

# 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.

## CURRENT COMMENTS

WE do get bouquets now and again, but rarely from within the Department.

The final paragraphs of an article, written by an Officer Grade colleague and headed "Frontiers," which appeared in a recent issue of "The Journal" read:—

"And—finally—there is one keen pleasure I always find in a foreign holiday, and that is the conduct of our Waterguard colleagues at Dover, or wherever it is that you land on your return. There is a calm, courteous efficiency about them which bears comparison with the best.

"Your English Customs are just grand," said an American woman to me once, "but don't try to fool them!"

She did not know my profession, so I can pass the compliment on with endorsement."

Thanks for the endorsement—Mr. Budd.

The August meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.), was held on the 9th of the month and, in the absence of Mr. W. E. Standing, the Chair was taken by Mr. J. T. Sutton.

Reports were received on the various items and among the decisions taken one was to continue correspondence with the Official Side on the question of C.P.O. salary minimum; and another, detailed action in connection with the recent disagreement on C.P.O. subsistence.

Waterguard candidates at Departmental examinations may have differing opinions on exam. room conditions, but on one thing they are unanimous. The desks supplied left much to be desired as regard desk space, knee-room and stability.

## COMMENTS

The Association raised the question some time ago and we are pleased to learn that the situation is likely to be remedied at the next examination. We understand that it is suggested that the 21½ ins. x 15½ ins. desks should be replaced by flat tables measuring 36 in. x 24 ins.

We have pleasure in publishing the announcement that the following Assistant Preventive Officers have been selected for promotion to the Officer Grade as the result of the recent interviews.

F. O. Bowley, Southampton; G. J. Fazeckerley, Liverpool; G. B. Haywood, Southampton; T. H. Heyes, Dover; T. A. Johnson, Newcastle; D. McLeod, Liverpool; H. C. Moffat, Liverpool; R. M. Smith, Cardiff; J. W. Stewart, Leith; W. A. J. Swain, Sunderland; R. H. Swift, Cardiff; H. W. Thomas, Cardiff.

The total of twenty successful candidates was made up by eight D.C.O.s.

Who is the Head of the Civil Service?

This question has been asked many times and the replies have included many people from the Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Privy Council to the Under Secretary of State in the Home Office.

The Prime Minister has settled the question now and for all time. In answer to a question in the House of Commons Mr. Neville Chamberlain said:—

"The status of the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury as head of the Civil Service has been recognised for something like 70 years. It dates from the period during which the previously unco-ordinated Civil Establishments of the Crown were organised as a regular Service under general Treasury

control, and the position has been publicly affirmed from time to time since. Experience has shown that it is a convenient and businesslike arrangement and one which—under Ministerial control and particularly under the control of the Prime Minister as First Lord of the Treasury—forms an essential link in providing the requisite means of ensuring the efficient administration of public business.”

\* \* \*

The Cost of Living index figure on the 1st July was published as 55. This is three points higher than the previous month and nine points higher than 1st July, 1936.

The following figures are significant.

|          | Mar. | Apl. | May. | June. | July. | Augt. |
|----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1936 ... | 46   | 44   | 44   | 44    | 46    | 46    |
| 1937 ... | 51   | 51   | 52   | 52    | 55    |       |

Cost of Living has now reached the figure on which consolidation of Civil Service salaries and bonus was based—and is still rising.

\* \* \*

The Autumn Show of Flowers and Vegetables by members of the Customs Horticultural Society takes place on Saturday, 11th September.

\* \* \*

Final arrangements for a credit service for our members are now completed and almost immediately a circular is being sent out to each member through the District Organiser. See that you get your copy.

### Do You Know—

“Special watch on airmen suspected of smuggling is being kept at all Customs aerodromes during the holiday rush.

The names of suspects have been supplied to the authorities concerned in a secret list.

So thorough are the methods of the Customs Officers that many of the airmen now chuckling at the apparent ease with which they “dodged the column” would have a shock if they could see how records of their movements have been kept.”—“Daily Sketch,” 3rd August, 1937.

### As We See Others.

“Years ago on the Franco-Spanish frontier at Irun, a man we were travelling with tried to argue it lightly with the French Customs over a pocketful or two of cigars, but it was like arguing with Battersea Power Station. Steely jaws snapped “Vous dites?” Steely eyes transfixed us with a cynical glare, steely claws filled in forms of incalculable length and ruthlessness, and we both only just escaped the guillotine, or so it seemed.”—The Bystander, 23rd June, 1937.

### Excerpts from

## “The Customs Journal,” August 13th, 1904.

Answering a question in Parliament, the Prime Minister said the Imperial Service Medal was only given to Civil Servants of the lower grades for long and faithful service upon retirement from the Service.

Apropos of this announcement it would be interesting to know what are the qualifications entitling those to the honour.

While we hear of many postmen and other lower grade officials in the Crown departments having the decoration, including an out-door officer of Customs, so far as we can gather not one of the many Waterguard officials, retired since the issue of the new order, has been similarly honoured. We wonder whether the, we fear, deep-rooted prejudice affecting the Waterguard generally has even reached this sphere of influence.

\* \* \*

The draft regulations for the protection of dock workers issued by the Home Office cannot fail to be of benefit to the Customs Landing and Waterguard Officers, whose duties are at present so dangerously risky both to life and limb.

Among the provisions, the draft regulations provide that where a gangway is reasonably practicable, it shall not be less than 22 inches wide, properly secured and fenced throughout on either side to a height of 3 feet by means of upper and lower rails etc., or by other equally safe means. In other cases a secure ladder of adequate strength.

The new regulations also provide for suitable gangways from ship to ship when laid alongside of each other; for suitable ladders and other secure means of ingress and egress to the ship’s holds and other safeguards generally conspicuous by their absence on modern vessels. We can only express the hope that the new code will become a living accomplishment in the near future.

