

The Customs Journal

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December 18th, 1937.

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.

Christmas, 1937

There are many people to whom we are indebted, among whom may be mentioned the Association Officials and District Officers, Association members, the loyal band of contributors to these columns, the printers of the "Customs Journal," and our patient readers.

To you all we extend our heartiest good wishes for an enjoyable Christmas, with a hope for health and prosperity in the coming year.

CURRENT COMMENTS

WE have pleasure in publishing in this issue the full text of a memorandum by the National Staff Side on the Cost of Living question which is being discussed up and down the country. It is the N.S.S. reply to the charge that its policy is a negative one and is published with a view to assisting members to understand fully the implications of this important matter.

* * *

The Half-yearly Conference of the C.S. Confederation which takes place on Friday, the 17th December, was expected by many people, six months ago, to be the occasion of the "swan song." Time has moved on and the Confederation still survives and, quite definitely, it will not be wound up at this meeting, if at all.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee (C.S.C.) it was reported that the Ministry of Labour Staff Association, at a Conference, had approved the principle of the proposed Clerical Alliance. But it was made clear that there were several reservations and that it was not yet certain whether the alliance would come into existence.

* * *

The question of increased leave for A.P.O.s, which was adjourned at the request of the Official Side after re-argument of the case at the November Council meeting, was re-adjourned at the December meeting—again at the request of the Official Side. Dare we presume this to be a hopeful sign?

The point at issue relates to the leave of A.P.O.s up to five years' service, to whom the original Official Side offer meant "no change."

* * *

There was an undercurrent of mild excitement throughout the meeting of the Departmental Council held on the 15th December. The meeting proceeded through the forty items on the Agenda in the usual formal but effective manner, nevertheless, the focal point was the forty-first item—"other business."

Under this item the Chairman of the Council, Sir Evelyn Murray, with a preface of a very complimentary nature, moved

"That the Council learns with great regret of Mr. Morton's approaching resignation of the office of Vice-Chairman upon his retirement from public service, and desires to place on record its sense of the ability and courtesy with which he has discharged his duties and of the notable services which he has rendered to the Council during his tenure, extending for over thirteen years, of the Vice-Chairmanship. The Council wishes Mr. Morton health and happiness in his retirement and assures him that he will carry with him the respect and good-will of all his colleagues."

Mr. F. J. Perkins, Deputy Vice-Chairman, seconded and responded for the Staff Side.

A fitting end to the last official Whitley appearance after such a long term of meritorious service. Later, we shall hear of him again when, at the First Avenue Hotel, London, he will be asked to accept the Service testimonial.

* * *

A note for those members of artistic ability. It is the intention of the Association, in conjunction with the change in the advertisement side of the "Customs Journal," to improve the appearance of the cover. A new design will be necessary and in this connection we are authorised to state that an announcement will soon be made in which members will be asked to submit ideas for the new cover design. A fee of £1 1s. 0d. will be paid to the member whose design, or idea for design, is accepted. Wait for it.

* * *

We regret to announce to those members who failed to order one of the Association Diaries that all copies, first edition and reprint, are sold.

The dispatch of orders is proceeding as speedily as possible and it is hoped that all copies will be delivered before Christmas.

* * *

"Customs Journal" pens, awarded by the Executive Committee to members who regularly contribute articles to this periodical have been assigned to Mr. L. N. Cumberlidge, of North Shields, and Mr. H. G. R. Roberts, of Workington.

* * *

We have had our attention drawn to the fact that some misunderstanding exists as to the actual donor of the "Lupton Cup," now entering the second round of competition among the ports, and it is for this reason we repeat that the Cup is a trophy presented to the Preventive Service by C. M. Woodford, Esq., O.B.E., Inspector-General of Waterguard, to perpetuate the memory of A. S. Lupton, Esq., C.B.E.

* * *

The actual figures in connection with the Civil Service Christmas Toy Appeal are not available at the time of going to press but, having had the pleasure of inspecting the wonderful exhibition, graciously attended by Her Majesty the Queen, we have no doubt whatever that all previous records have been broken. The Customs contribution of nearly 3,000 toys (including six large rocking-horses, prams, and tricycles) was most impressive. It is hoped, if permission can be obtained, to publish a picture in the next issue.

* * *

The Association Officers take this opportunity of wishing all members as happy a Christmas as their turn of duty will permit.

Excerpts from
"The Customs Journal,"
December 27th, 1904.

BOATMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

A lot has been said from time to time re the above grievances, but unfortunately very little has been done by those in authority in the way of redress. We hear at present a rumour that next year is to bring about a reformation which is to affect the Waterguard by way of improvement, but how often have we hoped before, and been disappointed. Briefly I would say that our chief grievances are as follows: An insufficient salary, by which we are unable to live respectably. Little or no promotion for junior men, and that degrading title "Boatman." Every time we approach the Hon. Board they tell us that our position has very much improved since its origin, which we admit in part to be true; but have not times and circumstances changed since then? Are not all classes of work better paid? Is not the cost of living dearer now than then? Let us look only at unskilled labour and ask have not the circumstances of even the ordinary labourer improved more than that of ours as Boatmen? I would also ask how much has the position of all the other grades in the Service improved, and leave it to the conscience of the powers that be why ours has not improved accordingly. Yes! we are treated different from all other grades in the Service, and why? Let others answer who are responsible for the justice administered to us, whilst they see us struggling to live respectably within the extensive limits of £55 and £85 per year with, of course, the additional light of the stars that never shine without the aid of the sun. As regards our promotion, I myself as a junior have the satisfaction of knowing that, according to the rate of promotion in the past, together with the number before me on the seniority list, my time for it will come five years after my superannuation is due. That is provided I am not killed, emptied out of a boat or within it crushed to death between two ships at the quiet time of midnight. Needless to attempt explaining the value and importance or nature of our duties. That is well enough known, and I am satisfied is not the barrier to our much needed better circumstances.

As regards the title "Boatman," the first thing we may say is that its removal would cost nothing. Our duties are boarding and examining vessels coming in and leaving port, etc., and if at some places we row a boat to that work and from it, should that entitle us to the name "Boatman"? It is an entire misapplication, and I may say a most degrading one within and without the Service. I remember once being boarded on a ship that carried a number of passengers, and as the

ship got to her moorings, the usual uneasiness to get away attended the passengers, when the steward came on deck and said: "Now, ladies and gentlemen, you won't be long. I see the Boatmen coming to examine your baggage." All, or at least most of them, looked a bit concerned when one of them said he "would not allow any Boatmen to examine his baggage. Nothing but an Officer would do," when after some persuasion with reference to the usual practice, together with his anxiety to get away, he eventually consented to allow his baggage to be examined, but still puzzled by the term "Boatman."

