

The Customs Journal

VOL. 34. No. 840.

January 2nd, 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," 91, Tressillian Road, Brockley, London, S.E.

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

1937 What does it hold for us? Is **this** the year for which we have waited so patiently? No one knows, but hope is high and with the will to succeed, satisfaction eventually must be the reward.

As we pass through the doorway of the New Year, we may be forgiven for hesitating on the threshold for a fleeting backward glance into the past. Incomplete as the old years may have been in the realisation of ideals, the picture portraying the thirty-three years of the life of this little publication and the fourteen years of P.S.A. activity, gives a measure of satisfaction in the achievement and supplies the incentive to greater activity.

Many New Year resolutions will have been made, some seriously and some frivolously, and even at this early date many of them will have "gone by the board."

One particular resolution, however, must not be broken. The resolve to improve Service conditions by pulling weight as members of the Association, and to strengthen, rather than weaken, the fighting power of the Association by standing four-square together. That "unity is strength" has been proved true time after time in the struggles for recognition during the past fourteen years, and will prove equally true in the future. So let no lightly taken decision shake the solidarity of this three-grade Association. Keep as our motto "all for each, and each for all," and the goal of satisfaction for all grades must be won.

The January meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.), will be held at the Association Offices, Thames Chambers, Beer Lane, London, on the eighteenth of the month.

Four nominations were received in connection with the vacancy in the post of Editor, and in a few days the Ballot of the Council will be taken.

The nominees are Mr. C. F. Shaw and Mr. D. Sutherland (A.P.O.'s), Mr. E. E. Ray (P.O.) and Mr. J. T. Sutton (C.P.O.).

* * *

A further development in the situation as affecting the future of the Civil Service Confederation is disclosed in a notice of motion given by the C.S. Clerical Association. The motion, which is down for discussion at the January meeting of the Council, calls for the adoption of the May, 1935, Report of the Special Committee on Confederation Activities, as opposed to the adoption of the later "economy" report, referred to in these columns in recent issues.

The May, 1935, Report, it will be remembered, recommended a spending policy as a means of achieving efficiency and, among other things, it suggested the employment of a full-time General Secretary, who should be an officer of high calibre, possessing vision, initiative and driving force. Actually, this Report was approved in principle at the Confederation Annual Conference, 1935, but was eventually defeated on the financial aspect.

Whether the May, 1935, Report as such will provide the solution, it is hard to say, but certainly it should provide the basis for useful discussion.

* * *

With Christmas still fresh in mind, and whilst the excitement of our kiddies at the joys of new toys is still in evidence around us at home, it

is pleasing to read the letter from Mr. Sanders published in this issue.

It is true that the subscription lists, as far as the C. & E. Dept. is concerned, were confined to officers in London and the Home Counties, but the interest spreads far wider. No doubt many provincial readers will agree with the writer in his hope that the difficulties of making this a country-wide collection may soon be overcome.

The earlier Christmas Toy Funds were dispensed among London Hospitals and Institutions. To-day we learn, with pleasure, that all the children on the books of the C.S. Benevolent Fund and the C. & E. Orphanage Fund received an individual toy, and that the children of the unemployed in the depressed areas were not forgotten.

But apparently this is not to be the end of it. It will be seen in the letter referred to that it is intended to compile a list of **all** the orphans of deceased colleagues, and ensure that none will be overlooked in future.

* * *

Members will be pleased to hear that the C. & E. Rally held on November 11th, resulted in the handing over of a sum of nearly seventeen pounds to the C. & E. Social Service Association.

Welcomed as this sum of money must be, it in no way represents the full "profit" of that wonderful evening. The propaganda value, in the way of increased membership and increased interest in the work of the Association, cannot easily be measured, but undoubtedly the movement will feel the benefit for a long time to come.

The latter remarks apply equally to the supply of the C. & E. Christmas Cards. No figures are yet available as to the financial benefit to the Association, but it is understood that some 5,000 cards were sold. Doubtless next year, when the idea becomes more generally known, the sales will increase.

Swansea Notes.

Social Activities.—After a recent meeting of the Staff, the Dance Committee have now completed arrangements for the Annual Whist Drive and Supper Dance. This is to be held at the Baltic Lounge, Swansea, on Thursday, 21st January, 1937, Whist commencing at 8 p.m. and Dancing from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m.

To all our colleagues in South Wales we extend a hearty invitation to this function, which, judging by enquiries already received, will prove a huge success. Applications for tickets (5/- each, inclusive) should be forwarded to the Secretary, Mr. J. F. Brown, Custom House, Swansea.

Aberdeen News.

Local matters have been the cause of much discussion of late, and for the purpose of clearing the air, particularly on the question of relieving at Outports, a meeting of Association members was held in the Old Custom House on December 10th.

The District Secretary, Mr. MacFarlane, informed the meeting that he had been in communication with every outport officer, and salient features from their replies were read to those present. Since the wishes of the majority at the outports coincided with the unanimous local opinion that small-port officers should have their leave in two periods, in accordance with Establishment Instructions, it was resolved to convey the finding of the meeting to the Official Side. Mr. Eve was nominated to interview the Waterguard Superintendent. With further reference to relieving, it was also resolved to suggest to the Official Side that as far as possible the names of relieving officers should be shown against those ports which they shall be required to relieve.

Arising from a resolution from the previous meeting, the District Secretary explained that arrangements were to be made by the C.P.O. to give appropriate instructions to A.P.O.s required to officiate at In-charge ports. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. C. E. Eve.



Head Office:

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

Telephone: ROYAL 4279.

President: W. E. STANDRING.

General Secretary: W. H. POWELL.

Organising Secretary: A. E. FARMER.

Assistant Secretary: H. L. BOALCH.

London Waterguard Dinner.

