

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

IN order to complete the picture describing the wide scope of interest in promotion examinations and interviews mention might have been made in the last issue of the Promotion Board interviews of Clerical Officers and Asst. Preventive Officers for promotion to the Officer Grade. These interviews took place during the past week, and of the thirty-seven candidates eighteen were Assistant Preventive Officers.

* * *

A meeting of the Committee on Staffing and Control of Aerodromes was held on the 10th June, and it would be safe to anticipate that a large measure of agreement will be observed in the final Report which, it is expected, will be placed before the Committee at the next meeting.

* * *

The disagreement on the question of increased commuted subsistence allowance payable to Chief Preventive Officers, which was adjourned from the last meeting, was discussed at the June meeting of the Departmental Council and, following a statement by the Chairman as to the reasons why the Official Side could not change its attitude, the item was re-adjourned to enable the Staff Side to consider the statement in detail.

* * *

Arrangements are being made to hold the next meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.)

on the 28th June. The meeting will take place, as usual, at Association Head Office, London.

* * *

We have to correct the announcement made in the last issue regarding Customs and Excise nominations for the Group seats on the Executive Committee of the C.S. Confederation. Mr. D. S. Paton, and not Mr. Cowherd, was nominated by the Group.

* * *

On the sports side, the inter-port cricket match between London and Cardiff Preventive Staffs at Cardiff, on the 29th June, is the centre of interest and, given reasonably good weather, the occasion promises to be as enjoyable as the previous visit.

We hear, too, that the Hull team is contemplating a trip to London early in August—probably on the fifth. As far as details are available at this early date, we understand that the match will be played on the ground of the Maurice C.C. (popularly known as Mr. Lupton's team) at Edgware, and that ladies will be specially invited.

The reference to Hull reminds us that we have heard that swimmers in that port are seriously considering sending a team to compete in the Inter-Office Relay event at the Customs Swimming Gala. The trophy which has eluded the Preventive Staff for so long may well come to us through the efforts of our provincial colleagues.

C. M. Woodford, Esq., O.B.E., took the chair at the Annual Meeting of members of the C. & E. Orphans' and Widows' Fund, and skilfully piloted the meeting through the business of reviewing the stewardship of the Fund during the previous financial year. The important figures one noted were: total income £4,282, total expenditure £3,850, and working expenses £168. Of the expenditure, £2,310 went to the orphans and £1,117 to widows and widowed mothers.

Among the elections those of particular interest to readers were: Sir G. Evelyn P. Murray, K.C.B., re-elected President; C. M. Woodford, Esq., O.B.E., re-elected Vice-President; A. S. Lupton, Esq., C.B.E., elected Hon. Vice-President (Life Member); and the Waterguard vacancies on the Executive Committee filled by Mr. C. R. Purser, Waterguard Superintendent, 1st Class, Mr. W. H. Powell, Preventive Officer, and Messrs. J. Newman and H. J. V. Wall, Assistant Preventive Officers.

* * *

The Customs and Excise Summer Show of flowers, fruit and vegetables takes place on the 3rd July, and with less than a fortnight to go, pot-hunters and "rabbits" are performing the hundred and one ruses and wrinkles which each competitor vows to be essential to produce that little bit extra.

The reputation of the Society for staging shows of high standard is such that we have no doubts whatever that Mrs. A. S. Lupton will have the pleasure of opening a Show which will satisfy even the critics.

* * * •

An exhibition and sale of Toys made by unemployed miners and ex-Service men in the distressed area of Maryport, Cumberland, will be held on Thursday, 24th June, at No. 46, Grosvenor Street, London, W.1. Lady May Abel-Smith will perform the opening ceremony at 3.30 p.m., and Sir Hugh Walpole will be in the Chair. Entrance one shilling and tea one shilling and sixpence.

O Wad the Power—

"From the smugglers' point of view Croydon is the most feared of all British ports. Largely responsible for its anti-smuggling success is the Customs own secret service, which consists of a band of men and women who work abroad and pass on information.

A miniature laboratory fitted with the latest apparatus helps the Croydon officials to determine the quality of silks, scent, and alcohol, and test the truth of such statements as 'It's not a real diamond, officer, it's only a fake!'"—

"The Daily Mail," June 9th, 1937.

Excerpts from "The Customs Journal," June 18th, 1904.

SMUGGLED SACCHARIN AT GLASGOW.

THE story of a modest deal in the smuggling line was related recently at a Justice of Peace Court, in the County Buildings, Glasgow, at which Messrs. J. L. White and Thomas Wilson presided.

An elderly Jewish woman named Bella Grass or August, who resides at 66, South Portland Street, pleaded not guilty to a charge of having contravened the Customs Consolidation Act, in so far as she acquired possession of uncustomed goods to the amount of 25lbs. 4ozs. of saccharin.