A short time ago we had a Boatman assaulted in the discharge of his duty at Belfast, and when his assailant (a sailor) was brought to justice, there was a small fine imposed, not enough to punish him for assaulting the lowest character in the streets of Belfast, letting alone an Officer in the discharge of his duty. It has always been considered a serious offence to even obstruct an Officer in the discharge of his duty, but of course all parties believe in acting almost as they please with us when they find it is not an Officer they have to deal with. "It is only a Boatman." Such a title in very many cases has made our duties most painful, and while it lasts we never need expect civility in the discharge of it. I believe it to be consistent with common reason itself that, whilst we are compelled to do a certain duty, we should be placed in a position that would enable us to do it, and to do it independently.

O Wad the Power.

The courtesy shown to ocean travellers by Customs officials in Southampton Docks is often the subject of comment. Those with experience of Customs examinations in some other parts of the world know how unpleasant officialdom can sometimes become. Yet it is possible for the examinations to be carried out efficiently and considerately. It is in this manner that they are made in Southampton.

The latest tribute to the department comes from Mr. J. W. Fairley, who has just retired from the position of chief engineer in the troopship *Nevasa*,

"I have seen them (the Customs officials) at work so often during the past nine years," he writes, "and their patience and courtesy with the troops we have carried have always impressed me."

Mr. Fairley has frequently acted as interpreter in Court cases which have arisen through smuggling by Indian seamen, and in that regard he says: "I have always been struck by the innate fairness of the Customs and their willingness to give the culprit a fair deal."—*Southern Daily Echo*, 22nd November, 1937.

Rise in the Cost of Living.

by
THE NATIONAL STAFF SIDE.

1. In view of the interest which many Civil Servants are taking in the upward movement in the Ministry of Labour's Cost of Living figures during recent months, the National Staff Side considers it desirable to indicate its present attitude in this matter. The Staff Side has on several different occasions during recent months given very careful and prolonged consideration to the problem both in committee and in full session. Civil Servants can rest assured therefore that its present attitude, which was recently confirmed at a meeting held on the 6th December, is the result of the best informed judgment which the Staff Side can bring to bear on a difficult problem which, in some respects, is becoming a controversial one.

2. Underlying the National Staff Side's approach to this matter is a deeply-rooted disinclination to take any step which would again tie the remuneration of Civil Servants to the official Cost of Living Index figure, with all the implications which inevitably arise if and when this figure falls. The hardships inflicted on Civil Servants, and particularly those in the lowly paid grades and classes, by successive cuts in pay during the period of downward movement of the index figure prior to 1934 are still acutely fresh in the minds of Civil Servants. That burden was too great for it to be undertaken again unless all alternatives have been found to promise worse results.

3. If Civil Servants were to claim in present circumstances compensation based upon the increase in the obsolete official cost of living figures, they would need to take into account all the dangers ahead. The National Staff Side feels that the present situation is one in which it is absolutely essential for the Civil Service to look before it leaps and, moreover, to look beyond the period of rising prices and examine and forecast the possible tendencies in a downward direction when the peak of the current upward price movement has passed. Politicians, industrialists and economists differ in their forecasts of future conditions. The Civil Service Statistical and Research Bureau in July, 1937, attempted a forecast of the cost of living based on the Ministry of Labour's principles for the period to July, 1938. It took into account the movements of the Board of Trade Index of Wholesale Prices, as well as other authoritative series and pronouncements. Finally, a forecast that the Cost of Living figure for July, 1938, will be 68 was obtained and that in the intervening winter months the figure might be expected to rise seasonally, say to 64, and then remain more or less steady during the early months of 1938, the usual seasonal downward movement being counteracted by the upward trend as in 1937.

4. At this present date the actual figure published by the Ministry of Labour is 2 points below

the forecast of the Bureau for this month, and the National Staff Side has sought for the reasons. It seems clear that the upward trend anticipated in the light of the experience of recent years is weakening, and that if this influence is maintained the figure of 68 may not be reached by July, 1938. As in fact the upward movement has not proceeded so steeply or steadily as anticipated in July, 1937, it may be that the peak has already been reached, or at any rate nearly approached. In these circumstances the National Staff Side had to weigh very heavily the chances of a fall in the figures and the corollary attaching inevitably in its view to any claim for increased remuneration based upon the recent rise in the cost of living figures. If, as seems likely, the upward trend in prices is not only steady but weakening during the period of heavy expenditure involved in the Government's rearmament programme, the fear of a substantial drop in prices a year or two ahead when the emergency expenditure may cease is very real and potent.

5. The recent rather startling increase in unemployment is another factor which cannot be ignored as being a sign of waning prosperity. The present so-called boom and period of rising prices is by no means wholly dependent upon the rearmament programme, proceeding not only in this country, but throughout the world. Rearmament alone will not support boom conditions—international tension; the substantial decline in production and prices of the primary commodities in the United States; the war in the Far East; the situation in and arising from the Civil War in Spain—are all factors in the present situation which must be carefully examined. Nobody can predict with certainty that prices will continue to rise much more and there are definite signs to the contrary.

6. The National Staff Side feels very strongly in all these confusing circumstances that before it takes any action which may commit the Civil Service to a claim which might bring in its train a repetition of the experiences of the cost of living bonus system, it must continue to make the most careful examination possible of the position. It is realised that it would be foolish to regard any line of approach to this matter as being rigid and unalterable, or that avenues hitherto unexplored should not be examined more fully, but the National Staff Side very strongly believes that, in present circumstances at any rate, any claim which might involve reversion to a sliding scale arrangement would be unwise and against the best interests of Civil Servants. In this connection it must be remembered that at the time of consolidation in 1934, the Government made it quite clear that their policy was against fixing Civil Service pay in future by specific reference to the retail index figure. The Actual words were:—"subject always to the overriding consideration of the national financial position, the consolidated remuneration of civil servants as a general

question would come under consideration only in the light of any substantial change upwards or downwards in the level of remuneration outside the Civil Service." The Government's declared policy in this matter, therefore, suggests deadlock at the outset if such a line were followed by the National Staff Side, and it is unlikely that the Government would lightly depart from the policy declared in 1934. That alone, however, would not deter the National Staff Side from staking such a claim, if it were thought right on other grounds.

7. During the period 1920 onwards Civil Service pay reacted more speedily to the rise in prices than wages outside. Conversely, during the period of the fall in prices, Civil Service pay reacted more speedily to the fall in the index than remuneration levels generally. The Staff side believes that it correctly interprets the wish of Civil Servants when it declares that above all other things Civil Servants desire stability of remuneration. Remuneration which fluctuates according to the upward and downward movement of the retail price level involves uncertainty. Uncertainty is more serious when remuneration falls than when it increases. The National Staff Side believes that it must pay as much regard to what is going to happen during the period of falling prices as during the period of increasing prices. If Civil Servants are to receive an increase in remuneration to meet the increased cost of living, the National Staff Side desires that the increase be obtained on such a basis as will offer reasonable stability. Though it would be too much to hope that any such increase would be of a permanent nature, at any rate it is not too much to aim at that any such increase should be of reasonable duration, and that it should persist as long as wage increases now being given in outside industry.