There was an attendance of about two hundred at the seventh Annual Dinner and Dance of the Preventive Service Sports Club on Dec. 15th at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn. Mr. C. M. Woodford, O.B.E., the President of the Club, presided, after having, with Mrs. Woodford, received the guests. Mrs. Woodford carried a bouquet of flowers presented by Mrs. Jones.

Among the guests were Sir G. E. P. Murray, K.C.B., Chairman of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, Sir William Young, K.B.E., C.B., and Lady Young, Mr. C. J. Flynn, C.M.G., and Mrs. Flynn, Mr. A. S. Lupton, C.B., and Mrs. Lupton, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Holland, Mr. J. McLaren and Mr. A. W. Purdye, Chairman of the Club. It was regretted that Mr. J. S. Sutton, C.B., and Mrs. Sutton were prevented by illness from attending.

In proposing the toast of The Club, Sir G. E. P. Murray said that he was glad of the opportunity of meeting members of the Waterguard Service. He made reference to the fact that officers of the Waterguard came into closer touch with the travelling public than any others in the Department, and felt that the reputation of the Service was in safe keeping. He also referred to the irregular hours that Waterguard duties caused, and to the influence this fact must have upon the task of organising the sporting arrangements of the staff.

Mr. Woodford, who replied, was grateful for the continued interest of the Board in the sporting aspirations of the staff, and also referred to the difficult conditions governing sports fixtures. But while a position at the top of league tables was apparently denied us, it had to be admitted that there were members of the Waterguard who were sought after to play in the larger sphere of Departmental sport, such as Departmental Rugger and Soccer, and even in a representative side of the Civil Service. It might be claimed that the Waterguard Clubs were in some way a nursery for the larger clubs. Reference was made to the sporting spirit of co-operation in the Waterguard generally, and appreciation was felt for such members as Elliott of Southampton and Tindale of the Tyne, who had journeyed to London for the purpose of completing the Waterguard team at the Swimming Gala at Holborn.

Mr. W. H. Powell proposed the health of the Visitors, and in mentioning many of the guests by name, expressed the gratitude of the Club to one anonymous person present who annually presents a cricket bat to the Club. Mr. J. Doherty, M.B.E., who left the Waterguard for service in Mombassa many years ago, speaking for the Visitors, congratulated the Club on the spirit that is very evident in the Waterguard

to-day. He was glad to meet old colleagues. He assured the younger members of the Department that they were members of a great Service.

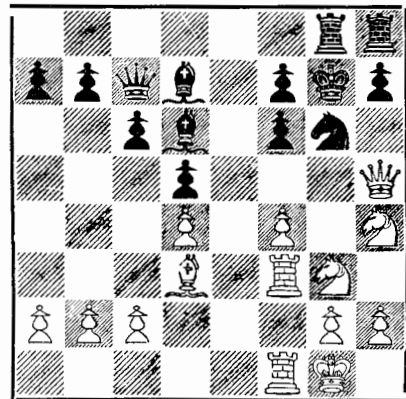
Before rising, the Inspector-General's Trophy was presented by Mrs. Lupton to the year's best sportsman, Mr. George Dover, who, said Mr. Woodford, was equally respected by new entrants and Superintendents. On the health of the Chairman being drunk at the call of Mr. W. W. Bishop, the company rose preparatory to the dance.

This year's annual has been acknowledged the best so far. The Committee responsible for the arrangements were Messrs. Almond, Burgess, Cole, Dover, Hartshorn, Jones, Ryan and Standring, all of whom pay tribute to the untiring and enthusiastic work of Mr. W. W. Bishop, the Social Secretary.

Preventive Service Chess Club.

PROBLEM NO. 144.

BLACK



WHITE

White to play and win.

Solution to No. 143.

1. P Queens R×Q or P.
2. R—B3ch R—B6.
3. R—R3 R×R stalemate.
- or
3. P Queens.
4. R×Q or P and draws.
- if
2. K—Kt5
3. R—Kt3 ch K—R5
4. R—R3 ch K—Kt5.
5. R—KR3 and draws.

This P.O. versus A.P.O. Myth.

Apropos of the heading to Mr. Spear's letter and of comments heard during recent months in my district, I am greatly concerned about this malignant spreading growth which is tending to sap the strength of our Association. At present it is in a nucleus state—the thought, not the fact. Let us then kill it ere it kills us. This rumour was, I think, started by a few malcontents among the P.O.s in my own district, and I am surprised that so many whom I deemed men of intelligence have seen fit to encourage the growth of such a weed.

I look, at this point, to the conditions which have brought this rumour into being with an unbiased mind, unless my faith in our Association can be deemed bias. As I hope to be able to convince the examiners in March that there is a place for me within the P.O. grade, and as I have done a bit of 'acting,' I can lay claim to see the P.O.s' side of the question.

I have only heard of two reasons for this revolt of some of the P.O.s, namely, that they are outvoted at meetings and that the A.P.O.s are enjoying privileges which encroach on their own grade. I have no sympathy with either reason. If such a condition exists then the P.O.s themselves are to blame. What is the reason for the outvoting? Numerical superiority cannot surely be the sole reason for that. Does any sane P.O. mean to tell us that if a P.O. rose at a meeting with a resolution that would prove to be of benefit to the P.O. grade, the A.P.O.s would vote against it because it was brought forward by a P.O.? Stuff and nonsense! Imagine an A.P.O. voting against something that eventually will benefit himself! It doesn't fit in with any ideas in the mind of a person with ordinary common sense. What then? One can only visualise two alternatives—lack of attendance at meetings, or lack of well-thought-out resolutions. In regard to my own district, I must, regretfully, say that both of these alternatives apply. Either the P.O.s do not attend, or, on the few occasions that P.O.s (outside the Committee) do put in an appearance they arrive without any reasonable resolution or attend merely to upset the meeting. Several meetings have been held where it has been impossible to proceed beyond the first item on the agenda, mainly through destructive criticism. I cannot recall any particular enthusiasm at any meeting of recent years. Apathy has been the order of the day since 1931, when the slaughter began. Those P.O.s who since that time have exhausted their chances of further promotion have ceased to take any interest whatsoever in Association affairs. Why? Because they have some misguided notion that the plums were picked by those who were well known through their Association activities. Such nonsense! Is it