### Customs Waterguard Associations

An Offer Worth **COUPON** Privileges to  
Accepting Members

To **KENDAL & DENT**

WATCHMAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY, &c

Gold Medal, Paris Exhibition

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Please send me, free of charge, a **PRIVILEGE TICKET** relating to your offer of Special Discount to members

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This Coupon can be posted in an envelope under 3d. stamp

## Civil Service Confederation. PARLIAMENTARY REPORT to July 30th, 1937.

House of Commons,

July 30th.

### Pensions.

Innumerable questions have been asked since the last Report concerning the pension privileges of all classes of civil servants, more especially in connection with the refusal of the Treasury to allow temporary service to count for pension purposes. Members have pointed out that the matter is causing serious unrest among the men concerned and that the Treasury action is strongly criticised by ex-service organisations. All Members have also been bombarded with correspondence from constituents concerned in the matter, pressing for a suitable Committee of Inquiry to be set up to consider the question. Mr. McEntee pointed out in a supplementary question in the House on July 8th, that the L.C.C. and other large Local Authorities in the country allow such temporary service to count for pension.

However, in reply to a question by Mr. Gordon Macdonald on July 27th, Sir John Simon made the following important statement:—

“Questions affecting the placing of ex-  
service men in the

at the base of the determination of pension rights for all branches of the Civil Service. In these circumstances I have come to the conclusion that no useful purpose would be served by yet another inquiry.”

In reply to various supplementary questions Sir John Simon said that he had looked into the matter himself and found himself in complete agreement with the views taken by his predecessor that there was no justification for a new inquiry.

Directly after this announcement in the House, the Associations concerned issued a letter to every Member of the House challenging statements in Sir John's answer, but, of course, the shortness of time before the Adjournment prevented any further effective action being taken. The British Legion Parliamentary Committee, which has handled this matter throughout, also feels it difficult to know what to do to be of any further help.

As a point of interest, however, Sir John's reply to Commander Tufnell on July 23rd as to the estimated cost of such pensions is appended herewith:—

“A claim has been advanced by a group of Civil Service Associations that the temporary service of temporary clerks who were established as a result of the Lytton and Southborough examinations, the creation of the “P” class and the reviews following the report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, should, except in the case of non-service men and of women, count in full for pension, and that those ex-service clerks who were beyond the age limits for establishment at the relevant dates should now be established with the same concession. The claim is estimated to involve an aggregate addition to the pensions of the persons covered by it of over £500,000 a year, in addition to which there would be a total increased expenditure of about £1,400,000 on lump sums payable on retirement. The cost of the similar claim advanced by another Association on behalf of women excluded in the above claim and comparable grades is estimated to involve an aggregate addition to the pensions of those covered of £70,000 a year, or a somewhat lower addition to pensions with a correspondingly increased expenditure on lump sums. It is not possible to estimate even approximately the cost of similar concessions either to ex-service members or to all members of other classes of Government employees for which claims in respect of establishment or counting for pension of temporary service have been advanced by these or other Associations, but this further figure would certainly be large.”

### The Head of the Civil Service.

Last month it will be remembered there were several allusions in the House of Commons to

the problem of the control of the Civil Service. There still seems to be a considerable amount of doubt about the matter, though the Prime Minister's reply in the House on July 15th last to Colonel Goodman went some way towards settling the prevailing uncertainty. Colonel Goodman asked the Prime Minister to state whether the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury is the head of the Civil Service, and Mr. Chamberlain replied:—

“Yes, Sir. The status of the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury as head of the Civil Service has been recognised for something like 70 years. It dates from the period during which the previously unco-ordinated civil establishments of the Crown were organised as a regular Service under general Treasury control, and the position has been publicly affirmed from time to time since. Experience has shown that it is a convenient and business-like arrangement and one which—under Ministerial control, and particularly under the control of the Prime Minister as First Lord of the Treasury—forms an essential link in providing the requisite means of ensuring the efficient administration of public business.”

#### **Government Offices.**

Another grievance of civil servants which has occupied the attention of Members this month is that of the insufficient accommodation in various Government offices, and especially the unsuitability of tax offices. It has been pointed out that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the staffs in these offices to carry out their work. Sir Philip Sassoon, First Commissioner of Works, stated on July 19th, in reply to a question by Mr. Banfield, that he was aware that the accommodation is unsuitable in many offices and that they were trying to make improvements. He said that the Office of Works have at present under review a list of 156 buildings in Great Britain, housing 257 tax offices which in varying degree require improvement, and that arrangements are actually in hand for dealing with 88 buildings containing 165 offices. In the remaining cases special difficulty has been experienced owing to the absence of suitable alternative accommodation in the towns concerned.

The trouble is caused, of course, because the principle of erecting Crown buildings to house Government offices, as in the case of the Ministry of Labour and the Post Offices, is not adopted in the case of tax offices, and collectors' offices. The reason for this is that the requirements of the latter are not so specialised as are those of the former, and can usually be met by hiring suitable office accommodation, with the additional advantages that when a hired building ceases to satisfy their requirements the tenancy can be determined at stated periods.

#### **Air-Raid Precautions.**

Further questions have been asked since the last Report concerning this subject, though nothing of much importance has transpired. Sir Nicholas Grattan-Doyle asked the First Commissioner of Works on July 26th, whether he had any information to show what number of Government offices have provided gas-proof rooms for their staffs in the event of air-raids, as recommended by his Department as the first line of defence against such attacks, but Sir Philip Sassoon merely replied that the problem of protecting the staffs of Government offices in the event of air attack “is at present under consideration.” On the same day, Mr. Banfield asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether in the case of the appeal to civil servants to participate as volunteers in air-raid precautions, he proposed to adopt a system of allowing officials to contract out of such a general arrangement instead of volunteering to come within it, and Colonel Colville replied that he presumed the question referred to instructions in regard to personal protection against the effects of gas, and said that the actual procedure to be adopted for the submission of names for this instruction would be settled departmentally in consultation with the staff interests concerned.