8. In these circumstances, the National Staff Side has by an overwhelming majority decided against making an immediate claim on general and indefinite grounds. This is one of those situations in which it seems absolutely imperative that before a decision is taken to act the details of the claim should be clear and wholly defensible. That is why the National Staff Side has rejected a proposal for "action" which has not so far been defined in specific terms. The Staff Side appointed an Increased Cost of Living Sub-Committee some time ago and has instructed this Committee to continue to examine all the available information and data which can be obtained in order to advise the Staff Side on all relevant factors and forecasts which can be made of the possible trend of future events. The Staff Side's policy is not a negative one but rather one of deliberately examining the case on its merits prior to making any claim. It would be quite untrue to suggest that the Staff Side has no desire to act; that it is afraid to act, or that it is failing to take advantage of a situation which might be exploited in the

interests of Civil Servants. It has a positive policy in favour of careful analysis and critical examination of all material available before it decides what action is practicable or desirable. The Staff Side shoulders a very heavy responsibility not only for the course that it is taking, but for any further development which it may decide to follow in this matter. In the discharge of that responsibility, however, the Staff Side will not be stampered by any desire, from whatever quarter it may come, and certainly it will not be guilty of hasty or undefined action which might eventually bring in its train conditions of hardship similar to those against which the Civil Service protested so strongly a few years ago.

PARLIAMENT MANSIONS,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.
10th December, 1937.

Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council.

The 201st meeting of the Council was held at the Custom House, E.C.3, on Wednesday, November 17th, 1937, the chair being taken by Sir G. Evelyn P. Murray, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

This being the first meeting of the new Whitley year, the Council decided that during the ensuing year the chair should be taken by the senior member of the Board present at Council meetings. Mr. T. Morton, M.B.E., was re-elected as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. J. F. Bell and Mr. G. T. Bussey were re-elected as Official Side and Staff Side Secretaries respectively. All Standing Committees of the Council, including Sectional, Grade, Office and Local Committees, were re-appointed.

Remuneration, Establishment and Allowance Questions.

Discussion was resumed on the application to Departmental Higher Clerical Officers of the revised salary scale now applied to Treasury Higher Clerical Officers, and, after the Official Side had stated that the proviso in their letter of August 20th last was not intended to refer to anything but salary and that it had reference to existing conditions and was not intended to be binding indefinitely, e.g., should conditions change in any way, agreement was recorded on the scales as under:—

Men: £400—18—£525.

Women: £320—12—356—18—£420.

Revised scales for Chief Clerks and Senior Chief Clerks were also agreed on a similar understanding to that in the case of Departmental Higher Clerical Officers, the scales being:—

Chief Clerks: £550—25—£650.

Senior Chief Clerks: £650—25—£750.

In all cases, the operative date is June 1st, 1937.

A report from an ad hoc Committee covering the reorganisation of the Technical Branch was

adopted, and involved agreement on the conversion of two posts of Draughtsmen to two Clerical Officer posts, but disagreement on the salary scales of the Advising Officer, Assistant Advising Officer, and Inspector, the latter being a new post.

The question of the conditions of service and rates of pay of Extramur was readjourned for the Official Side, who stated that they were considering the adoption of an increased flat rate of pay for employment outside London, and Staff Side adjournment was agreed in respect of their claim for consolidation at £25 of the former £20 (basic) allowances in the Department, after the Official Side had stated that they were unable to agree to a higher figure than £24.

The adoption of a report from the Waterguard Sectional Committee covered the questions of revision of pay of Deckhands engaged on steering duty and the recruitment of Deckhands. The issue of an appointment of Deputy Superintendent of Mercantile Marine at Gloucester, carrying an allowance of £2/10/- per annum, was approved, and an individual case of payment of removal expenses was satisfactorily settled.

In referring to the recent intimation of a revision of salary scales for the Controlling Grade of the Outdoor Service, the Staff Side said that there was a possibility of the revised scales having a definite bearing on other salary scales. The original fixation, and previous revisions, of the scales in question had been settled in Whitley, and they felt constrained to protest against the non-discussion in Whitley of the present revision. A similar protest in 1929 had resulted in Whitley discussion.

The Official Side said that in this matter they were precluded from reaching a formal agreement either with the Controlling Grade Association or in the Department Council in regard to salaries for grades above the 2nd Class of the Controlling Grade, and that consequently no useful purpose could be served by Whitley discussion. In reply to the Staff Side, the Official Side said that the preclusion of formal agreement appeared to apply to all salary scales proceeding to a maximum of £900 or beyond, and the matter was adjourned for Staff Side consideration.

Discontinuance of Use of Copying Ink Pencils containing Methyl Violet.

In consequence of the Official Side's statement that a new type of indelible pencil not containing methyl violet had now been found, and would be introduced as soon as stocks were available, the Council were able to register agreement on the Staff Side proposal for discontinuance of use of such pencils containing methyl violet.

Leave Questions.

A disagreement from the Waterguard Sectional Committee covering the annual leave of Assistant Preventive Officers during their first five years of service was re-argued, and the Staff Side, on

pressing for 18 days in lieu of 14, stressed the difficulties of these men who were schemed to a 48-hour week, covering night and day and Sundays and Public Holidays. Saturday half-holidays were very infrequent, and the absence from home of these junior members of the grade, coupled with the small margin of two days' leave outside the minuted summer period, made matters even more difficult. Comparison with leave scales of other grades on comparable salary scales afforded no logical reason for the differentiation which the offered scale of 14 days made, and since the Staff Side were prepared to accept the proviso that the extra leave should not affect the period of minuted summer leave, no question of extra cost would arise.

The Official Side stated that it was generally recognised that leave allowance in the Civil Service was liberal when compared with outside employment and that there were many grades outside this Department where the annual allowance was 14 days only. In conceding 21 days after 5 years' service, they had treated the Assistant Preventive Officer Grade generously, and whilst they would re-examine the question, they could hold out no hope of a more generous allowance for the first five years.

The difficulty in relation to the operation of the leave scheme for Officers in Orkney was disposed of by a decision to link these Officers with those at Thurso and Wick, consideration of any transfer of Stations between Aberdeen and Inverness Collections being left for later treatment.

Office Accommodation, etc., Questions.

The provision of retiring rooms and sick bays throughout the Department came up for further consideration and was readjourned, as was the question of accommodation at a Glasgow Quay in connection with which a disappointing contretemps had arisen. Numerous local decisions on office accommodation were approved.

Superannuation.

A disagreement resulted from a Staff Side proposal on the Waterguard Sectional Committee that Waterguard Superintendents should retire at the age of 61, the Official Side stating that they saw no reason for differentiation between the Controlling Grades of the Outdoor and Waterguard Services in regard to the retiring age.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 15th, 1937.

Short and Snappy Questions.

(1) What is the object of examination of bonded stores from a local warehouse?

(2) What is the period of time allowed by the Board to complete discharge of the cargo of a vessel from foreign?

(3) What are the general conditions governing the admission of imported goods to Imperial Preference?

Answers on page 305.

Changes in the Staff.

To 13th December, 1937.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Daniels, E. H.
French, E. C. W.

TRANSFERS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Finch, A. D., Barry Dock, Cardiff, to London.
Fozard, L. W. S., Immingham, Grimsby, to London.

