can be presented with a chance of success based upon the present grade of P.O. and A.P.O. After all, titles alone mean nothing and the creation of a J.P.O. grade will not remove the bugbear of stagnation. There cannot be enough additional P.O. posts formed to give satisfaction to every J.P.O. The position as I see it will be the formation of a grade of officers fully qualified to perform P.O.'s work being placed upon a waiting list. Is there any guarantee that while waiting for promotion to the P.O. grade (a period perhaps extending to 10 years or more) they will not be used to fill any gaps normally filled by P.O.s, **and at a J.P.O.'s scale of pay?** Possessing the same qualifications as a P.O. by virtue of having passed an examination for P.O.s, the administrators could with official justification encourage the employment of J.P.O.s on P.O.'s work, obviously to the detriment of both grades.

I consider that the A.P.O.'s position could be improved without resorting to the introduction of a J.P.O. grade.

Arising from a discussion at a meeting in the Southampton district a proposal has been submitted to P.S.A. Headquarters which should help towards meeting this point. Possibly some will still disagree on the principle involved but the fact remains that constructive proposals from all quarters must be formed and submitted constitutionally for the consideration of all, in order to present a united front on any Re-organisation proposals.

The heading at the beginning is self-explanatory. Either we must be fully united or we become the "onion"—a slang expression commonly used to denote impotence and unimportance.

Yours, etc.,

P. SPEAR.

To the Editor,
"The Customs Journal."

Sir,

FACING UP TO FACTS.

May I be permitted to reply to a contributor to the last issue? It is to "C.P.O." who, in a letter which is obviously sincere, has revealed an irritating self-satisfaction and complacency. He has betrayed that lack of outlook (vision it is called nowadays), and understanding which is all too frequently encountered. Evidently he has worn blinkers in his tour of the country, for he has seen nothing but our good fellowship.

The re-organisation scheme to him is only an expression of most incomprehensible dissatisfaction for which he advocates a "wait and see" policy of stand-still. He destroys the scheme as dangerous to our effectiveness. At least you could tell us why, Sir!

Others of his outlook have told me in conversation that my expected twenty-odd years of A.P.O.ship is only an apprenticeship and a training. Others, without reference to the facts and figures, have assured me of practically immediate opportunity of promotion. Others have been surprised into admitting a complete lack of knowledge of the stagnation which confronts us. And they all wonder at our discontent!

"C.P.O." himself exhorts us to "face up to our jobs." That, Sir, I have endeavoured to do since that I entered the Service, and this is what I have found:—

The A.P.O. is the first and sometimes the only line in Revenue defence. His own initiative and resource enable him to maintain his position in that line. He assists his P.O. by his knowledge of the full range of Preventive work. His individual capabilities are known only to his P.O., who may occasionally, out of the fullness of his heart, casually inform the C.P.O. that he has a "good man." He (the A.P.O.) is kept in a state of subjugation and (until G.O. 19/1936) has never been allowed to express himself or report his activities on paper. He has, therefore, never had opportunity of proving his capabilities or showing his responsibilities himself. Nevertheless, he carries on zealously, and as efficiently as he may, sometimes with poor equipment and poor support, performing all the duties of Revenue protection, often with no other supervision than that of his own conscience. He is therefore trusted and responsible. But that responsibility and his very necessary knowledge have never been recognised officially, so he remains a mere nonentity.

That is the A.P.O.'s job which, without hopes or prospects I, and several hundreds of us, have to "face up to" for at least another decade.

Now for the P.O.s who, of course, are included in the plea for contentment. They have stagnation too, and though I (not unnaturally) consider they are stagnating in a lily pond whilst we A.P.O.s are in a bog which is to me a veritable Slough of Despond, I have studied their views. Here are reasons for discontent. They want recognition for the very wide range of the work for which they are held responsible, the genuinely executive nature of their duties, and the many cases of overlapping in Landing and Shipping duties which have arisen out of the General Tariff and G.O. 5/1932. Then the Official Side re-organisation of 1931 in no way detracted from their responsibilities. In fact, increased supervision only enhanced the quality

of the work. The duties of coastal defence and the immediate control of the £3 per week C.P.M. by the £300 a year P.O., would be more in keeping with usual Service administration than the present system of sole supervision of the C.P.M. by the Surveyor grade.

There may be other reasons for this discontent, but I hope to have convinced "C.P.O." You may ask if I have a remedy. I suggest the re-organisation scheme which has been dismissed so lightly, including some suggested amendments with which I have associated myself, and which are submitted in the proper way through District Meeting to the Council of the Association. The suggestions are constructive, and if they are considered to have merit they will, no doubt, be published in due course.

Well, Sir, I have criticised the letter, unduly you may think, but entirely without fear or favour, so in that spirit I append my name to this.

Yours etc.,
G. T. CLARKE.

To the Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

May I say a few words in reply to "C.P.O.'s" letter in the last issue of the Journal? I imagine "C.P.O." to be a kind, benevolent old gentleman. His letter, a fatherly letter of the "Come, now, children" variety, and his confessions are both refreshing and interesting.