not right to assume that the very ones whom they themselves had selected as being the most able men to control affairs (or did they not bother to vote?) should be considered by others as being the best-fitted to take over control in other spheres? Look at this fairly—is it not possible, aye, probable, that they would have 'got there' in any case? This excuse is the thinnest possible. How many of those who condemn ever offered to sacrifice their leisure hours for the sake of their fellowmen? It is only a few years ago that in this district, at an Annual Meeting, not one P.O. could be found to volunteer to take on the so-called easy step to promotion, viz., District Secretary. Eventually, by dint of a long telephone call to a P.O. on duty, a volunteer was obtained. After twelve months, during which time he worked arduously, he wished to relinquish office, and, mark you, he was about to sit for C.P.O. examination. He was entreated to carry on, as there was no other volunteer. He did so, subsequently passed his examination and was promoted to C.P.O.—more power to his arm—he **earned** it. The same old story goes on. Still no volunteers for the supposed easy step.

Let us return to those 'failures' of 1931. For every one that was promoted seven were passed over, and the proportion turned down was greater in some ports than in others. But why all this seething desire for revenge on the Association? The Association could not avoid the introduction of the Reorganisation Scheme. That was a natural sequence to our salary claim, especially as the C.P.O.s had let us down badly on that occasion. Some P.O.s even aver that this was partly due to the Association, whose C.P.O.s' representatives visualised further promotion. There is only one reply to that. Piffle! Those who allowed such unkind thoughts to filter into their brains had indeed a very poor opinion of the P.O.s and A.P.O.s on Headquarters staff at that time, who seemingly stood aside and let this happen. It does not follow that because 7 out of 8 failed to secure promotion they were necessarily 'failures.' It is not so. The prizes are few and can only be for those selected as being most suitable—and in the light of the apparent discontent which has existed in the C.P.O. grade since that time, the prizes would seem to be hardly worth while. Those passed over retired gracefully or ungracefully, as the case may be, and left it to others to get what they may. I say that those P.O.s made a very big mistake. They had a greater need of an Association than ever before, but in their time of trial were found wanting—in fact, they deserted the ship. Had they stood by at that time, and since, I venture to say that they would have had little need to worry about their future.

One can still see the result of the 'Boy-Messenger,' 'Wage-for-Age,' 'Ex-Service Men' controversy amongst the younger P.O.s, and that is another reason for the split in the P.O. grade. Thank goodness! with the passing of the next examination, which includes the last of the 'Ex-Service' group, this controversy will be lost, at least to the A.P.O. grade. From then onwards, all entrants will be on the same footing and will have everything in common. I appeal to all those who participated in this controversy to 'bury the hatchet.' 'Each for all and all for each.' Let us not, for goodness sake, emulate those who cannot forget past history. We shall never progress by harbouring grievances. During this festive season we have heard a lot of 'Best wishes, old man'; 'Many of 'em'; 'Good will to all men,' etc. In a month's time that will doubtless be forgotten and men will be striving to 'put one across' each other. Can't we, for a change, try to be different? This is not an attempt to moralise. In penning this article I have the future welfare of the Department in mind and the combined happiness of all.

To those P.O.s safely sheltered from the fear of remaining 'lamp and overall wallahs' (even with a decent cap badge) I would say, 'Think of your struggling days, which indeed were worse than ours, and say "Never again!" to such conditions.' We older A.P.O.s have reason to remember some of the old ignorant tyrants who flaunted authority over us in the manner of some old Prussian serjeant-major. We finished with that sort of stuff at the end of the war, and I rejoice that I was one of those who helped to break the hearts of the old war-horses. They have gone, never to return, and you younger A.P.O.s may never realise what you have lost. I put it to you younger P.O.s, would you like to return to those old conditions? No, I am sure you would not. Then, please, be tolerant of your A.P.O. who may be over-ambitious and keen to make his mark. You must admit he is of a different type. Don't get the idea that the A.P.O. is trying to put one over you. I am sure they have no such intention, but neither do they intend to stand still as their forebears did. This is 1937. When all is said and done it is a kind of partnership. You are compelled by force of circumstances to spend as much time with each other during your service as you do during your waking hours with your family at home. Be thankful that he is keen and eager to learn, and that at the back of his mind is the idea of lifting the Preventive Service from the last rung of the ladder, where we have been for years. We are now beginning to climb. Don't loosen a rung. There is a dividing line between the easy-going fellow and the tyrant. Be a pal to him—he'll appreciate it, never fear. There are times when

you think that his presence is superfluous, but in your saner moments you realise that with the multifarious regulations which you must memorise, you are glad of that little 'dig in the back' when your memory lapses occasionally. Isn't it true, also, that when the annual minute is announced you are secretly not worrying so much 'where you are going,' but 'who is going with me'? Be a man and own up. I have been, perhaps, fortunate in my pairing up with P.O.s. We have had our differences of opinion, as is natural, but we have had some happy times, and it is very refreshing to say sometimes, 'Do you remember that night of the heavy gale in 1927, Charlie, when we couldn't reach the Pier Head? You two were alone in the night. What a miserable existence if you could not 'hit it off' together. As I say, maybe I have been fortunate, 'but there's so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us,' etc., that there is surely some interest which you have in common. I have been keen to do things and have had the greatest trust placed in me. It's a great thing for your P.O. to say, 'That's all right, Jack. I know you won't let me down.' Make a pal of your A.P.O. and discuss problems with him. Let him see that he counts a bit, and then when you did some particularly smart thing on a ship, let him see that you realise he had a share in it. To A.P.O.s I would say, 'Make yourself efficient and worthy of the trust placed in you.' Only by mutual trust shall we be able to stand together 'each for all and all for each,' a principle worth fighting for in these days of strife and distrust amongst other peoples.