## Correspondence.

Dear Sir,

I don't envy you your job. You have to try to please probably as motley a collection as any newspaper; but your readers are all shareholders, and must be considered. As a shareholder (several shares in arrears), I make, my moan, constructively, I hope.

First of all, the lay-out, as I believe printers call it. The type which is used for the "C.J." is admirably clear and modern, but is the material not spaced too amply? I think we could have more "meat" in the issues if we cramped everything a little more. I sometimes am reminded of digs where a meagre portion of meat is spread out to look like a seven-course dinner. Why, too, need we have "Contents" occupying three inches, in a magazine where nothing could hide for more than five minutes? Is all this spacing a desperate attempt to make a pint of material fill a quart pot? If so, I pity you, but I feel sure that you could reach the stage where the quart pot would have to take its full measure, if you, for instance, asked some of your regular contributors to ask other persons to write something for each issue.

Now to material. I have an issue of the "C.J." in front of me. If I take that as typical and myself as a typical reader, my purpose will be served.

You must remember that you cater for the Waterguard only, and that therefore you should insert matter solely of Waterguard interest. Your readers can have their lust for exterior knowledge and entertainment satisfied in less specialised publications. In "Current Comments" we have actually the ideal example. If you write them, you are to be congratulated. They are well worth the space they occupy.

Next is Excerpt from "The Customs Journal, 1904." An interesting feature, showing the advancement we have made in thirty years, and worth its place if only as an incentive to renewed effort.

After that we have the Parliamentary Report of the Civil Service Confederation. Why? Two and a half columns of Parliamentary evasion about something which, among other things, "indirectly affects the Civil Service in relation to County Court work," and which, so far as I can see, affects us not at all. Leave it out, Mr. Editor, or quote only extracts which affect the Waterguard. We don't want the troubles of "S" class clerks aired in our Journal.

There is then an exposition of the old and the new Pensions Acts as they affect the Civil Service. That's what we want! Pander to our selfishness, and we will laud you for evermore. "What we have to contend with," a journalistic phantasy about a submarine full of international crooks, gives us a chance to smile in superior fashion. "Smugglers and Smuggling,"

is an historical account of particular interest to us, and "Boost from the States," flatters our vanity by praising our efficiency, apart from allowing ourselves to see ourselves as others see us.

There is another article, but as I wrote it, I cannot criticise, except to say that it is of purely Waterguard interest.

A number of accounts of prosecutions, presentations, sports and social functions and meetings each have their appeal, even if they only make us say, "Fancy giving that old — anything!"

An account of the Conference is so essential that comment is superfluous.

I really can't see why we need "Changes in the Staff." Our O.W.O.s provide the same news, without the whiskers.

At the risk of incurring displeasure, I cannot see why we use half a column each week on a chess problem. I have no quarrel with chess, but I do say that we could find something to fill that space which we could not get elsewhere. Several of the national newspapers have a chess section. Surely our chess players could make do without using our valuable specialised space.

The correspondence columns—what can I say? I see a letter which interests me intensely, but it starts a string of letters which reiterate the same things with appalling monotony. A chance for the blue pencil.

Lastly, I must apologize to you, Mr. Editor, for presuming to criticise without a full knowledge of your difficulties. I can only hope that criticism from one who is aloof from the welter of editorial miseries will help you to see more clearly. Even the mouse aided the lion.

Yours truly,

H.G.R.

The above letter is published as received, and, before a reply is given, readers are invited to submit their views on the matter, in order that we may have a clear and concise idea as to members' requirements.—Ed.

Dear Blackleg—

Recently, having moved from a hundred per cent. port to a port where there is a large number of you, I recorded my disappointment. I dare say you read it, because I have found that the non-paying member has no hesitation in reading the 'Journal' others pay for. I hope you'll read this. If you don't, perhaps some paying member will tell you about it. It is an attempt to answer some of the reasons given for not paying.

I get nothing out of it. There is no member of the staff who has not benefited in the last ten years financially. By concessions gained at the time of the Association's partly successful wages claim most have had their subs. paid for the rest of their service-life, e.g., all the A.P.O.s

who get 18/- for a Sunday where they would once have got 12/- and all A.P.O.s who have attained their maxima. There has also been increased leave and numerous improvements in uniform (a reform mocked at, but complaints about the old uniform were always prefaced with: 'Why don't the Association do something?'), numbers of staff, prospects of promotion. True, many of the benefits have been for the A.P.O. grade, but that was the grade which most needed amelioration and still needs it. But if there had been no such reforms at all the existence of the Association **preserving** our rights and privileges is ample justification for it.

2. Why should I pay to benefit others? Some (usually those that need it) do get more from Association activity than others. But the complaint goes further and alleges that active members, in some undefined way, receive advantages. So and so rises to be a Superintendent, or it may be a P.O.-ship, and the word goes round, 'He's an Association man.' If this is so the disgruntled one is a fool not to become an active member himself. But he knows in his heart that it is not so. It is extremely hard to get officers to do the local work for Association purposes. The reward is a good deal of free time spent reading reports, drawing up schemes, writing letters, etc., and—for local Whitley workers—constant vigilance. Far easier to do nothing except criticise. Many local workers are not geniuses (*they* all become Officers) and, on rare occasions, some have given colour to the suggestion that they're there for what they can get. But the general level of unpaid local work is high and could be higher if staff support were better. It's not the official side which holds up reform but our own side. And don't forget that good as the Whitley machine is, it cannot **force** reform as the old trade unions (the modern union tends more to the sound reform brought about by conciliation than to the 'flash' brought about by strike-threats) could, and even when good cases are presented a not-unlimited Treasury is a final barrier. This goes for National Whitley. Although one or two officers of the executive who devote **all** their free time to the job are paid honoraria, the amount of work done in a hundred little ways besides work on large issues is immense. Correspondence alone exceeds the output of many a fair-sized business. Ah, but they get promotion! They'd probably get it quicker if they were able to study more. After all, the proportion of failures from A.P.O. to P.O. is small and getting smaller. Is it likely that men picked by all the Service to work for it would be among the ranks of the unlucky? For promotion above P.O. the Association officers have done no better than any others. Study the promotion lists. They put in more than they take out. You are taking out but putting nothing in.