A house factor stated that he received a letter from the accused's husband taking a shop next to his own in Portland Street for his son-in-law, to be used as a store for a fortnight. In giving evidence, a Customs Officer of Leith, named T. B. Smith, stated that he had charge of some duty-free goods landed from a steamer from Amsterdam. Part of the goods consisted of kegs of margarine, in which, on examination, he discovered some obstruction. He opened the lot and found the kegs contained a number of tins in which was saccharin. The kegs were consigned to the accused's son-in-law. Two of the kegs each contained eight tins of saccharin and another seven tins. The weight of the saccharin was 25 lbs. 4 ozs. For official purposes the saccharin was valued at about 20s. per lb., while the duty on it was about 20s. per lb. The goods were delivered at the empty shop to the accused who stated to the carter that she was authorised by her son-in-law to receive all goods addressed to his shop.

On her own behalf, the accused stated that her son-in-law went to the North of Scotland to do business. He said that he was going to send a consignment of herrings. When she saw the carter draw up opposite her son-in-law's store, she thought the goods were from the North, and she did not know that the kegs contained consumable goods.

The Justices found the charge proved, and imposed a fine of £50, with the alternative of three months imprisonment.

Without Comment.

"It is a worthier thing to deserve honour than to possess it."—Thomas Fuller.

Civil Service Confederation.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The thirty-fifth (Annual) Council Meeting of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Friday, the 28th May, 1937, in the Council Chamber of the Federation of British Industries, 21, Tothill Street, Westminster, when Mr. F. Cooper (President) presided over an attendance of sixty representatives of thirty constituent organisations, in addition to twenty-three members of the Executive Committee.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Hon. Treasurer's Financial Statements for the year ended, 31st March, 1937, and the Report on Parliamentary and Publicity Work, were presented and adopted.

It was reported to the Council that the affiliated membership of the Confederation now exceeds 100,000, being the highest membership yet recorded in the history of the Confederation, as compared with 96,000 twelve months ago. The organisation showing the most considerable increase in membership is the Civil Service Clerical Association with an increase of 4,133 members, i.e., from 43,231 to 47,364. There are now 53 affiliated organisations, including six overseas organisations.

After the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, the Council proceeded to the consideration of a report presented by the Executive Committee on the proposed reorganisation of the Confederation, which was formally moved from the Chair.

The report of the Executive Committee was to the effect that, having considered the reference received from the Half-Yearly Council Meeting on the 29th January, 1937, the conclusion had been reached that a scheme based upon the Fifth Report of the Special Committee on Confederation Activities could not be put into operation on the existing subscription revenue, but that having considered various alternative subscription schemes for raising the increased revenue which was deemed to be necessary to carry out the reorganisation proposed in the Fifth Report, it had been found impossible to produce a scheme which appeared to command general support. Under these circumstances the Executive Committee recommended that the Ninth Report of the Special Committee on Confederation Activities, which was before the Council on the 29th January, 1937, should be adopted.

Opposition to the Ninth Report was voiced on behalf of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation and the Professional and Technical Group, and a motion for the deletion of the Executive Committee recommendation that the Ninth Report should be adopted was moved and seconded by representatives of the Admiralty Draughtsmen's

Association and the Ordnance Survey Technical Officers' Association respectively.

The motion for the deletion of the Executive Committee recommendation was withdrawn in favour of a motion by Mr. Ross Wyld, Vice-President, to the effect that the Council adopt the Fifth Report of the Special Committee on Confederation Activities, with its financial implications, and instruct the Executive Committee to make arrangements to put the Fifth Report into operation. This motion was seconded on behalf of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

After discussion, the motion of Mr. Ross Wyld was put to the vote and defeated on a card vote. 336 votes being recorded in favour of the motion and 430 against.

On the motion of the Society of Civil Servants a resolution was then adopted, on a card vote, by 537 votes to 229, that the idea of reorganisation be not proceeded with.

Mr. G. Chase retired from the position of Hon. General Secretary of the Confederation, which he had held for the past two years, and appreciation was expressed of his services in this capacity. There being no nomination for the post of Hon. General Secretary, the question of filling this post was remitted to the Executive Committee.

Complete results of the elections held at the Annual Council Meeting for Honorary Officers, Executive Committee members, and National Whitley representatives are set out hereunder:—

President—Mr. F. Cooper.

Vice-Presidents—Alderman Ross Wyld and Mr. S. G. Bath.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. C. A. W. Sanders.

Members of Executive Committee elected by the Council—Mr. E. E. Buck, Mr. G. Chase, Mr. R. D. Crook, Mr. Dick Gifford, Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Mr. W. E. Llewellyn.