To come back to my original theme, I find I have been passing on advice to P.O.s, who may think it effrontery to be so advised by an A.P.O., but believe me, this criticism, if such it can be termed, is given with the best of intentions. I find, on summing up, that the P.O. is really to blame—he has the benefit of experience.

No doubt we may have a lecture from a P.O. to an A.P.O., and that will square matters, but believe me that what the A.P.O.s have done, what they are doing, and what they will do in the future, is all with the idea of lifting our Preventive Service to a higher level. If the P.O.s cannot keep themselves above the level of the A.P.O.s—then where lies the blame?

To generalise, there is no place in the Department for two grades with opposite views. The Association's Reorganisation Scheme is an endeavour to realise the ideal of one grade, that of the Preventive Officer, and the efficient application of the duties as performed by that grade. If in realising that ideal certain minor duties are assigned to "junior" members of the grade, who can cavil at the Scheme? By riding oneself of minor duties one is bound to

raise one's status. The scheme points out the sore need for Reorganisation and the reasons given form a sound argument for the inclusion in the Scheme of revised salary scales.

Let us try and pull together. I have said hard things in the past concerning members who have refrained from paying their subscriptions. I'll forget it all if you have the courage to go to your District or Local Organiser and say 'I have thought it over, find I am wrong, and wish to meet my obligations.'

'GOOSEBERRY.'

Not Neurotomical by Nod.

You know I did not dream for one moment that these articles of mine were so much appreciated. My endeavours in the literary world have always been to instruct by innumerable brilliant works of a cultural nature tended not to amuse but to give tone and uplift to the reader. It appears that my efforts have not been in vain, for the overwhelming generosity of readers was fully reflected in the vast mail I received this Christmas.

I feel that the 3d. Christmas Box I gave to the Postman was actuated only by realising the generosity and the spirit of good will that undoubtedly exists amongst us.

It was my original intention to write for this issue a highly instructive thesis on the "Probable date the Chinese entered China," but the gifts that I have received have prompted me to do otherwise.

The number of Christmas Cards that I have received I really couldn't tell you; but judging from the appearance of quite a large number of the people who supply that A and B stuff must have done remarkably well.

From an East Coast port I received a box of bloaters. They were overpowering. They were really. The overpowering thought and consideration that prompted my unknown friends to send me this gift in appreciation of my humble efforts surpasses my comprehension.

From another port I received a delightful case of various potable liquids, and, honestly, I should imagine that the world had been scoured to secure for me a, shall we say, representative collection of national drinks. There was a bottle of Saki, one of Sam-shoo, some very sweet Greek wine and, I must not forget to mention, a bottle marked "Highland's Best"; but I'm afraid that the local Excise Officer was not aware of the latter's existence.

Some remark about gift horse is applicable here but we will let that pass.

However, to get to my point, I regret that it is impossible for me to reply to all personally, so that through these columns I must

tender my very best thanks; but on this occasion, before proceeding to do so I really must, by entering into the spirit of things, taste of your gifts.—Yes, the Sam-shoo is not too bad, but I find that if it is mixed with a little Saki it is kon considerably better—However, I simply must wish you all a (hic) Happy new and a MerrY New Year as I have said before bef4 the whisky iss good and marvellouse kind of u to send such aa wonderluss Whichkey inininan suitcase case%

How awfull goo; yesthewinciss goo@ 2 4 I shall 4ever thingue 1/2 of the case wot u cent %. Sorry the tripe-writer has fallen like Lucif on the jolly old floor but alsh Welsh that see you again bef4 the Samski is also ish Thw The samsaki is zx % % more---124478 better than butter o I more see "PLd" Goo Duet

(Nod's typewriter does not seem to be working too well towards the end, but I am publishing his letter as received, although it looks like being his last—Ed.)

Changes in the Staff.

To December 28th, 1936.

TRANSFERS:

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Marshall, G. E., Methil, Dundee to London.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Bayliss, C., Gravesend, London to

Southampton.

Billett, R. A., Southampton to Barry Dock, Cardiff.

Fitch, D. H., Dartmouth, Plymouth to Dover.

Kettle, L. K., Port Talbot, Swansea to Gravesend, London.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENTS—ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Kerridge, W. J., Tilbury, London.

SENIOR ENGINEER:—

Hewitson, J., North Shields, Newcastle.

DEATH—ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Eggett, G. H., London.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Dixon, R., Preventive Officer.

Ferguson, J. F., Senior Engineer.