3. Personal complaints. One meets non-payers who would grant all that has gone before: that most members get more out of the Association than they put in and get service from the officers, local and national, greater than any other Service organisation gives—or any possible alternative body could give. But theirs is a special case. They've never had anything 'except a mackintosh.' One can't say any more to that than that the speaker is wrong. But he may go further and say that the Association has actually done him harm, let him down. It should have fought for him when some disciplinary action was taken or when he was unlucky in the matter of promotion, etc. The answer is that the Association never fails to take up any good 'case' but it cannot work miracles. For instance, in disciplinary cases, the Board considers a matter fully before it decides punishment is necessary and, if anything, tends to leniency. Is there any fact the Association could give them to alter things? Unless something was obscured during the enquiry—Association representation can do no good. As to promotion, no Service association could compel the Promotion Board to pass a man whom they felt they couldn't pass even if the rare case of a good man being passed over had arisen. But they would bring to the Board's notice any special circumstances. The Association do not run the job. Some people criticise the Association for being incapable of doing anything; then they condemn it for not being able to do everything.

4. The subs. are too high. I think that the sixpence a week is the finest insurance policy you could purchase and I would not kick at a slight increase. The proportion of the sub. to income, especially for P.O.s and C.P.O.s, is much below what it would be for a similar outside body. The total income—with so many non-paying members—of the Association is not large and, it can be seen from the balance sheets, is well spent. As a Councillor I have criticised items in these balance sheets but, generally, no sound complaint can stand, and there is no **waste**. Local expenditure is infinitesimal. Believe it or not, local officers have spent their own money on Association work. The price of a packet of cigarettes a week, too much!

5. I do not agree with Association policy. You won't change it from outside but you'd be surprised what one man can do from inside. All non-payers are not fools, I know, and we could do with their opinions at meetings, where policy originates. The faults of Association policy where they exist (and I think it a very imperfect body) are solely due to your apathy. Where foolish counsels prevail; where the editor, from want of better, has to publish articles like this; where nonentities take office; where local improvements are lacking and national plans are ill conceived—it is because you keep your wisdom from us. C.F.S.

## The Bootleggers used to serve London.

By BASIL FULLER & LESLIE MELVILLE.

**F**ROM hidey-holes in many a seaside town and villages, where Londoners are now on holiday, London once received by devious routes large quantities of pirated and smuggled goods, for, until comparatively recent times, pirates and smugglers infested the shores of Kent, Sussex and Essex. They were cunning fellows, these old bootleggers, and their forwarding systems were extremely ingenious.

Piracy and smuggling are two distinct crimes according to law, but in practice it is impossible to say where one began and the other ended. Often the hardier spirits among the "free-traders," who "worked" the south-east corner of England during George III's reign, would attack likely-looking vessels with all the fierceness of genuine pirates. If they were challenged by a revenue cutter they gave only one answer—a round of grapeshot.

These engagements sometimes took place in broad daylight close inshore in front of a crowd of spectators, who cheered the smugglers—or pirates—lustily. If Customs men opened fire, from the beach showers of stones soon made them change their intentions! This happened on more than one occasion at Deal, which was the most important centre of "free trade" on the south coast. "A sad smuggling town," Fanny Burney called it in her diary, but it was probably the Preventive Officers who were sad and not the inhabitants. As late as 1821, for instance, two Excise men were tarred and feathered, and then paraded through the main streets in a cart.

But it was not only on the coast that such lawless scenes were witnessed. Little more than a century ago the Port of London swarmed with genuine pirates as well as smugglers. They were "the most desperate and depraved class of the fraternity of Nautical Vagabonds," according to Patrick Colquhoun, the magistrate who founded the River Police.

One of their dodges was to cut lighters adrift, and follow them down-stream until they reached some secluded creek where they could be gutted in safety.

Canvey Island was a favourite rendezvous, both for the river pirates and for the smugglers coming from France. The old Lobster Smack Inn on Hole Haven, which forms the western 'coast' of Canvey, was a great place in these parts for landing cargoes destined for London. The inn dates from 1563, and is a most interesting place, much of the original building being still intact, as witness the low ceilings.

Like their brethren on the coast, the river pirates did not hesitate to commit their depredations in broad daylight. Once a party of

them had just finished gutting two ships as they lay in the Port of London itself when the two captains one an American and the other a Channel Islander, came on the scene in time to see the marauders rowing away. Immediately the air rang with the oaths in two languages.

"Gentlemen, Gentlemen!" remonstrated the pirates, pretending to be horribly shocked by this display of verbal fireworks. "You really oughtn't to take on so. We've just borrowed a few of your things, that's all. Good morning." And with a cheery wave of the hand they disappeared downstream. They were cool customers indeed, and not until the River Police were firmly established was their power broken.

Landing a cargo was one problem; getting it to London, where the bulk of contraband was sold, was another and an entirely different one. There was, of course, always a certain amount of local trade to be driven. But apart from distributing a small part of a cargo in this way, the first thing that was to be done was to store it until the 'land-smugglers' could ride away with it to London.