Eleven Representatives on Civil Service National Whitley Council (Staff Side)—

Mr. W. J. Brown, Mr. E. E. Buck, Mr. G. Chase, Mr. F. Cooper, Mr. R. D. Crook, Mr. A. J. T. Day, Mr. A. J. Ellis, Mr. Dick Gifford, Mr. P. H. M. Hoey, Mr. A. L. N. D. Houghton, Miss L. M. Sweet.

What We Have To Contend With

"One of the new smuggling methods is to pack an ounce or two of hashish in a water-proof bag. This is tied to a bag of salt weighing two or three pounds, which is thrown out of a port-hole.

The bag sinks at once, but after some hours the salt has dissolved, and a piece of wood put in the bag gives sufficient buoyancy to bring the bag to the surface for boatmen to pick up." —"Daily Sketch," June 8th, 1937.

Skimming the Cream.

Continuing my unwonted period of deep thinking and bemused wondering, I wonder how long the Waterguard is going to be considered as a get-in-and-get-out department?

Entrants nowadays confess quite unashamedly that they are making use of this department as a stepping-stone to another, usually the Officer grade. They have two years' grace in which to increase their store of knowledge, and if they fail the exam., they have an opportunity of transfer by interview.

I, for one, don't blame anyone for seeking promotion. Every man for himself. On paper the Officer grade is unquestionably a safer bet than the Waterguard, with its assured maximum. Any talk of impending improvement in this department is conjectural, and the better prospects of promotion do not nullify the fact that an Officer does not need promotion. From an economic viewpoint, any new entrant who does not try for the Officer grade is wasting a golden opportunity.

It is not of the man I wish to write, but of "the girl he left behind him," so to speak. In other words, what of the poor old Waterguard? What will happen if the strongest shoots are continually being nipped off the main plant for grafting on to the Officer grade stock? In theory the Waterguard must wither and die, or send up suckers (a term which must not be taken colloquially). Admittedly, one must be above the average academically if one passes the open examination for the Officer grade. In addition, the majority of those who have passed on by interview are A.P.O.s with about five years' service, and have proved themselves to be efficient and zealous. On the face of it, then, we are losing our bright sparklers and retaining our dull glowers. In practice, we think, with our usual modesty, that we who are left are as good as those who have gone. To support which we trot out the undeniable fact that academic brilliance does not necessarily produce the best Waterguard Officer. However, anyone who was not looking at the problem through our veil of conceit would consider the case proved.

(That paragraph is full of metaphors and things.)

Even supposing that we are correct, there is a more serious aspect to consider. What happens to the men who, entering the Waterguard as a stepping-stone, find themselves permanently established on the stepping-stone? Are they going to become embittered, with a permanent grievance? The transition from the grade has not been going on long enough for us to know. My personal opinion is that they will shake down with us, I having seen no signs of A.P.O.s complaining because of being forced to remain in the Waterguard. There is quite a

general feeling that work in the Waterguard is more congenial than in the Officer grade, and many an A.P.O. is not sorry at heart when he finds himself a fixture with us. In fact, if this promotion deadlock were not hovering over the Department, I fancy that fewer A.P.O.s would wish to leave.

The trouble seems to be in the two years' deduction in calculating one's age when entering a Civil Service examination. It is a boon to the individual, but, disregarding the view that it gives an individual in the Service an unfair advantage over an outsider, it is still an unhealthy thing for unfortunate departments such as ours. Furthermore, it seems so pointless. It is difficult to see that a postman, for instance, is so much more likely to make an efficient Assistant Inspector of Taxes than a man who is educated up to his twenties, that he must be allowed a further two years of study.

The solution? The abolition of the concession! In the case of the Waterguard, the raising of the standard of the entrance examination to such a degree of difficulty that it will not be politic to use this Department as a means of securing the concession. H.G.R.

Merseyside News.

Congratulations are due to our successful candidates in the recent Preventive Officer examination. The high positions taken, show clearly the value of the wide experience which is gained at this port. Unfortunately promotion causes the loss of good colleagues, who are not easily replaced. This especially applies to Messrs. F. A. Caldcleugh and W. F. Grosart, who are first to leave. The latter deserves the sincere thanks of all the staff for the very able way in which he has acted as A.P.O. Councillor, and it is to be hoped that his Association activities will be continued in his new grade and port. Good-byes turn to welcomes on the arrival of Messrs. T. R. Snellgrove and J. H. Wood, P.O.s. By now they will have discovered that spirit of comradeship and inter-grade co-operation which is so notable in Liverpool.

Three A.P.O.s, Messrs. G. J. Fazakerley, D. MacLeod and H. C. Moffat, have been called to the interview for promotion to the Officer grade. They carry with them to London best wishes for success from all their colleagues.