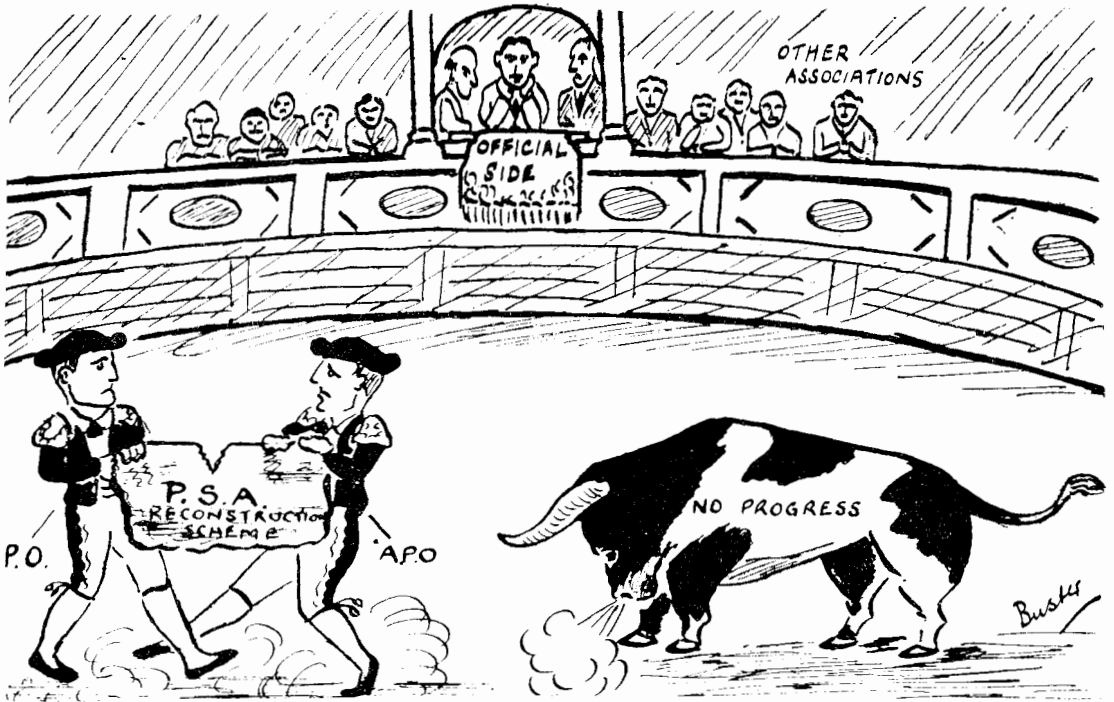
Gibbins, C. T., Assistant Preventive Officer.

Legg, W. H., Preventive Officer.

Miller, H. J., Preventive Officer.

Stuart, C. F., M.B.E., Inspector.

'WARE BULL!
Another Civil (Service) War?



Merseyside News.

Obituary.—It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. J. T. Bookey, A.P.O., at his home, after a brief illness, and tender our sincere condolence to his family in their bereavement.

Football.—At last the Club's run of success has been broken by two successive defeats to the tune of 4 goals to 1 on each occasion, firstly by Windsor United away and secondly at the hands of the League leaders—Liverpool Wednesday at home.

Blame may be attributed in one respect to the weakening of the eleven by transfer, sickness and injury, but a staleness seems to have crept into the team, especially among the forwards. With the New Year we hope to recover some of our former dash and trust that the next issue of the Journal will tell of a victory against Liverpool Co-op F.C. at "Bradstone's" on January 6th. J.W.D.

Rugby Football.

CUSTOMS v. ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT CO.

This match was played at Hanwell on Saturday, December 12th, and a great improvement in the standard of play was noticeable, although Customs were a man short throughout. Early in the first half an A.E.C. three-quarter movement proved too much for Customs defence and gave the home side a lead of three points, which was easily converted to five. A.E.C. were lucky to score a second try, unconverted. After half-time Customs forwards controlled the game, and constant pressure brought its reward when, following a forward rush, Kendrick snapped up the ball and flopped over for a try. The kick was an easy one, but was not converted. Customs failed to add to their score, and A.E.C. eventually came out victorious by 14 points to 6.

Presentation to Mr. S. Hargrove at Eastham.

At the Eastham Ferry Hotel on December 17th, Customs Officers from Liverpool, Eastham and other ports assembled to pay their respects to Mr. Samuel Hargrove, who has retired from the service of H. M. Customs and Excise after 41 years' service.

Mr. Hargrove was the recipient of an inscribed clock, and on behalf of Mrs. Hargrove he accepted a silver tea service, both being gifts of his former colleagues in the Customs service and many of his old friends in Eastham.

Mr. H. T. Atwill, Chief Preventive Officer of Liverpool, presided. Mr. A. McBride (Chief Preventive Officer), in making the presentations, said he had known Mr. Hargrove for about 24 years. He knew Mr. Hargrove when he was at Liverpool, and right from the beginning of their acquaintance he had always found Mr. Hargrove a perfectly straightforward gentleman, who acted as a steadying influence on young members in the Service. He always put duty first, and was, in fact, the perfect officer. Mr. Hargrove had seen many changes in the Service. It was as a token of the esteem and affection in which he was held by his old colleagues and his many friends in Eastham that they were making the presentations—the clock for himself, and the tea service for Mrs. Hargrove. They all wished him and Mrs. Hargrove the best of health and happiness. (Applause).

Appreciative remarks of Mr. Hargrove's work as a Customs Officer were also made by Messrs. W. B. Clayson, P.O. (L'pool), W. E. Smith, A.P.O., T. A. Lightbown, J. G. Reay, A.P.O., T. F. Lawler, P.O. (L'pool), L. E. V. Knight, P.O. (E.Port), G. Rimmer, H. T. Atwill, C.P.O.

Responding, Mr. Hargrove expressed his thanks for the gifts, and added that he would always treasure them as souvenirs of a very happy period spent in the service of H.M. Customs.

The guests were entertained during the evening by Messrs. Rimmer, J. H. Bolton, P.O., L. E. V. Knight, P.O., and King, supper following the presentation ceremony.

On the proposition of Mr. E. Payne, P.O., a vote of thanks was extended to the chairman and the artists.

Mr. Hargrove, who is 61, began his career in the Customs service as a messenger boy at Liverpool. In 1890 he was appointed Assistant Preventive Officer, and six years later was transferred to Barrow-in-Furness. He subsequently served at various ports before returning to Liverpool. He was later sent to Eastham, where he remained until his retirement. During the Great War he attested for Army service, but was reclaimed by the Admiralty, and for the duration of the War he was a member of

the Naval Intelligence Dept. staff at Liverpool, a position which called for a great deal of tact.