All round the south-east coast there are authentic examples of these hiding-places, but they are not so numerous as some people believe. The searcher is sometimes shown a 'genuine' smugglers' cave which, on closer investigation, turns out to have been made by a recent fall of chalk. People forget that the coast-line changes constantly.

Birchington, however, to take one instance, can boast a genuine underground hiding-place which owes nothing to nature, but was excavated by the smugglers themselves.

The famous Grotto at Margate, another artificial work, was probably used to hide contraband goods at one time. St. Clement's Caves at Hastings are of natural formation, but they show signs of having been artificially expanded.

In Sussex the great place was Cuckmere Haven, below the lovely old village of Alfriston.

Smugglers' caves are to be found inland as well as on the coast. It is a fact that until the beginning of the last century the only trade that came direct from the Sussex coast to London was carried on by the smugglers. They alone traversed the 'hollow lanes' whose beauty now attracts scores of hikers.

Roughly midway between London and the coast 'clearing-houses' were established. Ashdown Forest was one; another was Ewhurst, in Surrey, where the old windmill was used as well as the shallow caves in the woods. Leith Hill, near by, was another of their haunts. A naval cutlass was unearthed there not so long ago.

Dene-holes were often used, and searchers have been occasionally rewarded with finds of old Dutch bottles. Probably the well-known Chislehurst Caves once held many a rich cargo on its way to London,

Caves, however, only occur in certain parts. Inns and churches are universal. Undoubtedly they were used by the smugglers far more than any other kind of hiding-place.

A favourite place on the Blackwater Estuary, which was one of the chief smuggling routes to London, was Bradwell Creek, in Essex, still an unfrequented spot. Here the cargoes were taken to the Green Man; the old open grate in the kitchen is still to be seen, and one can easily imagine the scene of merriment the room presented when a cargo had just been landed. Farther round the coast is the ancient chapel of St. Peter's-on-the-Wall, which was often full of contraband goods.

Churches were, indeed, often used by the smugglers. Romney Marsh boasts several authentic examples — Snargate, Fairfield and Benenden, for instance. It is strange to think that at a place so eminently respectable as Hove the parson was once prevented from preaching by a stack of brandy barrels in his pulpit. To say the truth, the clergy frequently had a soft spot in their hearts for the smuggler.

It is on record that about a century ago a certain upright citizen happened upon a group of smugglers as they were landing a cargo. Enraged at this defiance of the laws, the good man harangued them fearlessly.

"Is there not a magistrate in the neighbourhood to put a stop to your tricks" he fumed.

"No, thank God!" was the gruff answer.

"Well, then, surely you have a parson hereabouts"

"Aye, to be sure we have," replied a smuggler.

"Ah!" exclaimed the determined stranger, "then kindly tell me where I can find him."

"He's right there, sir, holdin' that there lantern!" came the unexpected reply.

## News Reviewed by the Joker.

My friend Brighteyes of Blayport writes interestingly on the subject of monthly or weekly pay days:

Dear Joker, I want to tell you about my wife Sybil, and about myself, of course. We find a monthly salary ever such fun. I receive my salary and immediately take it home and put it safely under lock and key. Each day my wife asks for a small amount which I hand over to her and receive in exchange a receipt for the amount handed over. I file all her receipts and she files all her bills. If there are no discrepancies at the end of the month I take her to the pictures, but if there is a fault she usually runs home to mother for a few days. Last month she was sixpence out. It nearly caused a riot but Sybil remembered that she had bought the baby a rattle and that the little devil had eaten the bill on the way home. By this system the salary lasts the whole month. The system is "foolproof." If there are any officers on the South Coast who would like a practical demon-

stration for a week or two then Sybil and I will willingly come and stay with them. Sybil likes Bournemouth.

Yours ever, Brighteyes.

P.S. to readers: Brighteyes makes no mention of overtime pay.

\* \* \*

News of smuggling on a big scale on the South Coast continues too in:

Workmen excavating a roadway five miles inland have unearthed an old drain-pipe which smelled strongly of brandy. The foreman was away at the time and no doubt the excavators were very drunk and bending near the pipe thought that they could smell brandy. Nevertheless, news-hawks have supplied the missing details. Apparently a submarine visits some lonely cove, pumps thousands of gallons of brandy ashore which is conveyed by underground pipe-line to huge tanks which are cleverly concealed in the upper reaches of Mount Snowdon. Excise Officers should have no difficulty in locating these tanks in spite of the fact that the smugglers have so cleverly outwitted the Coastguard and Preventive Services.

\* \* \*

Beware, reader, that you do not take too seriously the recent article on physiognomy. A Roman nose does not always imply determination or a weak chin lack of it. When still a keen student of the pseudo-science I had a very rude awakening. Approaching a Waterguard Station one day, I saw approaching me a tall well dressed man. I studied his face Scoundrel was written all over it, speaking physiognomically, of course. As I passed he nodded. Back at the station I learned that he was the new Surveyor, which practically proves the science wrong. And yet there are leading thinkers who say that character can be read from the face. Let's give it up.

\* \* \*

The young son of an officer has asked him if it would be correct to write in his history book that General Wolfe was an arch-smuggler because he smuggled an army into Canada. Have you any suggestions before I send the problem along to the War Office?

## "The Travelling Public."

"Just read this notice. All articles obtained abroad . . ."

"Yes, all right, we know. We only got some souvenirs and a li'l bo'l o' wine, what we're allowed. Oh, liquor is it? We didn't know. Thanks mister, can we go nah?"

"All articles . . ."

"Yes, we know it all, we bin last year ain't we Liz? We got a cuckoo clock and some li'l wood carvings. Nothing to pay? Oh, and some li'l whiffs, you know cheroot things."

"All articles ob . . ."