General.—Recent figures show that Merseyside shipping has increased by over a quarter of a million tons for the past year. To cope with growing trade a £700,000 dock modernising scheme has been decided upon. Speke Airport, too, is progressing, and is now the most modern in the country; so it is not too much to hope that increasing passenger traffic will soon demand the services there of a Waterguard staff.

Customs Journal

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The Custom House, London.

(Continued).

THE officers of the coast department attend to vessels arriving and departing between London and the out-ports, and give permits for landing their cargoes, and take bonds for the delivery at their destination of goods sent coastwise. They appoint the coast-waiters, who attend the shipping, and discharge all coastwise goods. The searchers see to all goods shipped for abroad, the entries of which, after passing the Long Room, are placed in their hands, and they examine the packages, to see that they duly correspond. As the amount of work fluctuates, and when a special wind blows, flocks of vessels arrive together, the number of supernumeraries employed at the Custom House is very large. There are sometimes, says a work authority, as many as 2,000 persons a day working at Custom House business between Gravesend and London Bridge.

The Long Room is the department where most of the documents required by the Customs Laws are received by officials. The first thing necessary upon the arrival of a vessel from a foreign country is the report of the ship, that is, the master must, within twenty-four hours of entering the port, deliver at the Report Office in the Long Room an account of her cargo. Then, before any goods are delivered out of charge by the officers of the outdoor department, who board and watch vessels on their arrival, entries of the goods passed also in the Long Room must have reached the officers. These entries are documents giving particulars of the goods in greater detail than is required in the master's report, and are delivered in the Long Room by the consignees of the cargo, or by their representatives. A single entry may suffice for an entire cargo, if it be all of one kind of goods and be the property of one person, or any number of entries may be necessary if the cargo be varied in nature. The report and the entries—that is, the account of the cargo rendered by the master and that supplied by the consignees—are compared, and delivery of goods not mentioned in the report, though correctly entered, is refused until the omission has been satisfactorily explained. In the case of goods liable to duty, the entries are not suffered to leave the Long Room until it is ascertained that the payment has been made. The entry for such goods, when signed by the Long Room officers, in testimony of its having been passed by them, vouches for the payment of the duty, and constitutes the warrant authorising the officers at the waterside to deliver the goods. Such is the general course of routine applicable to vessels arriving from foreign ports. The officers of the Long Room sit at their desks along the four sides. The visitors are chiefly weather-beaten

sea-captains, shipowners and shipowners' clerks, who come and report arrivals or obtain clearances, and wholesale merchants, who have goods to import or export, or goods to place in bond.

A correct account is also required of the cargoes of vessels sailing from this country, and the documents by which this is obtained are presented in the Searcher's Office in the Long Room either by the shippers of the goods or by the master of the vessel. The operation performed in the Long Room by the master of an outward-bound ship, which corresponds to the reporting of an arriving vessel, is termed 'clearing' or 'obtaining clearance.'

The documents required from the masters of vessels engaged in trade from one port of the United Kingdom to another, termed 'coasting,' are less elaborate.

From the particulars obtained by the various papers thus delivered in the Long Room are prepared the monthly returns of trade and navigation, published by the Board of Trade, and the collection and arrangement of the information so obtained occupies a large staff of clerks in the Statistical Department of the Custom House.

At each outport the room where the business described above is transacted bears the name of the Long Room, although in most cases it is neither long nor in any way extensive.

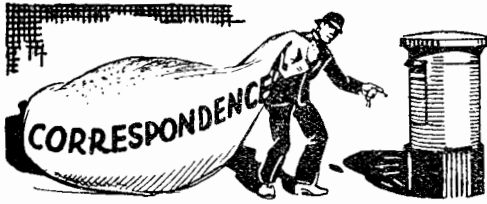
Of the 170 or so distinct apartments in the Custom House, all classified and combined to unite order and contiguity, the king is the Long Room, 190 feet long, 66 wide, and between 40 and 50 feet high. The eye cannot take in at once its breadth and its length, but it is not so handsome as the room that fell in, to the dismay of Mr. Peto. The floor is plank. The cellars in the basement form a groined fire-proof crypt.

The rooms are perfectly plain, all but the Board Room, which is slightly decorated, and contains portraits of George III and George IV, the latter by Sir Thomas Lawrence. The Queen's (now, of course, the King's) Warehouse is on the ground floor. The entrance to the Custom House is on the north front. On the southern side there is an entrance from the quay and river.

(To be continued.)

Impossible Sayings (1).

"Fits me perfectly," said the officer, as he tried on his new issue of uniform.