Pedder, W. R. S., Bristol to London.

Rough, J., Sunderland to Southampton.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT—PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Stevens, J. H., King's Lynn, Norwich.

RESIGNATION—ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Chillcott, H. V., London.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Anthony, E., Assistant Preventive Officer.
Dumbreck, W., Assistant Preventive Officer.

Obituary.

MR. E. ANTHONY.

It is with regret we have to report the death of Mr. E. Anthony on the 10th November, 1937.

Mr. Anthony retired as an A.P.O. at Weymouth on the 12th October, 1935. "Old Ned" was well known in this district for his cheery manner at all times.

The last respects were made by the whole of the Waterguard Staff who could possibly attend the funeral; also representatives from the Landing, Excise and Long Room Departments attended, and a wreath was sent from the combined departments. Six A.P.O.s acted as bearers.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Anthony and Son.

Without Comment.

Returning from France, a man accepted a wager that he could not smuggle a dozen bottles of Burgundy through the English Customs.

In due course he arrived at the Customs with a large hamper. This he begged the official not to compel him to open, since it contained a very rare wild cat which might escape. The official was not deceived by the story, and made him open the hamper, whereupon a large cat jumped out and disappeared in the crowd. The man dashed off to recapture the animal, looking for it everywhere, and even back on board the boat. A little later he appeared at the Customs again, very out of breath and firmly holding down the lid of the hamper. The official, apologising profusely, let him pass without question, and through the Customs went the dozen of Burgundy which had, oddly enough, been substituted for the aforementioned cat. "Tatler," 8th December, 1937.

Bridport Presentation.

MR. A. J. NORTON.

On Monday, 6th December, 1937, at the Custom House, West Bay, Bridport, a presentation on his retirement from the Service was made to Mr. A. J. Norton. A P.O. i/c. Mr. S. T. G. Spencer, Waterguard Surveyor, Southampton, who attended to make the presentation, which consisted of a case of pipes, tobacco pouch and 1lb. of tobacco, stated he had been requested to convey expressions of goodwill from the Collector, Assistant Collector and Waterguard Superintendent, Southampton, who all regretted their inability to attend. Mr. Norton had served nearly forty-two years in the Service, and he had an excellent record, and therefore in making this presentation he wished Mr. Norton good health for many years to come, and a happy retirement.

Others present at the presentation were Messrs. Norman, C.P.O.; J. Hoare, P.O.; A. Jones, W. Bowen, A.P.O.s of Weymouth; and N. C. Campbell, C.P.M. of the district, who all spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. Norton.

Mr. Norton, in accepting the gifts, suitably responded, being very grateful that he had been remembered in this way although he was stationed in an outpost in charge.

Southampton Rescue.

To the routine of the officers "afloat" here was added the spice of an adventure on Sunday, the 5th inst.

Whilst patrolling the Hamble River, a person was observed clinging to an upturned boat. The man was taken aboard the launch in a collapsed condition. The sailing dinghy in which he had been fishing had capsized, and he had been in the icy water for about an hour.

First-aid was rendered on board the launch and, on its return to Southampton Docks, the unfortunate fisherman was conveyed in an ambulance to the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital. After treatment he was allowed to go home.

W.P.

Old Customs

In 1780 the Commissioners of Customs issued a General Order to their officers, in which they stated that, as smugglers had become so bold as to threaten to sink the Revenue cruisers, and consequently the seamen would not engage them, the Commissioners therefore allow an annuity of £10 a year to every mariner who should lose a hand or foot.

* * *

During the last century, inferior officers in Scotland were paid only £30 a year, with a shilling a day extra when employed by the Customs. In the winter and slack times they were not engaged, the consequence was that many of them had to resort to the parish for relief.

—Chester's Chronicals.

Gravesend Preventive Staff Annual Dinner.

Prominent personalities in H.M. Customs and Excise were among the large company of guests entertained by the Gravesend Preventive Staff at their annual dinner at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday evening, 30th November.

The Inspector General of Waterguard (Mr. C. M. Woodford, O.B.E.) presided. He was supported by the Mayor of Gravesend, the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. J. S. Sutton, C.B. (Commissioner of Customs), Mr. A. W. Purdye (Deputy Inspector-General of Waterguard), Mr. C. R. Purser (Waterguard Superintendent, London), Mr. A. S. Lupton, C.B.E., Dr. C. F. White (Medical Officer of Health, Port of London), Mr. H. H. Holland (Secretary to the Customs Fund), Mr. T. O. Hughes (Waterguard Surveyor, Gravesend), Mr. H. Kimber (Chief Inquiry Officer), Mr. W. Donaldson, I.S.O., M.B.E.

Representatives of shipping companies, local sporting clubs and other organisations were present in the beflagged Hall.

During dinner—which included such seasonable fare as turkey and Christmas pudding—the Chairman created a convivial atmosphere when he took wine with each section of the company. The accompanying cheers were loudest when he drank a toast to Mr. J. Hall, the latest-joined member of the staff at Gravesend. There was also considerable enthusiasm when the Inspector General “took wine” with his brother, Mr. B. W. Woodford, of the Immigration section at this port. Mr. E. L. Sharrock was Toastmaster.

Telegrams were read out by the Chairman as follows: “Liverpool Waterguard officers at annual dinner send greetings,” and “Here’s wishing you all a very merry evening — Maurice O’Flynn, Plymouth.”

After “The King” had been loyally honoured, the Chairman proposed “His Worship the Mayor” in a felicitous speech.

The Inspector General said he was glad to see that the Gravesend staff was still in the limelight and so keeping up the old traditions. He wished the Mayor a happy and successful year of office.

The Mayor, replying, said he was pleased to have the opportunity to thank the Chairman for his kind words about himself and the Corporation. He was delighted to accept the hospitality of a very efficient body of Civil Servants who carried on important work in the Borough.

Submitting “His Majesty’s Customs and Excise,” Mr. H. H. Brown delighted his hearers with a characteristically witty speech interlarded with stories.

He said he proposed the toast with the greatest possible pride and pleasure because of the splendid relations that had always existed between the

Corporation, the residents, and the Customs and Excise at Gravesend.

The response was by Mr. Purser, who paid warm tribute to members of various bodies with which the Customs worked in close harmony and accord in the Gravesend district.

Mr. W. Betty, O.B.E., a representative of the Launch service, extended a cordial welcome to “The Visitors.” His was a comprehensive speech, the good qualities of each guest being enumerated.

Capt. Owen, replying, said that was one of the few occasions he could respond to the challenge: “Have you anything to declare?” He had, and that was to declare on behalf of the guests that they had had a jolly evening of hospitality and cheery fellowship.

Giving the health of “The Chairman,” Mr. E. L. Sharrock, on behalf of Gravesend Custom House Sports Club, said they very much appreciated his presence. His official duties were of great importance and carried great responsibilities, but he always met all of them at Gravesend with a smile and a cheery word. They were happy in the knowledge that from Mr. Woodford they always had a fair cracking of the whip. He was always ready to associate himself with their social and sporting functions at Gravesend. He was the right man in the right place and they sincerely trusted he would be spared to carry out the duties of his important office.