"We 'avn't hobtained nuffin' abroad 'ave we Emily? Oh, abroad? Yis, we got a bo'l of O

dig alone—so big—you know what they let us 'ave. One each an' some o' them li'l presents. 'Ow much they caust? Dunno, abaht ten francs."

"Do we 'ave come 'ere wiv our bags? We're travelling wiv Cook's Party."

"Yes, ask them all to come up. Read this please. All articles . . ."

"Yes, all right. We'll tell yer. I made a list aht . . . three li'l brooches, one mark; li'l cuckoo clock, one mark; Bavarian 'at fifty pfennigs. Is that all right? Can I close it dahn nah? Oh, I forgot I got a cow bell for me own use."

"All articles obtained . . ."

"Yus, I got a li'l cuckoo clock what goes 'cuckoo,' you know, what yer gets in Switzerland, and I got a camera. It's me own tho'. Want ter see it? It's a Brownie what I got in East 'am. When I went aht I asked one of your men ter give me a sustificate, but he said " . . . . off, I'm busy."

"All articles obtained abroad . . ."

"It's all right, I bin done."

"I beg your pardon."

"I said, 'He's bin through me already.'"

"All articles obtained abroad . . ."

### Watch House Yarns.

A certain Preventive Officer had had an exceptionally busy afternoon shipping stores etc., and it was four o'clock when he sat down in the office to make up his journal. Four o'clock was, of course, the time of changing watches and an A.P.O. who had just come on was duty relating very audibly that at the dock entrance the Police had stopped a horse and cart and were searching it. On the morning following the P.O. read over his journal and discovered that during the previous afternoon he had rummaged s/s Horse and Cart!

Celt.

\* \* \*

"You're late this morning, Mr.—," said the C.P.O. "Don't shout, Sir, I don't want everyone to know!" replied the A.P.O. "Fact."

\* \* \*

Having invested in a bicycle, the new A.P.O. was returning home one evening by way of the docks when into his gaze there floated two suspicious looking characters. With bulky pockets, and well filled suitcases they were evidently smugglers making a real job of it. Our Sherlock Holmes began to think—here was something worth investigating, with nothing less than a special mention from the Board for his pains. But one thing worried him—in civilian clothes and without a commission how was he to act? Ah! how easy it seemed now? He would bluff them, so assuming a special air of importance, and in his most authoritative voice he exclaimed: "Excuse me gentlemen, I am a Customs Officer, what ship—," but he got no further, as back came the blunt reply, "So am I—you see we belong to the— Mobile Crew." Anon.

### For Your Note-Book.

#### SPIRITS

**Cognac Brandy.**—eau-de-vie-de-cognac, is produced from certain classes of grapes grown in the Cognac region of the Clarente departments of France. The manufacture is carried on, not only by the professional distiller, but also by farmers who grow the grapes. Distillation is carried on by means of a simple pot-still, usually small in size, built in brickwork and heated by a furnace in which wood is usually used as fuel. Two distilling operations are necessary, but in some instances this is avoided by the use of the "a-premier-jet" still in which one continuous distillation produces a finished brandy of high strength. This spirit, however, does not contain the rich bouquet of the pot-still product and is generally used in the manufacture of liqueurs. Brandy as it comes from the pot-still is about 25 over proof and colourless. For marketing it is slightly sweetened with cane sugar, suitably coloured, and reduced with water to under proof. To the volatile ethers and aldehydes present in the genuine old cognac, are attributed its valuable properties in cases of sickness, but the greater part of the so-called cognac sold in the United Kingdom is only "silent spirit," flavoured and coloured, concocted in the Cognac region.

**Marc Brandy,** eau-de-vie-de-marc, is the name given to a brandy produced solely by the pot-still distillation of the skins of grapes and other residue of the wine press. It is said to be rich in ethers and aromatic principles. Marc brandy, Armagnac and Trios-Six-de-Montpellier have all good market values. In other parts of France cheaper grades of brandy are manufactured from other varieties of grapes by continuous distillation in specially adapted stills.

Spanish brandy, produced from wine at Jerez, etc., is also of high quality and rich in ethers. The brandies of Algeria, California, the Cape and Australia are also well known. In South Africa "dop brandy" is manufactured after the manner of the eau-de-vie-de-marc of France.

**Rum.**—The name "rum," is given to the potable spirit distilled from the various products of the sugar cane. For Customs purposes the use of the name is restricted to rum produced in countries where the sugar cane is grown, such as West Indies, British and Dutch Guiana, Mauritius, Brazil, Natal (possibly Queensland), etc. The principal imports into the United Kingdom are from Jamaica and Demerara.

In the manufacture of rum the wash used for distillation is prepared sugar-cane juice, molasses, skimmings, etc. The spirit contains valuable bye-products of fermentation—ethyl butyrate, etc.—which impart to rum its characteristic flavour.

(To be continued.)

## Southampton Notes.

We offer our congratulations to Messrs. G. Haywood and F. C. Bowley, A.P.O.s, of this port on their appointment to the Officer Grade, and we wish them success in their new sphere of activity.

The prompt action of Mr. L. A. Grant, A.P.O., Cowes, in preventing an outbreak of fire spreading to serious proportions is commented upon in the "Southern Daily Echo," where he is termed the "one-man fire brigade."

While on duty at three o'clock in the morning of August 5th, he observed flames leaping up from the deck of the pier at Cowes.

He gave the alarm and then dashed along the esplanade and scaled the gates of the pier. Discovering a line and bucket he flung gallons of sea water on to the flames.

His efforts were successful, and police and firemen stood by afterwards in case of a further outbreak.

A gaping hole, about 4 feet by 3 feet in one of the shoulders of the pier suggests that the conflagration may have been caused by a carelessly-dropped cigarette. H.L.F.

## Smuggling Prosecutions.

At the Hull Police Court, on the 17th July last, Edward Hinz, A.B. of the German steamer Albatross from Hamburg, was charged with concealing 20 mechanical lighters. He pleaded guilty and was fined £2 5s. 0d. or 14 days.