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

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

Sir,—I have recently moved from one big port to another big port. Before leaving the former I made the wise resolution to have little to say about it in the new place. If I did compare new port A with old port B it would be to its advantage. I am naturally a garrulous and critical person and I have found this resolve difficult. I have had to make comparisons and they have not all been advantageous. Now, Port B cannot have been a little Utopia or I would not have left it; and, obviously, Port A will be a different kind of place—the same type of work will be done in a different way, from tradition or the peculiar needs of the place or just because they feel like it. Geographical position will make a difference (for example, Port A is very centralised, the Appointer if a god is still an intimate one, like the Indians' ju-ju living among the staff; Port B is "spread out," and the Appointer is a distant being, more like Sir James Jeans' god, a mathematical entity). The idiosyncracies of the staff will make a difference. But the one thing that will make all the difference between one port and the other is the strength of the staff. This strength is not the over-armed strength of a European nation to be used for bullying and perpetual combat. It is the strength of a Galahad, to be used for everyone. A strong staff is a blessing to the Official Side. Sure of support, its representatives can co-operate with the Official Side for improvements in matters of efficiency. Indeed, the strength of the staff is efficiency itself because strength means that grievances can be aired and remedied, which means contentment which means efficiency. I was astonished in Port B by the legacy of good conditions in such important matters as hours of attendance, a good watch-house, numbers of staff left (and carried on) by representatives who had been backed by a strong staff and consulted at all points by the Official Side. At B the membership of the Association was 100 per cent.

Conditions at A are in many ways easier because it is not quite so busy a port. There is a shortage of staff, the watch-houses are poor, the staff representatives have little to say. A

non-member is frequently met and those who are members are inarticulate. A feeling of sans-gêne on questions of improving conditions has given place to a feeling of despair. "Oh, yes, that might do in B. It wouldn't work here." But A is intrinsically the same sort of port as B. Things which work there to the benefit of the staff would work here. But for heaven's sake, if the representatives have to continually contend with active opposition from the non-member and passive apathy from the member and have added to it the habit of disregarding the staff representatives by the Official Side which years of such has created—how on earth can anything be done? Members of A, reconsider those frivolous reasons you have heard non-members give for non-membership (favouritism in the exam., back-scratching at Beer Lane, "all they ever do is get the cap-badge or our buttons altered," etc., etc.), and try for your own sakes, for their sakes and for the efficiency and well-being of the whole port to persuade them to re-join. C.F.S.

Sir,—I hope the P.S.A. and the Civil Service Associations are viewing with some concern the increased cost of living. It has been announced that the index is to be revised, and it is extremely important that the index should be accurate. One reason is, that the wages of many employees move up and down according to the index. Now is the time to open up the controversy as to whether our leaders did the correct thing in agreeing to consolidation of salaries. Voicing my own opinion, my wife informs me that her household bills have increased during the past four months by an average of £2 per month for a family of three.

Incidentally, another question crops up in the payment of salaries by monthly advances.

Can any married man—either P.O. or A.P.O.—give me a sound argument in favour of our present method of payment as compared with a weekly wage?

I can recall, without fear of contradiction, my weekly pay as a P.M. and how I could comfortably budget from week to week, but to do so from month to month is a different story. How often have I not heard the old appeal in the big ports from colleague to colleague, particularly about the 20th of a month, "What about a sub.?" When the plebiscite was taken of the A.P.O. grade on the question of monthly or weekly pay, the "soft" word status was glibly used, and, of course, the A.P.O.s fell for it, but I am positive that if another vote were taken, a complete reversal would be the result.

I trust some of your readers will air their views on this matter, as it is my conviction that no Civil Servant should be on a monthly salary basis under £400 per annum.

I am, Yours faithfully,

"DYNAM."

Neighbourly Nippits by Nod.

WEATHER (London) writes that at his port they are making a presentation of a barometer to a colleague, and as it falls to his lot to make the actual presentation would like to use some apt phrase instead of the hackneyed one of observing that the instrument is 'set fair.' Well, as the 'do' is taking place at the Mariner's Arms why not set it at 'wet'? It is not a leading question.

CURIOS (Dundee) also writes about a barometer (it must be the weather, I suppose). He asks that as the indicator hand sometimes goes up the glass is said to have fallen. What does this signify? That the nail has come out of the wall, I imagine.

FINANCE (Glasgow).—No, you won't find Customs Consolidated quoted on 'Change. If you make special application you wouldn't get any.

ETYMOLOGIST (Liverpool).—I am so pleased to hear from you again. Your questions, are so easily answered—after about an hour's search. However, a wort is an infusion of malt (vide Beer Instructions). It can also signify an excrescence on the epidermis due to the irregular growth of the papillæ. Note, in the West Country it is pronounced wart.