Acknowledging his cordial reception, the Inspector General thanked his Gravesend colleagues. It gave him the greatest pleasure to come among them in their pleasures as well as in their times of strife. He felt he had the very loyal support of Mr. Hughes and all members of the staff.

Enjoyable entertainment was provided by Cecil Harrington and Noreena Feist. Mr. D. Cronin, a member of the Customs staff, staged some clever conjuring.

The following Committee was responsible for the admirable arrangements: Messrs. E. L. Sharrock (Chairman), A. E. Cattell, J. B. Foers, W. W. Godfrey, W. R. Jaques, F. Mitch, N. A. Ramsey, E. W. Thomas, J. Urwin, G. A. Wicks, H. C. Palmer (Treasurer) and J. Duckworth (Secretary).

The Gravesend and Dartford Reporter.

NEW YEAR’S EVE.

The Gravesend Staff are holding a New Year’s Eve Party and Dance at the “General Gordon” Hotel, Gravesend, on December 31st, 1937. Sonny Bates and his Rhythmics will play for dancing from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and there will be general fun and games.

A hearty invitation is extended to our colleagues and friends, and we look forward to a happy gathering that will bring in the New Year with a swing.

Merseyside News.

Annual Dinner. The first Annual Dinner held by the Liverpool Preventive Staff Social Club proved an unqualified success.

The date was November 30th; the venue, Reece's Banqueting Hall, and over a hundred officers and their male friends sat down to dine and wine, with Mr. B. J. Herrington, Waterguard Supt. (President of the Club) in the chair.

The popular guest of honour for the evening was T. J. D. Large, Esq., O.B.E., Collector, in company with several Assistant Collectors, Messrs. Angus and Little, Waterguard Surveyors; Messrs. Atwill, Barnard, Cameron and Hall, C.P.O.s; and a host of other officials representative of the shipping companies, Immigration Staff, Pilots, Police, etc.

Welcome visitors were Mr. H. T. Bateman, Waterguard Surveyor, Preston, and Messrs. Payne and Reay from Eastham, together with numerous retired officers.

An efficient Toastmaster was Mr. T. Dennitts, the Waterguard Appointer.

Greetings telegrams were exchanged between the staffs of Liverpool and Gravesend, which latter colleagues also were holding their annual dinner with the Inspector General in the chair.

Toasts were numerous. Following "The King" came "The C. & F.," proposed by Mr. Blagg, Chief Immigration Officer, Liverpool, and accompanied by a witty speech extolling the manifest harmony existing between his staff and ours. The Collector, Mr. Large, replied on behalf of the Department with another good speech, and Messrs. C. F. Shaw (Secretary of the Club) and J. Spackman (Canadian Pacific) proposed and answered respectively to the toast, "The Visitors." Mr. Webster obliged with a fine response from the Pilots, after which the entertainment began.

This was of a very high order including "turns" by Claude Branston, B.B.C. Entertainer, at the Piano; Mr. A. Smallwood, monologues; Mr. J. H. Hickson, mystifying us again; songs by Mr. J. Kieran, accompanied by Mr. E. E. Harding at the piano; and an excellent talk by that modern comedian, Mr. Irish.

The curtain was rung down by the singing of the Waterguard Anthem, to end what has been voted by all present as a grand evening, and it is to be hoped that this function will be the forerunner of many others in the future. J.W.D.

Hull Waterguard Sports Club. WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE.

Mr. Bradley (Hon. Sec.) and the Committee of the above Club have put in a lot of strenuous work lately. In addition to preparing for the visit of the Liverpool Staff, they had the organising of the Whist Drive and Dance held at the Beverley Road Baths, Hull, the previous evening. Great credit must be given them for the way in which they carried out their tasks.

The latter event, held on December 7th last, was a huge success, nearly 400 Officers and their friends being present. A larger number than usual sat down to whist, the M.C. for which was Mr. W. F. Read. The whist drive prizes were kindly distributed by Mrs. Jones, the wife of our Superintendent.

The dance hall was tastefully decorated and during the evening spot prizes were given for dancing. It was one long evening of thorough enjoyment and the only regret was when it finally drew to a close. Everyone is looking forward to the next affair of this nature which is to be held on February 1st, 1938, at the same venue.

Amongst others present were Mr. Deslandes, the Hull Collector; Mr. Jones, Waterguard Supt.; Mr. Cameron, Waterguard Sur.; and Messrs. Howard, Lockwood, Abel, Girling and Stevens, C.P.O.s.

R.W.B.

Rugby Football.

Lyons, 11 points; Customs, nil. Played at Sudbury Hill, Saturday, December 4th.

The game was played in a snowstorm. Twice before half-time Lyons scored tries, neither converted, while Reeve was unfortunate in slipping as he attempted to touch down.

In the second half the greater weight of the Lyons pack told heavily, Customs being almost entirely on the defensive. Towards the end Lyons again scored a try and this time converted.

Short and Snappy Answers.

(1) To achieve a reasonable satisfaction that the goods have not been pilfered or tampered with during transit from the warehouse and that no substitution has taken place.

(2) The period of time allowed by the Board is fixed at 21 days exclusive of Sundays and holidays, and the days of reporting and of clearance inwards.

(3) (i) That the goods are consigned to the United Kingdom from the British Empire and

(ii) grown, produced or manufactured in the British Empire.

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The Lupton Cup.

CARDIFF v. BRISTOL.

This first round game in the Lupton Cup was played at Cardiff on Wednesday, December 1st, the result being a win for Cardiff by 4 goals to 1. Although it had been raining solidly for two whole days, about half-an-hour before the match it cleared up and we had no more rain; the ground was in good condition and remarkably firm.

The game began at great speed, both sides seeming to possess plenty of surplus energy. After a good deal of midfield play, Cardiff began to press, but inaccurate shooting prevented any scoring. About a quarter-of-an-hour from the start the Cardiff backs relieved the pressure of the Bristol forwards, and Collins, with a fine dribble, passed to Cosh, enabling him to open the scoring. Shortly afterwards, Collins ran through himself to score. It was Bristol's turn then to attack, and they had bad luck in not scoring. The game so far had been played at a good pace; just before the much-needed half-time came, Cardiff scored again through Collins with some good co-operation amongst the forwards.

The second half started with a rush, Cardiff pressing strongly, and only fine play by the Bristol backs stopped the scoring. The pressure proved too strong eventually and Collins scored a really good goal. After this, Cardiff seemed to be needing a third wind, and though Charles saved two good shots, Bristol took advantage of this lapse and scored a fine goal through Simpson after some good forward work. The game finished without further score, though Cardiff were pressing right to the end. It was a really well-fought game and Cardiff possibly only won because of better combination between the halves and forwards. The backs on both sides played a fine game, while Pettit for Bristol and Collins for Cardiff were outstanding.