Many years ago he founded the Eastham Ferry Bowling League, of which he is the oldest vice-president, and he has also acted as secretary to the Eastham Bowling Club and the Stanley Arms Bowling Club. His eldest son is a Customs Officer at Amble.

Hull News.

District Meeting.—A full meeting was held at Minerva Pier on December 11th, when an appreciable number of members was present. The minutes of the special grade meeting of the Preventive Officers regarding the re-organisation scheme were adopted. It was soon evident that the whole meeting was in favour of the Preventive Officers' attitude, and during the discussion reference was made to a communication received from another district on the subject. The report of the recent Conference was read, but until the proposed re-organisation scheme was mentioned very little interest was aroused. After considerable discussion a resolution was unanimously carried confirming the resolution passed at the P.O. grade meeting, the A.P.O. grade specially associating themselves with it, but in view of the power given to the Executive to proceed, the meeting demanded that before the written statement is placed before the Board it must be circulated to each District and a plebiscite taken. A further resolution was carried that all Districts be circulated with a report of this meeting.

Several items of local interest were then disposed of.

Social.—The annual Whist Drive and Dance was held at Beverly Road Baths on December 9th when nearly 250 members and their friends had a most enjoyable evening. There is no doubt that but for the inclement weather there would have been a still larger attendance; but although there were fewer present than is usual at these gatherings, there was nothing lacking in entertainment value. A splendid programme was provided by Brook's Bands whilst the M.C.s were, for the dancing, Mr. K. Fieldhouse, and for the whist, Mr. W. F. Read. Mrs. Burkey distributed the prizes for Whist, and Mr. and Mrs. Burkey once again generously gave the spot prizes for dancing. In addition to those mentioned above, the following were also present:—Mr. A. Foster, Assistant Collector, Mr. A. Cameron, Waterguard Surveyor, Messrs. P. W. Howard and W. G. Manson, Chief Preventive Officers, together with their wives. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion and the Committee, Messrs. R. A. Crooks, A. Moss, S. Mudd, R. H. Raymer, W. Thompson, J. Drury, F. Nightingale and W. E. Barker (Hon. Sec.) are to be congratulated on their organising ability. R.W.B.

Correspondence.

86, St. James's Road,
Wandsworth Common,
London, S.W.17.

The Editor of the Journal.

Dear Sir,

XMAS TOYS.

Christmas morning, and the postman has appeared with another big bundle of seasonable greetings. But there is yet another packet of letters, forwarded from the office, and it is these that compel one to break all precedent and write to you on Christmas Day.

The C. & E. people in the London area have now been accustomed for three years to receive and respond to the invitation to remember the children in hospitals and institutions at this season of the year. Beginning some years before with the acknowledgment, in the shape of a few toys, of the treatment of Whitehall casualties by the neighbouring Westminster Hospital, the Civil Service remembrance of these otherwise unlucky little ones has now attained the dimensions of the annual gift of 24,000 toys to over 200 hospitals and institutions. In this effort our Department takes an honourably prominent part.

It is not the present purpose to describe its ramifications, or to speculate on the possibilities of the extension of the invitation beyond the London area, but to mention two developments which have signalised the effort of 1936. One of them was a contribution of over a hundred toys to every Civil Service Society for the distressed areas.

The other—and here we come to that packet of letters—was that to every boy and girl up to the age of 14 on the books of the C. & E. Orphans' Fund it has been a labour of delight to despatch an individual parcel this Christmas, with the briefest of notes indicating its origin. The letters were the first instalment of acknowledgment.

Though it was made possible by the generosity of others, that post is mine, and I envy no man this Christmas Day.

Yet it is right that those who gave should know that from all over the country these little letters of gratitude and surprise are flowing in, and to them I hasten to transmit the thanks of the orphans of our Department.

Two things remain to be said. One is that if in the knowledge of any of your readers some child of a deceased colleague has been missed (for instance, the Orphans' Fund does not cover all), I shall be glad to make good promptly, trusting to be forgiven for being a little late. Name, sex, age and address, please, at once.

The other—is it too much to hope that henceforward no Christmas shall pass without every C. & E. orphan being remembered in this manner? Bread and butter are important, I know, but Christmas calls for something more, and this Department is big enough to find that something. I want my register of remembrance complete. Let me know the children, and the wherewithal will be forthcoming. And if the day comes, as it must, when the present hands cannot carry on, surely others will be found, for in no other work can such satisfaction be felt in its performance or such sincerity in its appreciation.

Yours, etc.,

C. A. W. SANDERS.

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

REORGANISATION.

My letter to the "Journal" under this heading has aroused controversy, as I intended it should, both for and against its main thesis, e.g. a straight salary claim as opposed to the new proposals. At the outset let me say that I do not retract one word from my previous letter and also that I in no way wish to undermine that unity between the grades that has been our past strength, and, with wise handling should prove our greater strength in the future. As an Association official who has worked hard and given much over a number of years, I would be foolish indeed to lightly throw away past labours unless some serious question was involved. I claim such a question has arisen. The pot was boiling furiously and so far as I could see was about to boil over. If this I have undoubted proof from ports far afield. In my humble opinion Mr. Spear, P.O., spoke great truth when he wrote that the "Journal" should be used for a free discussion on this question in order to stifle any whispering campaign or subterranean moves as contemplated. After all, "discussion is the breath of life."

The question at issue appears to be:—

(1) Should the Reorganisation Scheme be proceeded with;

or

(2) Should a straight salary claim be formulated and placed before the Industrial Court as speedily as possible.