INSECT (Sunderland).—How did you know that I was interested in entomology? The sample of bilge water you sent me, on analysis, reveals some interesting specimens. I observed numerous splendid specimens of the lesser known *Plugum Tobbaci*, while *Spiritus Corkum* were also present in a minor degree. The next time the ship arrives it would be as well to have the bilges pumped out.

MEDICO (Dover).—The epidemiological knowledge of 'seizureitis' is not modern. It is recurrent with the corresponding condition of the financial position. With the inoculation of Double Duty serum much depends upon the pathological condition of the recipient, but no marked effect is yet apparent as no statistics are available.

TOOTHACHE (Leith).—Yes, 'aigh's is good for the toothache.

ETYMOLOGIST (Liverpool).—At it again, eh? I didn't expect two letters from you this week. Well, bust is a noun and can signify a sculptured representation of the head and shoulders. However, to conjugate verbally during a game of Pontoon, one would say, I have bust, Thou hast burst, We have busted.

Watch House Yarns.

I remember many years ago in a South Wales watch-house, one of the old officers coming in with his face as white as a sheet. By the way, he usually had plenty of colour.

"Whatever is up, Bill?" said I.

"Up!" he said, "I have seen Old Nick and he hugged me!"

"Come on," I replied, "Let me know the truth," and he assured me that I had it. A little while later my chief sent me aboard a Russian ship to get some documents signed and on going down to the cabin up came Old Nick and embraced me and it was then that I realised that our old friend Bill had fell right into the arms of the captain's PET BEAR, which used to lie outside his cabin door on the mat, so it was not to be wondered at that Bill thought he had seen the gentleman from the Nether regions.—B.J.B.

A.P.O. to elderly lady, "All articles obtained..."

Elderly lady, "Yes, I have, I declare I do not know where he is, and the policeman, the beastly man, held me up a long while; I do declare I saw him on the platform, and if the puny-faced little scarecrow of a husband does not come, well, anyway, he's devoid of all reason, I declare. Don't interrupt me, Sir, I will not have it, I am a lone woman, and for a Customs official you are rude. Anything to declare! I should just think I had, being blessed with such a bundle of manhood, I declare"—but looking round—"Where on earth has the Customs man gone?"

On board a Brazilian vessel some years ago a Preventive Officer, with a passion for work and getting things done quickly, was perturbed a little with the slackness of collecting stores, ex-List 142.

To try and get a move on with the steward took some doing. So the P.O. instructed his A.P.O. to run round the berths and get a hustle on.

Door after door was banged in the alley-way, and remarks shouted, "Bring out your contrabando to the cabino," until one door was opened and, amidst the dark, a face of strange aspect met the A.P.O.'s gaze—shaggy whiskers, masts sticking up and two terrible eyes, green, as of the little yellow god, wagged.

The door slammed quick, and in a frightened gasp, the A.P.O. shouted, "Exempt, Mr. Goat, exempt."—C.J.

I remember once, a P.O. trying to coach an A.P.O. who, I'm afraid was not deeply interested in the Regulations, saying, "Now, Jack, suppose a passenger produced to you a revolver. What would you do?" "Tell him to go and shoot himself," was the reply.—G.H.W.

For Your Note-Book. (continued.) SPIRITS.

British Brandy.—The Royal Commission on Whisky defined British brandy as a "compounded spirit produced by either re-distilling duty-paid grain spirit with flavouring ingredients or by adding flavouring materials to such spirit." A malt whisky is generally used in the manufacture of the dearest qualities of British brandy. It is coloured with caramel (burnt sugar) and the flavour of the genuine article is obtained by the addition of such ingredients as catechu, oak shavings, etc. A percentage of foreign brandy, especially Cognac, is added to the better classes. For the inferior kinds which are marketed for the flavouring of foodstuffs, etc., a raw grain spirit, coloured and flavoured as above, is mainly used.