Anyway, we all thoroughly enjoyed the game and were glad it was played in such a friendly spirit. We were only sorry that the spectators for this Inter-Port match were not more numerous, but apparently great difficulty had been experienced in Bristol, Avonmouth and Cardiff over staff arrangements.

After the game, the teams had tea and afterwards adjourned to the Civil Service Club, where they spent about two-and-a-half hours oiling their creaking joints and playing various club games. We saw the visitors off shortly after 9, having spent a most enjoyable afternoon and evening.

Now for the next round, Cardiff.

TEAMS.

Bristol.—L. P. Patterson, J. W. Porter (Capt.), R. A. Hargraves, W. R. Pedder, A. T. Dando,

W. J. Burden, L. M. Twentyman, R. W. Locke, P. M. Pettit, F. Simpson, E. P. Smith.

Cardiff.—S. Charles, A. S. Hobbs, A. Wilson, R. R. Jones, F. G. Evans, M. S. Prendergast, C. D. Wilson, M. A. Cosh, T. Collins, W. B. Hankin (Capt.), A. R. Jones. C.D.W.

HUMBERSIDE v. LIVERPOOL.

We on the Humberside have often heard of the way things are done at Liverpool, and on the 8th of December last we were given an opportunity of seeing for ourselves. In future we shall believe anything that is said of the Liverpool Waterguard Staff. Many adjectives could be used to describe the weather on that day, but in deference to the Editor, perhaps I had better say that it was unpropitious. However, intermittent showers of hail and rain had no effect whatever on the high spirits of the visitors or their hosts.

The Liverpool team, accompanied by a good number of supporters, amongst whom were Mrs. B. J. Herrington and Mrs. J. P. Little (who, with other ladies, I am given to understand are some of the staunchest followers of the side) were, after lunch, conveyed by motor bus to the ground at Cottingham. The playing conditions were none too good as, following a week of snow and sleet, the going was heavy and a covering of hailstones on the field made football precarious.

Humberside misfortunes commenced before the start, when one of their players pulled a muscle and the team had to play with ten men until a reserve could take his place. Liverpool scored two goals early in the game, but the home team, now at full strength, improved a little and effected a penetration.

I shall not attempt to describe in detail what followed; suffice it to say that Liverpool played like a relentless piece of machinery and half-time was called with the score 6—1 in their favour. Hot tea restored warmth to the teams and spectators during the interval, and on the resumption the visitors carried on their good work until they finally reached the score of 11—1.

Humberside had a glorious opportunity of showing how they could lose like gentlemen. They had never played together as a team before and they lacked understanding and cohesive movement, but they played on doggedly and uncomplainingly right to the final whistle. Indeed, toward the end they settled down together better, but their cup of bitterness was filled when, after fighting gallantly to reduce arrears, a penalty against Liverpool was placed over the bar.

Perhaps the best of the Humberside team were Mitchell, Brown, Woodend and Rowett. It would be impossible to single out any outstanding player of the Liverpool side, as no one could have improved on their display.

Their team work was delightful to watch and each individual dovetailed into the scheme of things as if they had played together from childhood. The scorers for Liverpool were Billington (5), Abblett (3), Pollock (1), Quine (1) and Walmsley (1), whilst the consolation goal for Humberside was scored by Hobbis.

After the match the teams and supporters returned to Hull for tea, following which the remainder of the evening was taken up by an impromptu smoking concert. The Merseyside Staff showed us that football was not their only accomplishment and everyone present greatly appreciated the way in which Messrs. Coady, Atwill, Smallwood, Manning (C.) and Hughes (R.) entertained us. The Hull Staff were greatly taken up by the first-named artiste who could apparently produce music from anything. After playing tunes on a violin and a saw, he brought the house down by conjuring harmony from his violin with what appeared to be a rectangular piece of revenue producing material.

The Humberside Staff contributed to the enjoyment of the evening through Messrs. Manning (A. H. W.), Cowell, Moss, Atkinson, Price and Beswick, whilst a duet rendered by Mrs. Rowett and Mr. Atkinson was particularly well received. Mr. Jones, the Hull Waterguard Supt., made an excellent chairman, and supporting him with the hosts, were Messrs. Cameron and Gowan, W. Surs., and C.P.O.s from Hull, Goole and Grimsby.

It would be difficult to describe the part Mr. Herrington (Waterguard Supt., Liverpool) took in the proceedings, but his great sportsmanship and genial bearing radiated pleasantly through the whole company. With the visitors were also Mr. Little, W. Sur, and Mr. Atwill, C.P.O. Another visitor who we were particularly pleased to see looking fit and well was the late president of the Hull Sports Club, Mr. Burkey (retired W. Supt.).

A telegram from the Collector Liverpool, congratulating the winners, was read out during the evening, and his message to the losers was much appreciated by Humberside.

So great had the pleasures of the day been that a challenge from Hull to a match at golf was immediately taken up by Mr. Herrington on behalf of the Liverpool Staff, and he generously offered to provide a cup for the contest.

Before singing Auld Lang Sync, complimentary speeches were made by Messrs. Herrington, Jones and Bradley (Hon. Sec., Hull Sports Club).

One would have thought that matters would have ended there, but no, the Humberside Staff escorted their visitors to the railway station and gave them a hearty send-off amid much handshaking and hopes for another early meeting.

Congratulations, Liverpool, and good luck go with you through the remaining ties!

R.W.B

Glasgow Notes.

There was a good turnout on Monday, December 6th. The items on the agenda were of purely local interest, but the volume of discussion accorded to each marked the return to prominence of elements which the importance of the Re-organization question had temporarily eclipsed.

The sticklers for procedure, the lovers of argument for its own sake, and the bloke who demands to know what's going to be done about this or the other thing, enjoyed a field night.

Items concerning accommodation at Marklands cattle wharf, half-day for the Clydebank Staff, co-ordination of station records, Hailing Station, Queen's Dock and King George V. Dock hours of attendance were most important. The District Secretary reported satisfactory progress on all but the last named item.

The Board's decision to transfer the Hailing watchers from Queen's Dock to a site further down the river, marks the end of a chapter in Staff policy, and spells finis to what has been for years a burning question.

Burning questions, however, are an integral feature of Association activities, national or local, and in Glasgow, if I read the portents aright, the successor to the Hailing Station question is already smouldering.

An impressive poster and handbill of "Leftist" hue have made their appearance on stations here, announcing a meeting dated for December 17th to be addressed by W. J. Brown, C.S.C.A. If the handbills are to be believed, Mr. Brown is on the up-and-up.

"What's up?" is the initial question, and a list of commodities which are "up" follows, flanked by a dire prophecy, "Soon at the present rate it will be all up." What "it" is, is left to the imagination. (Shades of Martini and Rossi!)

The handbill advocates the use of force (unspecified) for obtaining salary and wage increases, and concludes with an appeal to every Civil Servant and his wife to turn up at the meeting.

I would advise all Association members who think of attending this meeting to read first the excellent editorial on cost of living and consolidation which appeared in the December 4th issue of CUSTOMS JOURNAL. They will then be in a better position to gauge the value of the contribution Mr. Brown has to offer on the problem of Service remuneration.