I think I am right in saying that the P.O. grade as a whole favour No. 2, as to them No. 1 appears too grandiose, unwieldy, and as Hull says, "tends to cheapen the P.O. Grade." We are not living under the laws of the Medes and Persians and surely a ballot on items 1 and 2 can be taken of the P.O. Grade and I am sure members will abide by the result. This seems a simple and easy way to settle a question that threatens to split the members into two separate

associations. Or is it too easy? Surely at the moment the new proposals are still in the debatable stage and not committed in any way. It is not the fault of the P.O. grade, that after honest and sincere consideration they are opposed to this scheme. The storm has been gathering for a long time and it is up to those responsible to make some provision now the deluge has arrived. It's no use burying your head in the sand and thinking all's well because you can't or won't see it. If you buried the whole body the rumbling storm is still there and something must be done before it engulfs you.

Now a word for "Journal" correspondents.

Some say the P.O.s are out of date, standing on their dignity and hindering progress by staying away from meetings. That is grossly untrue when you consider every P.O. must have at least 10 to 15 years' service, in which period the vast majority must have given both time and money to make the Association what it is or we would have no Association at all to-day.

Yours, etc.,

J. BURKE, P.O.

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Dear Sir,

RECONSTRUCTION.

After reading the last issue of the Journal, it was fairly obvious that a large body of opinion among the P.O. grade was definitely against the proposed Reconstruction Scheme. Although the views were strong, I was unable to find any constructive proposals as an alternative. Whether it is the intention of the dissentients to submit proposals or amendments at a later date I am unaware, but it is apparent that this should be the next step. I take it for granted that we are practically unanimous that some form of Reconstruction is necessary; consequently the present disagreement must be not upon the principle but upon the certain Sections of the Scheme. Let us be frank. It is only by openly asserting upon what we disagree that headway will be made. In the first place it appears to me that the bone of contention is the proposed formation of a Junior P.O. grade. It is argued that:—

1.—This grade can only be created at the expense of the P.O. grade.

2.—By delegating certain duties from P.O. grade to J.P.O. grade the responsibilities of the P.O. will be greatly diminished in the eyes of the Official Side (and ultimately the Industrial Court).

3.—The chances of the P.O. grade ever attaining executive status will be annihilated, as while the Official Side previously contested this claim successfully, the introduction of a J.P.O. grade will weaken the P.O.s' case even more.

IF THIS IS TRUE THEN THE J.P.O. MUST NOT COME INTO BEING!

I have given my impression of what the P.O.s are apparently concerned about. If I am wrong I wish to be corrected. The position is now—what is going to be done? Stalemate must be recognised, and if errors have been committed now is the time to get things straightened out, and not wait until the last day and receive a bombshell, as was the case in the last Water-guard claim. I do not withhold blame from the P.O. grade.

Personally, I think their belated attitude toward the scheme is anything but fair. To have allowed the scheme to reach its present stage and then start agitating for a separate association does not in my view show the right association spirit, apart from the considerable labour and expense that may be wasted in consequence. It must be admitted that sufficient consideration had not previously been given to the scheme by the P.O.s, otherwise their present attitude would have shown itself before, either in the form of a united protest or by district minority reports. The Executive and the Council would have had to sit up and take notice. Instead of that the P.S.A. representatives have apparently been allowed to go on blissfully ignorant of the true state of affairs and believing that the members as a whole were almost unanimously supporting the scheme.

I must repeat it is not quite playing the game.

Having said this let me make an appeal. Stop this scrapping between P.O.s and A.P.O.s in Association affairs! If there is anything in the Reconstruction Scheme that appears to be detrimental to the P.O. grade, then let us by our endeavours combine to eradicate it. If our efforts are fruitless and the P.O. grade is being forced by weight of numbers to have certain conditions foisted upon them against their united wish, then will be the time to consider the formation of a separate association.

Finally, although the expense might be considerable, to say nothing of the labour, I find myself in agreement with the suggestion that, before such an important subject is further proceeded with in its present state, it calls for a plebiscite. Drastic ills require drastic remedies. Possibly, too, the question of whether a separate association should be formed could be included in the ballot paper.

However, before the last point is decided upon it may be advisable for one or more of the P.S.A. leaders, by virtue of their experience, to write articles in the Journal stating clearly what the split-up of the P.S.A. would involve.

Yours faithfully,

P. SPEAR, P.O.

20th December, 1936.

Sir,

I am the A.P.O. Grade Councillor for the South Wales Area, so my initials at the end will be sufficient.

The letters on reorganisation in the last issue of the Journal have proved interesting and disturbing. I hope that what I have to say will remove a few doubts and fears, and help to instil a better spirit into the relationship between the grades on the question of reorganisation. I would say instil the proper and ONLY spirit, and that is unity—each for all.

Before I attempt to show the lines along which it is intended that reorganisation should move I would make an appeal. There is only **one** criticism acceptable in P.S.A. affairs, local, district and council, and that is **CONSTRUCTIVE** criticism.

Now, staying away from local and district meetings is not **constructive** criticism. It is almost as bad as **destructive** criticism; it is **demoralising** criticism. The few faithfuls at every meeting will appreciate that. **Destructive** criticism without constructive suggestions is anathema to me.

Now, and I appeal to the entire Service, if you must make **destructive** criticisms, be prepared to offer **constructive** suggestions at the same time. Do not pull down without being prepared to build something in its place, and what is very important, attend your local and district meetings to do so.

Permit me a personal note. I have yet to attend a meeting, local, district or council, where any suggestions made by P.O.s do not receive most favourable consideration and often unstinted support. It is thought, and often correctly so, that these P.O.s are experienced men and have given time and thought to their suggestions.

Let me endeavour to clear up the voting question of salary claim v. reorganisation at the last Conference before briefly touching on reorganisation. Early in the discussion Hartlepool's resolution came up for decision. It meant scrapping the reorganisation and proceeding with a salary claim. The possible reception and result of a salary claim was considered and on the actual proposal the E.C. decided not to vote. Other councillors, apparently and naturally, were not prepared to have the work of years thrown away without further consideration, and they also abstained from voting. The proposal was defeated by about 7 to 3, BUT at the end of the Conference the reorganisation scheme was carried with only one dissident.