British Liqueurs and Cordials. These are strongly spirituous, usually sweetened compounds flavoured with aromatic herbs, fruits, essential oils, etc., and generally coloured. The British productions were formerly designated 'cordials,' while the term 'liqueurs' was in general use on the continent; now, however, either name applies. Further, the description "British liqueurs" is officially deemed to include all sweetened or otherwise obscured British compounds, including essences and perfumed spirits of which the true strength cannot be ascertained without distillation. In the preparation of liqueurs and cordials either a grape spirit or a rectified grain spirit is used, with pure cane sugar, and distilled water, together with the necessary flavouring ingredients. The following is a list of the principal herbs, or essences, that are used in the various preparations:—almond, angelica, aniseed, balm, calamus, caraway, chervil, cherries, cinnamon, cloves, coriander, curacao, oranges, dill, fennel, gentian, ginger, hyssop, juniper, lemon peel, muskmallow, orange peel, orris root, peppermint, pineapples, raspberry, sassafras, also, spearmint, vanilla, and wormwood. The three principal methods of manufacture are (i) macerating the flavouring herbs in alcohol to obtain an essence, distilling the mixture and adding the sweetening ingredients; (ii) digesting the materials in spirit to form an alcoholic extract, filtering same without distillation, and sweetening; (iii) dissolving the necessary essential in alcohol and sweetening. The principal British liqueurs and cordials are apricot brandy, cherry brandy, cherry whisky, cranberry (Skye liqueur), ginger brandy, milk punch, orange brandy, peach brandy, rum punch, sloe gin, and aniseed, ginger, lemon, pimento, and peppermint cordials. The following are well known foreign varieties: absinthe, benedictine, creme-de-menthe, chartreux (green, white and yellow), cherry brandy, cointreau, curacao, caudés-carries, grande marnier, kirsch or kirschenwasser, kummel, maraschino, noyau, Swedish punch, tangerinette, cocktails (American preparation), etc.

(To be continued).



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BEFORE YOU GO

Obtain these two books:—"GLORIOUS DEVON" by S. R. R. Maiz, price 1/- (2/6 bound), "HOLIDAY STATIONS" 1937, containing Holiday Addresses, and price 6/6.

HOW YOU GET THERE

"Monthly Return" Tickets (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st) issued from nearly all stations.

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All information will gladly be supplied by the Staff of the Lincs, Great Western Railway, Paddington Station, W.P., or can be obtained at any Railway Station, or the usual Tourist Agencies.



Obituary.

MR. A. JENNER.

All officers in London, and, indeed, many at the outposts, will learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. A. Jenner, late Preventive Officer. 'Alf,' as he was familiarly known to his immediate colleagues, retired only about three years ago, and his breezy personality, coupled with a remarkably robust physique, led us to believe that he was destined to enjoy many happy years of retirement.

One outstanding memory London Officers have of Mr. Jenner was the fact that, summer or winter, he never wore an overcoat, and we all looked upon him as 'hard as nails.'

The funeral took place at Hornchurch Cemetery on the 3rd June. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Jenner and family in their bereavement.

MRS. F. A. METCALFE.

It was with profound regret that the many friends in the Waterguard Service learnt of the death of Mrs. Metcalfe on the 20th May. Mrs. Metcalfe had been under medical care for many years, but her death was tragically sudden, and came as a great shock. Our deepest sympathy is with "Frank" and his family in their bereavement. The funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery on Wednesday, 26th ult., and a beautiful floral tribute in the shape of a cushion was sent by the Staff, Waterguard Department, London Port. The Department was represented by Mr. B. T. White, C.P.O. (retired), Mr. J. O'Driscoll, P.O., and Messrs. H. Keely and Precious, A.P.O.s. A letter of thanks and appreciation has been received from Mr. Metcalfe and family for the kind expression of sympathy shown.

Swansea Presentation.

At Swansea Custom House on June 10th, 1937, tributes from all departments were paid to Mr. C. W. J. Morgan, Waterguard Surveyor, on the occasion of his transfer to Cardiff.

A presentation was made to Mr. C. W. J. Morgan in the Collector's Office, when he received a mahogany Barometer. The Collector, Mr. P. T. Ward, paid tribute to Mr. Morgan's qualities as an Officer and a supervisor, and spoke of the interest he had always taken, not only in his official capacity, but also in connection with the social work at Swansea.

Representative members of all grades also associated themselves with the tributes paid by the Collector, and also spoke of the good advice which Mr. Morgan was at all times prepared to give for the improvement of the Service in general. In replying, Mr. Morgan thanked everybody for their splendid gift, and very warm wishes, and added that his stay in Swansea would bring him many happy memories.

Changes in the Staff.

TRANSFERS.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 1ST CLASS :—
Purser, C. R., Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard to London.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Grinham, P. W., Holyhead, Chester to Bristol.

Hunt, J., Liverpool to Holyhead, Chester.
Nichols, F. W., Swansea to Chatham, London.

Rollo, W. S., Stornoway, Inverness to Leith.
The transfer of Mr. P. H. Heaver from Port Talbot, Swansea to Newcastle, has been cancelled.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—

Day, J. A., Liverpool to Newcastle.

Eddowes, E. S., Harwich, Ipswich to London.
Gray, G., Immingham, Grimsby to Southampton.

Kavanagh, M., Glasgow to Cardiff.

Powell, C. R., Plymouth to Barry Dock, Cardiff.

PROMOTIONS.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 1ST CLASS TO DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF WATERGUARD :—

Purdye, A. W., London to Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT, 2ND CLASS, TO INSPECTOR :—

Kay, W. E., Hull to Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Caldcleugh, F. A., Liverpool to Fishguard, Swansea.