J.C.G.

Semi-Final, Lupton Cup.

Drawn by the Deputy I.G.W., Mr. A. W. Purdy and Messrs. Kay and Merron.

London versus Southampton.

Liverpool versus Cardiff.

First-named team to play at home. Matches to be played before the end of February. Will Secretaries please note that the rules make it obligatory that the General Secretary, P.S.S.C., should be informed of the result immediately after the match.

Good Morning, Dear Teacher!

No. 1 of an Outline for the use of Probation-Tutors.

The grade of probation-tutors does not exist at present. In a recent article in these pages I noted the need for some form of training for Waterguard entrants. This was not original; it has been the subject of letters and articles in the JOURNAL before and, more often, has arisen in private conversations. So much so that forward-looking C.P.O.s have attempted to remedy the Board's neglect and have improvised a short system of instructions themselves. And many of us feel great gratitude to various P.O.s who have taken time off from their many duties to tell us "what it is all about." But it has all been haphazard. We need proper "training ports" such as are proposed in the reorganization plan and, as also suggested therein, A.P.O.s entering at these ports should be additional to the normal staffing—for the first few months at any rate. During that time someone, with the necessary talent, should instruct them in their duties. No doubt when the need is realised and the possible objections on the grounds of expense over-ruled such instructors will have a special Instruction Code. The few notes I have made, outlining the duties of such instructors, would be a very poor substitute for such a code, but the notes in themselves, indicating what needs to be taught and that these things are not for *certain* taught now, will help the case for the introduction of such a class. Only a few men would be required, and they could be recruited from either P.O.s or A.P.O.s ("Failed" and otherwise) who would be given a small allowance for their important work.

The first things an instructor would need are a small room, a small library, plenty of energy, tact and "guts," some little pedagogic ability, experience and—a museum. The last word conjures up a notion of a cumbersome, dusty, worthless collection. It need not be so. After his preliminary talk, which would be on the spirit of the job, the instructor's task would be to teach, as far as it can be done theoretically, rummaging—the sole reason for the existence of the A.P.O. The museum would contain samples of the kind of things to be looked for in the two classes of rummage: (a) on board ship, (b) on baggage examination. Thus we would have samples of all the usual types of bottles, cigar-boxes, cigarette cartons, etc. Silk and linen goods would also be on show, foreign makes of cameras and other K.I.D. goods. Catalogues could be used for the latter, up-to-date ones showing, for instance, the current numbers of, say, Zeiss cameras. As to made-up materials, it might be possible to have examples even of the different methods of make-up, particularly as to stitching, used outside England. Anyhow, with the help of the King's

Warehouse and catalogues, a fairly representative collection of the common dutiable articles should be possible. For saccharin and for dangerous drugs, imitations bearing descriptive labels could be used. One other thing this museum would contain: examples or drawings of portable smuggling devices: flasks and belts shaped to the body, false-bottomed suitcases, etc., together with opium-pipes and such. So much for the museum, for the present, though, doubtless, readers can think of other things it might contain, e.g., rummage tools, official issue and private inventions and, I suppose, a mummy of the author of this article. But I will prove its need to a little extent with one question. How many readers, of five years or more service, know the appearance and qualities of the various forms of opium or Indian hemp? Are you quite certain what you take to be baking-powder could not be cocaine?

Anyhow, the museum is not needed in the first lesson.

The first talk would be, I said, on the Spirit of the Job. Here we come right at the outset against antagonism from the present staff. It will be increased when we come to the subject of rummage when such questions as What do you know about it? and D'you think you can learn rummage from a blackboard? will fly through the air. The antagonists will say that all this is only making the job more of a "paper" one than it is at present. Spirit of the Job, forsooth. What we want is someone to dig a bunker. We're not a lot of Scotland Yard detectives nor a crowd of pansies neither; don't want any of this Old School Tie business, etc. When I was a boatman, etc., again. A study of old seizure records certainly tells us that there is no one now like the old-timers for finding the stuff. But any reasonable old-timer will admit that getting dirty is not the *only* asset of a rummager. A bunker-digger without brains is worse even than a rummager without brains who disdains to dig a bunker. We want to produce bunker-diggers with brains. Now when we have reached the stage of giving instructions to new entrants we can safely assume that the type of the entrance examination will have improved. It is well known that the job has got better recruits than the exam demanded for some years now. It mightn't always be so. So the instructor will have in his hands for a start young men with, at least, some brains. His task will be to direct these brains the right way. He must make it clear first why the Commissioners are troubling to pay them good money, if small, per month. They are obviously not worth it just because they have passed an educational and a moderate medical examination. They must know the very reason for the existence of the whole Department: the collection of revenue. Then the reason for the Waterguard Branch of the Department: the prevention and detection

of attempts to defraud that revenue. He must see that every single regulation exists for that purpose. (I would not confuse the learner at the beginning with anything about the work for other departments it has been thought expedient for us to perform.) And he must therefore be given a respect for those regulations not merely as a way of avoiding "queries" nor of obtaining promotions (both quite laudable aims, of course) but as the key for him to the meaning and importance of his job. Gradually then he will begin to see where he fits in in this scheme. It should be then possible to give him a "pep talk" productive of a zealous desire to carry out that part. Right from the start he will see himself, not as a P.O.'s little dog, but as an integral part of the net of protection. This inspiration to zeal, struck in the first lesson, should be the note of all the following lessons. And it must be made clear that this zeal can be used at all times. When performing many routine duties he must realise that it is still preventive work.

Now, the instructor must strike a new note. It must be emphasised that this zeal must be tempered with other qualities: obedience, good humour and, most important, politeness. And this politeness to be the right of the most lowly fireman equally with the noblest passenger. Loyalty to his fellows should also be touched on—particularly in the matter of being an active member of the Association. If this last part may seem out of place in an official course we can only say that it has been often observed that the most efficient officers are the best Association men.

He is ready now for the parts of the Establishment Instructions which concern him: appearance, conduct on and off duty. But he should be told to read it all for himself. Then information about such minor points as signing-on and the 201, how to get his G.O.s, his issue of towel, soap, etc., and the other things sometimes picked up slowly in the first few weeks. A final summarising of the points: His place in the job, the need for zeal, judiciously tempered, and the other necessary qualities could then be given and, right at the end, *so that it sticks*, a quiet but forceful word on the temptations of the job and the necessity of avoiding them.

I wish someone had only given me this first part of the course. Readers can judge, when they read in subsequent numbers how it should continue, whether they, too, feel that they missed something

C.F.S.

Small Port Snort.

Captain Olsen was obviously slightly fuddled, and, from the steward's gestures, was usually in that condition. He helped himself to a large nobbler of whisky, and invited the P.O. to do likewise; he appeared not to understand the P.O.'s reference to General Staff Rules. His interest in the deck cargo seemed negligible,

than which a surer sign of a failing grasp could not be found. At last, seeing the P.O. about to leave, he stirred himself from his alcoholic daze, and muttered, "Vor is de Customs House?"; but whether he heard the answer seemed doubtful.