The lighters, which were concealed inside a cork fender in a store-locker on the vessel, were discovered by Mr. R. Beswick, A.P.O., in a rummage crew supervised by Mr. R. W. Booth, P.O.

At the same court on the 12th inst., Gosta A. Graulund, Fireman on the s/s Virgo, from Wiborg, was convicted on the charge of concealing 7 14/16 lbs. of O.S. Tobacco and 2 6/16 lbs. of Cigarettes and was fined £7 10s. 4d. plus 10s. interpreter's fee.

The goods were discovered by Messrs. E. A. Neesham and L. K. Windsor, A.P.O.s, who whilst rummaging the fo'c'sle noticed that the screws securing the electric light fitting to the ceiling had been moved. On removing the fitting a space was found through which the goods had been pushed between the ceiling and the deck. Mr. R. A. Crooks had charge of the rummage crew and Mr. R. J. Girling, C.P.O., conducted the prosecutions in both the cases. R.W.B.

## Impossible Sayings (5).

"Yes, I remember the incident clearly," said the A.P.O., when asked if he had dealt with a certain passenger three months previously.

## Changes in the Staff.

TO 9th AUGUST, 1937.

### APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Jones, O. B.  
Shirm, A. J.  
Smart, J.

### TRANSFERS.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR :—

Griffin, A., Unattached to Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 2ND CLASS :—

Jones, T. H., Unattached to Hull.

WATERGUARD SURVEYOR :—

Thomson, W. G., Unattached to London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Charlton, H. J., London to North Shields, Newcastle.

Massam, C. H., North Shields, Newcastle to London.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Allison, J. W., London to Hull.

Reed, W. V., West Hartlepool, Sunderland to Newcastle.

Tohill, W. L., Londonderry, Belfast to Belfast.

OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT—PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Warnock, J., North Shields, Newcastle.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICER.

Begley, G., Assistant Preventive Officer.

## Hull Swimming.

Mr. S. J. Dorey, A.P.O., of the Hull Waterguard Swimming Club, accomplished a meritorious performance when he swam across the Humber on Tuesday the 3rd of August last. Diving in from the Lincolnshire side he reached the Yorkshire side in 63 minutes, having covered a distance of about 2 miles. Mr. Dorey's original intention was to swim to the Hull Corporation Pier (about half a mile further), but unfortunately the low temperature of the water made this impossible, so he had to be content with crossing from bank to bank. He was further handicapped by the fact that his swimming helmet kept slipping over his eyes, and half-way over he had to swim alongside the boat and have his helmet removed. To those who do not know the Humber, I would point out that the estuary is full of tidal vagaries and at times is capable of attaining a speed of 7 knots. Altogether, it will be seen that Mr. Dorey may be justly proud of his performance and we offer him our congratulations. Mr. Dorey wishes to thank all those who accompanied him by boat to cheer him on his way across and particularly Mr. C. H. Rowett, P.O., who acted as his "Trainer-manager." R.W.B.

## The Hull versus London Match.

ON the 5th August, the long-anticipated match between the Hull and London Waterguard Cricket Clubs took place on the Maurice Ground at Edgware. A total of thirty-three journeyed from Hull and amongst them we were pleased to see Messrs. L. Gardner, W. Supt., A. Cameron, W. Sur., P. W. Howard and A. H. Lockwood, C.P.O.s, all of Hull, and Mr. J. H. Costain, C.P.O., Goole. Among the large number of London visitors were Mr. C. M. Woodford, our I.G.W., and Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Lupton. We must also not forget to mention Mr. B. T. White, retired C.P.O.

The weather was absolutely ideal for cricket and it held good throughout the day in spite of the weather forecast of rain.

Hull batted first with Bugler and Emmerson in. The latter after 6 was caught at the wicket by Howard. The first boundary in the game was scored by Rowett, but with the next over he was out lb.w. Atkinson, the Hull captain, giving a mighty hit was splendidly caught by Rickson. Caldall scored 6 while Head and Wilks managed 5 apiece. Runs were not too plentiful, but Hull's last man in, Rawcliffe, certainly gave an exceptionally good impression and made every endeavour to increase the none too heavy score. But it was of no avail for Hull were eventually all out for 35.

With London in, it quickly became apparent that Hull possessed some fast bowlers. Rowett was no mere novice in this direction. Pearce was dismissed for 6 while Rickson had very hard luck, for after having played well, was out off his own bat. Carthew also fell after 6 to the onslaughts of Rowett. Sloan did not have much chance for Head made a magnificent catch off his bat. Nevertheless, Fowles, London's captain, had settled down well and was in the midst of piling up runs when the tea interval arrived.

Before tea was served both teams lined up and were inspected by Mr. C. M. Woodford, who shook hands and made himself personally acquainted to each man.

At the termination of a delightful tea, taken in the Pavilion, Mr. Woodford spoke to an assembly numbering about eighty. He said he was delighted to welcome the Hull team to London and expressed a hope that they would come again frequently and possibly bring some Yorkshire 'Pudden.' In a more serious vein he continued by saying that on behalf of the two teams he extended the grateful and hearty thanks due to Mr. and Mrs. Lupton in arranging for us to use such a delightful ground. The Lupton Cup was mentioned and the speaker said that in appreciation of the object of the Cup, to commemorate the interest that Mr. Lupton had always shown in Waterguard

matters, he hoped that it would be the means of keeping in touch with each other. Mr. Woodford went on to say that to date six teams had entered for this trophy.

Both Messrs. Bradley and Dory of Hull spoke of the formation of a team for entry at their port and said that the Club was giving the matter consideration.