Coppard, G. A., London to Poole, Southampton, on special service.

Dearden, A., Folkestone, Dover to Glasgow.

Grosart, W. F., Liverpool to Newcastle.

Hunter, G., North Shields, Newcastle to Middlesbrough, Sunderland.

Snellgrove, T. R., Southampton to Liverpool.

Wood, J. H., Dover to Liverpool.

Wood, R. E., Glasgow to Wick, Inverness.

OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE..

RETIREMENT—DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF WATERGUARD :—

McLaren, J., I.S.O., Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Barnard, B. G. T., Preventive Officer, Lower Section.

Darrock, C., Preventive Man.

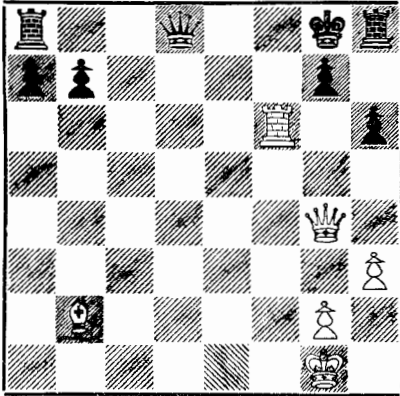
Hanlon, M., Preventive Officer.

Knight, P. J., Assistant Inspector.

Preventive Staff Chess Club.

PROBLEM NO. 156.

BLACK



WHITE

Mate in three.

Solution to No. 155.

1. Q—R8 ch. K×Q
2. Kt×BP dou ch. K—Kt1
3. Kt—R6 mate.

Glasgow Golf.

The writer regrets not having recorded earlier one of the most successful Golf outings ever organised by the Glasgow Staff. The outing to East Kilbride on the Spring Holiday Monday was twenty-five strong, and included Mr. Mackenzie, Waterguard Superintendent, and Mr. Grant, A.P.O., Aberdeen, Mr. Stevenson, C.P.O., Leith, Mr. G. Murray, P.O., Grangemouth, Mr. Griffiths, Waterguard Surveyor, Mr. Ban, C.P.O., and five other members of the Greenock staff. A stroke competition was carried through in the morning, and after lunch the afternoon was devoted to foursomes. Mr. Thomson, Glasgow, won the stroke competition, Mr. Hope, Greenock, and Mr. Murray, Grangemouth, being second and third respectively.

Tea was provided in the club-house and was followed by a "harmony" in true Waterguard style. Mr. Green, P.O., Greenock, was outstanding with his rendering of "Glorious Devon." The thanks of the Glasgow Club must be given to the Greenock staff for their whole-hearted support, and to all those old friends who travelled from a distance and helped by their presence to make the outing such a successful and representative an affair. J.C.G.

Preventive Service Sports Club.

CRICKET SECTION.

Hull versus London Match.

This match will be played on 5th August, 1937, at 2.30 p.m., on the Working Men's College Playing Field, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, ladies being invited. For further information write to Mr. W. W. Bishop, West India Dock, or Mr. S. J. Dorey, Minerva Pier, Hull.

Southampton Golf.

During the last few weeks golf has come rapidly to the fore as a Waterguard pastime in this port. Quite often, in fact, even those other well-known watch-house topics of conversation have to take a back seat when the Royal and Ancient game is discussed.

On June 1st a friendly match was arranged between the A.P.O.s and the P.O.s and C.P.O.s, eleven singles matches being played during the course of the day. The first couple got away shortly after 8 a.m., and at lunch time the score stood even, each side having registered two victories. However, during the afternoon the P.O.s and C.P.O.s collapsed and failed to win any of the remaining seven matches, leaving the A.P.O.s ultimate winners by 9 games to 2. The weather throughout the day was ideal though a trifle warm and players found the nineteenth very welcome. We wish the P.O.s and C.P.O.s better luck next time.

Other matches that are to be arranged shortly include a return fixture with the C.P.R., and a match with the Custom House staff.

H.L.F.

Merseyside Sport.

Our football team, after many wins, now faces two losses. The transfers out of the port of Messrs. J. A. Day and W. R. Williamson are heavy blows, but next season may reveal some new stars ready to fill the gaps. A certain shelf, cleared and dusted to receive the Hambleton Cup, is still vacant. Surely the Secretary is not using this trophy for his geraniums or other nefarious purpose?

Philately.

It may be of interest to readers whose hobby is stamp collecting to know that there is a stamp exchange club running in London, in which members circulate duplicate British and foreign stamps that come into their possession.

The Club is run with the idea of helping not only beginners, but those who possess fairly large collections.

Further information can be obtained from Mr. W. W. Bishop, Customs and Excise Waterguard, West India Dock, London, E.