Later in the day he entered the Long Room. The P.O. sat at his desk. Capt. Olsen, swaying slightly, made the counter and turned carefully, like a liner in charge of tugs. He could see the figure of the P.O. dimly, but by a tremendous effort of concentration, and the closing of one eye, he focused his vision. He said, "I have come to report—" and then broke off. A smile creased his rather moon-like countenance and he exclaimed, "Ah! I see your brudder at the dock! Eh, but you are to him vary mooch like!" The P.O., having a sense of humour, smiled indulgently and assured the captain that he had no brother. The captain seemed about to protest but merely took a firmer grip of the counter, blanched slightly and reported his ship. When he had finished he said, "I go up the town now, and after, I vant to see the Immigration Officer. Can you please tell me vere I find his office, please? I have von sailor who vant to go home." The P.O., enjoying the joke, informed him that anyone would tell him.

Eventually, Captain Olsen returned. He progressed now in a series of short tacks, halting at the end of each one to get his bearings for the next. Once again he hove to at the counter, and once again the P.O. advanced to meet him.

The captain intended to say something, and opened his mouth preparatory to doing so. At that instant he saw the P.O. clearly, and at the sight of that all-too-familiar face his mouth remained agape. He wilted visibly, turned, and stumbled away. For all I know the sailor didn't see his mammy any more.

Next day, the agents 'phoned to say that Captain Olsen was on his way to the Custom House to see the Board of Trade about the renewal of his Load Line Certificate. A few minutes afterwards, the door was opened cautiously and a Nordic head emerged fearfully through the opening.

For a minute the eyes gazed at the P.O. and as recognition came, a startling change took place. The facial muscles sagged, making the countenance that of an old, old man. A wild, panic look appeared in the eyes, and a sob came from the mouth. The captain turned, a bowed and broken figure, and the sound of his body-shaking sobs grew fainter as he left the building.

HAPPY ENDING.

Several days later the P.O. went to clear the ships inwards. The captain had been confined to his cabin in the meantime. The P.O. knocked at the door and went in.

After a time the captain offered the P.O. a

drink. When the P.O. had refused, the bottle was put away. The P.O.'s glance must have betrayed his surprise, for Captain Olsen grinned rather sheepishly and said, "Nci, I vill not trink. I vos trinking vair mooch before, and I find dat every man I see look like you. Dat is no good. I tiuk to myself, 'Olaf, you have had too mooch schinapps,' and I finish."

The P.O. smiled.

H.G.R.

Ups and Downs.

"Listen to me, will you!" roared the Rummage P.O. He flung the fish-ball. It landed between the Probationer's eyes.

"Look at this lining," the P.O. resumed. He turned to the bulk-head.

The Probationer gently removed the debris and popped it into his mouth.

"There's tons of room in here, isn't there?"

"Glug, glug!"

The P.O. wheeled round.

"Can't you forget your stomach for a minute? Empty your mouth at once!"

The unfortunate one forcefully ejected the remains.

"Now, you idiot. Look at my new pants!"

Holding his hat on his head with both hands, the A.P.O. shut his eyes.

He heard many new words then. Perhaps they were Swedish. He vaguely remembered someone using such terms when describing something called Appendix E.

At last—"Get out of here!"

"W-where shall I go?"

"Oh, go to—to the engine room!"

The P.O. stalked from the mess-room to the cool seclusion of the boat-deck.

A Boarding Officer found him moodily leaning against a ventilator.

"Lost something?" the newcomer asked.

"Wish I had. Our Probationer won't explode any legends—"

A sickening crash stopped him. The engine room shook. The Rummage P.O. felt a bang on the back of his head.

"Sorry," said a voice.

Framed in the ventilator was the blackened face of the Probationer.

Profiting by his superior's stupefied silence, he said: "I was looking in a petroleum tank. My lamp was heavy. The catch wouldn't stay on. I decided to use a match—"

He got no further.

A hefty push in the face sent him down the ventilator.

(Keep your seats, folks. Of course the boy made good. You see, he fell on the donkey-man who was seething with contraband.)

After he had hurried to the P.O. as fast as his lamp, jemmy, screwdriver, little legs and gimlet would allow, the sweet smile bestowed upon him was not the only reward he gained. Y.O.Y.

Novel Noël by Nod.

In many of the stately homes of England around about this time of the year it is the custom for all the old faithful retainers "below stairs" to be waited upon at dinner by the lords and ladies themselves. A magnificent gesture, full of peace upon earth and goodwill, etc., and, without a doubt, fosters a feeling of good-fellowship between master and man.

Now, if this is adopted among our noble families with such good effect surely something of a similar nature could be worked in the Waterguard just for one day in the year? Could not everything be reversed for one day out of 365?

I mean. We all know of superior officers supervising, say, baggage examination, whose very fingers have been itching to "dive in" and would give anything to have a go. Then we hear of Rummage P.O.s getting fearfully dirty in engine-rooms simply because the call of the hunt is there. We have even heard subordinates venture the opinion that they would like to run the station for a day.

Therefore, if all this feeling is latent why not bring it into play and give an outlet for our pent-up feelings?

For instance, C.P.O.s could show P.O.s how really to inspire confidence in a crew and get the best out of them as they did in days gone by, while P.O.s would shine in giving an illustration of how a Police Court case should be conducted. The A.P.O., with modern methods, would show how to find an owner in half the usual time and how the system of half-days could be "worked" in the best interests of all concerned.

What an opportunity! Imagine those of the lower grades addressing their erstwhile chiefs by their christian names or soubriquets instead of rigorously adhering to G.O. 10/21!

Imagine P.O.s listening to lame excuses of C.P.O.s for being late! and conceive a C.P.O. insisting on the stores of an "Awkward" ship being checked before going coastwise by a P.O.

Possibly little difficulties would arise on that one day of the year, but as we would be reversing things we could call the day a privileged day in lieu of compensation.

I wonder what would become of all the statements issued?

Impossible Sayings (14)

"There's no Toller like a tee-to-Toller," said the Scandinavian steward.

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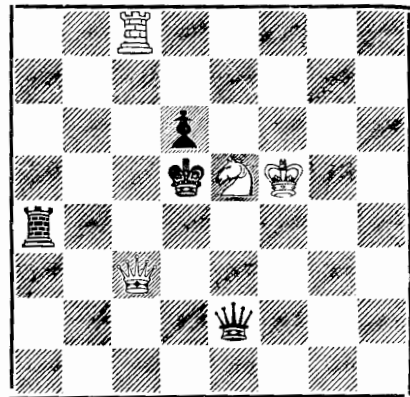
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Preventive Service Sports Club.
CHESS SECTION.

PROBLEM No. 169*
BLACK.



WHITE.
Mate in two.

Solution to No. 168—

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| 2. Q—Qzsh. | K—Kt2. |
| 3. Q—Kt 5 ch. | K—B1. |
| 4. Q×Kt ch. | K—K1. |
| 5. B—B7 ch. | K—B1. |
| 6. B—Kt 6 ch. | K—Kt1. |
| 7. Q—B 7 mate. | |