Mr. Atkinson, the Hull captain, extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Woodford, Mr. Lupton and to the London Waterguard Team for the brilliant afternoon they were having.

Mr. Fowles, the London captain, suitably replied and in returning thanks, said that it was a great pleasure to meet the Hull Team.

Play was resumed, with Fowles and Bessant in, both doing well, but Fowles fell eventually, after a magnificent display, by being caught and bowled by Atkinson, after scoring 44. Time was proceeding, however, and stumps were drawn leaving London 90 for 9.

The brief respite, to enable the players to change, was followed by a concert in the Pavilion, presided over by Mr. C. R. Purser, Waterguard Superintendent, London. There was no lack of entertainers and to mention them all, and to comment on their endeavours, space here will not allow. 'Tony' Colan of London did valiant service at the piano, while 'Bing' Crosby, of Hull, and his banjo considerably enlivened the proceedings. Mr. Woodford sang 'Lighterman Tom,' and judging from the gusto that Hull joined in suggests that it was appreciated and will not be readily forgotten. Mr. L. A. Price, of Hull, portrayed a vivacious impression of Ethel Levy singing 'Some of these Days.' The rendering was rewarded immediately at its termination in a definite tangible form.

The opportunity cannot be passed without mentioning Mr. F. Griggs, of London, whose leadership of the community (?) singing of Hull endeavouring with 'It's a long way to Tipperary' simultaneously with London perpetrating 'Pack up your Troubles.' With the reversion of tunes it was difficult to say who was the winner.

Mr. A. Moss, of Hull, gave us, what most of the London fellows were expecting, "On Ilkla Moor b'aht 'at" which was merrily joined in by all. The temperature at the moment suggested that the place mentioned would be admirable with even less than a hat!

Unfortunately, Hull had to leave early in order to catch their train back. A half-an-hour's break preceded the final breaking up of a most delightful and enjoyable day which terminated with 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'The King.'

The Hull party were given a hearty cheer, accompanied with the clanging of a huge bell as the coach left Edgware for London.

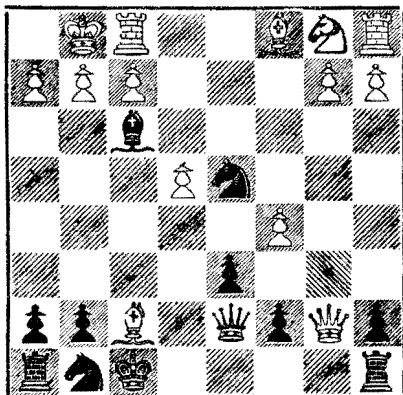
In conclusion we think that a world of meaning was expressed by one Hull fellow saying to another, "The money was well spent."

## Preventive Service Sports Club.

### CHESS SECTION.

#### PROBLEM NO. 160.

WHITE



BLACK

Black to play and win.

#### Solution to No. 159.

1. Q-K7. P×P.
2. Q-Q6 mate.

## Individual Championship Cup. EGAN TROPHY.

Entries for this contest should be sent to the General Secretary, West India Dock Waterguard, London, to reach him by 1st September, please.

The entrance fee of 1s. should be enclosed. Present holder is Mr. T. F. Prior, P.O. This contest involves over-the-Board as well as Correspondence play.

W.W.B.



Head Office :

Thames Chambers,  
13, Beer Lane,  
London, E.C.3.

Telephone : ROYAL 4279.

President : W. E. STANDRING.

General Secretary : W. H. POWELL.

Organising Secretary : A. E. FARMER.

Assistant Secretary : H. L. BOALCH.

## Glasgow Golf.

Two major events arrested public attention last month. The Scottish Amateur Championships stole the publicity, but for sheer drama the Waterguard Club's Jubilee Shield semi-finals must take the prize.

The first tie was a battle of Age against Youth. Mr. C. Boyle, W. Supt. (retired), and Mr. G. McKain were inseparable after eighteen holes, and by mutual arrangement a further hole was played as a "decider." Mr. McKain won and qualified for the final. Nevertheless, yours was a great effort Mr. Boyle!

The second semi-final paired Mr. T. Thomson and Mr. R. M. Murray. Murray, P.S.A. "big shot," was in receipt of ten strokes from his more experienced opponent.

The loyal "gallery" which accompanied these two could "scarce forbear to cheer," as "Bob," playing with characteristic grit, staved off the challenge of golf "wizard" Thomson, time and time again.

The issue indeed remained open to the last green, the match being all square at the seventeenth. The last putt of the tie provided a breathless finale to a thrilling encounter, and gave Mr. Thomson entry to the final with a score of eighty.

Mr. Murray may find consolation, however, in the knowledge that he is winner of the July "stroke" competition.

August Bank Holiday was celebrated with an outing to Largs, as previously intimated in these columns. The Glasgow stalwarts, who included Mr. Warne, Waterguard Surveyor, and Mr. Manson, C.P.O., were reinforced by a contingent from Greenock headed by Mr. Griffiths, Waterguard Surveyor. Mr. "Tony" Thorpe, Ardrossan, and Mr. G. Murray, P.O., Grangemouth, completed the links in an east to west chain of Waterguard enthusiasts.

Play for the Captain's prize, presented by Mr. Gibson, took place in the morning and was worthy of the perfect setting provided by the seaside course.

Mr. Thomson, playing off scratch, was the winner with a score of 76.

In the afternoon a sweepstake was organised, the prizewinners being as follows:—

- 1st. Mr. T. Thomson, with a score of 75.
- 2nd. Mr. Gibson with a net score of 80.
- 3rd. Mr. Hope (Ardrossan), with a net score of 81.

Mr. Horace Green, Greenock, that "blithe new-comer" to the ranks of golf, improves with every round, and contributed considerably to the cheeriness of the party.

Thanks again, Greenock, Grangemouth and Ardrossan, for your continued and valuable support.