Reorganisation.

- (1) The J.P.O. grade MUST not and WILL not be used as the thin edge of the wedge to down-grade the P.O.

- (2) Closing up the coastal protection, bringing C.P.M.s more directly under P.O.s. Those A.P.O. i/c ports will then be P.O. i/c ports and rightly so.
- (3) Increasing mobility of staff (extended mobile districts and increasing personnel from a P.O. point of view).
- (4) Enlarging scope of operations at aerodromes, etc. (inland air traffic, etc.).
- (5) Increased P.O. personnel at baggage ports, etc., including better provision for coping with runs, sickness, relief, etc.

Now, YOU think and SUGGEST other methods of increasing numerically and in responsibility the P.O. grade and **consequently** remuneratively. Do it through your meetings. Let us all make the effort. We have less time now for slackers and grasshoppers than ever. We must have unity. The P.O.s' interests are too bound up in those of the A.P.O.s' to think of a split.

Don't revile 'Beer Lane,' or rather, Headquarters staff. Take it from me that your interests are as vitally theirs as yours. At Beer Lane you have a sheet anchor.

I am, etc.,

F.S.L.

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

In reply to the letter of 'A.S.', which appeared in the December 5th issue of C.J., it is rather surprising, and not a little amusing, to find that **anyone** in these enlightened days sighs for what is usually called 'the good old days.' He complains that the new caps leave no distinction between the poor P.O. and his **very** much subordinate, the A.P.O. 'Only by that tired and weary expression caused by the multifarious duties he is called upon in these modern times would he give a hint as to his rank.'

Poor P.O.! Has he tried really hard rummaging under boilers and engine-room plates, in bunkers and crawling through bilges from forward to aft? Perhaps if he has he will have some faint idea of what it feels like, and what he looked like after it. Surely he would not like to go back to the A.P.O. grade and do these things, especially with an oil lamp and overalls to clean afterwards?

What have the P.O.s asked for? 'A.S.' answers his own question. Nothing! Why blame the poor A.P.O. for these acts of omission on the part of the P.O. grade? Possibly a scapegoat is required, as is sometimes the case

when anything goes wrong. If the P.O.s table anything constructive for the general progress and betterment of the Waterguard, I say without hesitation that they can depend on 100 per cent. support from the A.P.O.s.

Why take the very retrograde step of splitting up into little 'warring' factions? C.P.O.s, P.O.s' and A.P.O.s' Associations! Does 'A.S.' really and truly think we would progress or achieve anything that way? 'Unity is Strength' runs an old adage, and if 'A.S.' will look round the Civil Service he will realise that it is the only policy which counts in the long run. We, the poor Waterguard, have been too long a department divided against ourselves, and just on account of little pettifogging things as 'A.S.' is complaining about. One grade mustn't encroach upon the preserves of another or else the whole Service is going to the dogs. It does not necessarily follow that because things have been, they must continue to be. I say, buck up, 'A.S.', and let the motto of the Waterguard be 'Unity and Progress,' spelt with capital letters. Make your proposals, otherwise we cannot help you.

Finally, and I think most P.O.s will agree with me, no dignity is lost to the grade by reason of our cap badges being the same. It doesn't make you any less efficient as a P.O. and it doesn't detract anything from the rummaging powers of the A.P.O.

Just think it over.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

'A.P.O.'

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

As an A.P.O. of a few years' service, I wish to level some criticism against a letter from 'A.S.' in the last issue. 'By their sayings shall ye know them,' seems to aptly sum up this person. The last two lines of his letter "Why not a C.P.O.s' and P.O.s' Association for the betterment of those grades" is certainly outspoken, but why does he not go further and say, "Leave the A.P.O.s to their own devices?"—as that seems to me to be what he means.

At how many Association Meetings do we find that the percentage of P.O.s attending comes up to the percentage of A.P.O.s? Not many, I'll warrant. That is where the lack is felt, and disunity is not going to get us anywhere.

Stagnation (that word used so much for failed A.P.O.s) is an evil within the ranks of older P.O.s, and it is only by constant pressing for further amenities that they will get any attention.

As far as joining up with the C.P.O.s is concerned, do not let us lose sight of the fact that it was they who let us down badly in the last salary claim, or we might have been a little better off now.

In conclusion I should like to mention that if a P.O. looks weary on account of the multifarious duties he is called on to perform, it is partly his own fault, because there are many A.P.O.s only too glad to do part of a P.O.s job, if it is only for the experience gained which will benefit them later, and this applies to older A.P.O.s if they have any faith in their Association.

R.W., A.P.O.

Approaching Competitions.

The first column shows when the examination begins.

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

Intending candidates for the position of Post Office Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist at places other than those named in this section should make inquiry of local Postmasters for particulars of any appropriate examinations.

16 Feb., 1937.	Clerical Classes (General and Departmental) limited to Members of the Minor and Manipulative Grades of the Civil Service	17 Dec., 1936
23 Feb., 1937.	Post Office, Male Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist on the Postal Side, at Bath, Bedford, Bournemouth and Poole, Bristol, Crewe, Doncaster, Folkestone, Grimsby, Lowestoft, Luton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Oxford, Salisbury, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea and Stoke-on-Trent	17 Dec., 1936
23 Feb., 1937.	Post Office, Female Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, at Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Bournemouth and Poole, Great Yarmouth, Ipswich, Oxford, Peterborough, Portsmouth and Gosport, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Tunbridge Wells and Weymouth	17 Dec., 1936
2 Mar., 1937	Navy Entrance Examination	19 Jan., 1937
23 Mar., 1937	Male Assistant Preventive Officer, Customs and Excise Department ...	4 Feb., 1937