His delightful frankness calls for frankness in return, and I would here say that the following confessions are my own—they may or may not be approved of by my fellow A.P.O.s. I am an A.P.O. of barely six years' service, and I am one of those who "C.P.O." suggests are inclined to be dissatisfied with their jobs. I admit that the germ of discontent is strong within me. I very much desire a P.O.-ship—not merely for the cash value, but for the responsibility that it brings. That is how I feel about it.

"C.P.O." tells us that on his entry into the Waterguard he probably reached his level, and he suggests that we malcontents have reached our level and don't realise it. Very well, then, let us admit that we have reached our level, but surely "C.P.O." would not have us stay there! Surely he does not wish us to be satisfied with that level! That won't do at all.

The young A.P.O. of to-day is tired of being nursed by a P.O. He must have responsibility; he must stand on his own feet, and quite rightly this is what he is asking to be allowed to do. Surely a man in his late twenties is fully entitled to his fair share of responsibility?

Under the present system a young man has little incentive to take a keen interest in the

Service. After a month or two in the Waterguard he learns that no matter how efficient an officer he becomes he must wait many years for his first chance of promotion. This is a bad state of affairs, and it is causing grievous discontent among the young men in the Service. These post-war youngsters have been taught to expect some reward for diligence and hard work.

An examination for promotion after five years' service is a strong point in favour of the re-organisation scheme. New entrants, instead of being sadly disillusioned as they are to-day, will have a very strong incentive to take a live interest in the Service, and both they and the Service will benefit. The young A.P.O. will receive just reward for his efficiency.

Another point in favour of an early examination for promotion is that a man's career will be determined in his youth and in most cases before he is saddled with domestic responsibilities. How many family men to-day go in fear and trembling of March 9th and succeeding days? If they fail on these days what does the future hold for them? What a handicap this is to a man taking the examination—the knowledge that failure will affect the future that he has planned for his children!

You must agree that there is some cause for our dissatisfaction. "C.P.O." tells us that those in authority desire to assist us through the rough years of our service. We are indeed grateful for such reassuring words—some of us were beginning to wonder.

Yours, etc.,
"A.C.B."

Sir

My letter seems to have caused some consternation, and about time, if only to arouse the P.O.s that we have been neglected, although members of the same Association—a few trifling gains by the A.P.O.s, some mentioned in my letter which appear to be not so few and trifling. Would not the P.O.s be pleased to receive something, however trifling, just to show they still exist and are not superseded? Some of the younger section consider the duties of the P.O.s a walk-over—in fact, nothing in it (from hearsay). It takes time to make an experienced Waterguard officer, either theoretical or practical, and not just on the completion of probation.

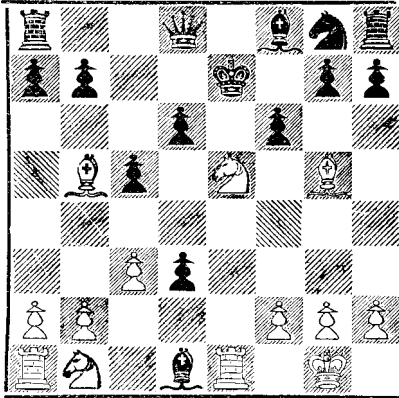
Yes, the good old days are not to be ashamed of; and many still remember what they have been through. It's a pity some of the younger section did not have a taste of the good old days—it was good for discipline.

Yours etc.,
"A.S."

Preventive Staff Chess Club.

PROBLEM NO. 147.

BLACK



WHITE

Mate in two.

Solution to No. 146.

1. Q—B7 ch K—R1.
2. Q×Kt ch. B×Q.
3. R—R7 ch. K—Kt1.
4. B—Q5 ch. R—K3.
5. B×R ch. K—B1.
6. R—B7 ch. K—Kt1.
7. R—Q7 dis ch. K—B1.
8. Kt—R7 ch. K—K1.
9. Kt×B ch. K—B1.
10. R—B7 mate.

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Approaching Competitions.

The first column shows when the examination begins.

The third column shows the last day on which applications can be received. Application must be made on a special form which may be obtained from the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, London, W.1.

13 Apr., 1937	Post Office, Female Telegraphist, London	...	...	...	25 Feb., 1937
20 Apr., 1937	Apprentices in H.M. Dockyards and Artificer Apprentices in the Royal Navy	...	...	...	1 Mar., 1937
20 Apr., 1937	Apprentices in the Royal Naval Torpedo Factory, Greenock	...	...	...	1 Mar., 1937
27 Apr., 1937	Post Office, Male Assistant Traffic Superintendent	...	...	...	4 Mar., 1937
22 June, 1937	Navy, Army and Air Force Entrance Examination	...	...	...	15 Apr., 1937
July, 1937	Administrative Class of the Home Civil Service	...	...	...	10 Apr., 1937
	Indian Civil Service	...	...	...	10 Apr., 1937
	Burma Civil Service	...	...	...	10 Apr., 1937
	Ceylon Civil Service (open to Ceylonese candidates only)	...	...	...	10 Apr., 1937
20 July, 1937	Assistant Examiner in the Patent Office	...	...	...	3 June, 1937