

# The Customs Journal

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February 27th, 1937.

FORTNIGHTLY.

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*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," 93, Fairfax Road, Hornsey, London, N.8.*

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



COMMENCING with this issue the new Editor takes over his onerous and responsible task of maintaining, at the very least, the standard of journalism set by his predecessor. One says "at the very least" because a new Editor is bound to have aspirations for an improvement and the present occupant of the editorial chair is no exception.

He is not satisfied that readers should simply watch with interest his endeavours but rather that they should lend a hand to make the Customs Journal—their journal—all that they would desire themselves.

It is a coincidence, and nothing more, that at the February meeting of the Executive Committee discussion will take place on certain proposals affecting the advertising side which might well result in some alteration and, it is hoped, some improvement in the lay-out. An alteration to the cover design and colour is not outside the scope of the discussion.

The announcement in O.W.O. 7/1937 that Mr. C. W. Hardisty is appointed to be an Assistant Secretary vice Mr. A. S. Lupton, C.B.E., who retired recently is of particular interest to Waterguard readers.

Mr. Hardisty is no stranger to Waterguard matters. It will be recollected that he was a

member of the Official Side of the Waterguard Sectional Committee 1929/31 and his appearance as Chairman of the Committee will be welcomed by the Staff Side.

\* \* \* \*

The February meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.) takes place on February 25th—too late for the inclusion of a report in this issue.

The Committee's business will include the very important duty of considering replies from Councillors on the question of Reorganisation and in deciding the line of action best suited to the majority views expressed.

\* \* \* \*

In several of the large ports an issue has been made of a number of torches of a new pattern. The intention being to experiment with a view to finding a type of torch best suited to requirements of Waterguard work. Actually these torches, while embodying certain desirable features, have not been specially made but are standard torches retailed at a very moderate price. The cases have been protected by the addition of a rubber covering but, even so, such a torch could not be expected to stand up to hard usage. The Staff Side proposal embodied a suggestion that the torch should be made of a light but strong metal—like duralu-

min. Provided the obvious lack of strength does not unduly bias opinion the experiment should provide some interesting data.

\* \* \* \*

The dispute between the Guild of Insurance Officials and the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co., in which this Insurance Co. and others refuse to recognise the Guild as a body competent to negotiate on Staff matters, is still unsettled.

The Civil Service, as represented by the National Staff Side, is giving full support to the Guild on the grounds that the attitude adopted by the big financial interests, including Banking and Insurance, is a threat to the liberty of every professional worker and a danger which all Civil Servants should combine to attack.

A Mass Demonstration is being held at Central Hall, London, on Friday, 5th March (6.30 p.m.) Mr. George Lathan, M.P., will be in the chair and the speakers include Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.P., Mr. R. T. Acland, M.P., Miss Dorothy Elliott, M.P., and Mr. Alfred M. Wall. All readers who can do so should demonstrate their solidarity on this occasion.

\* \* \* \*

So thorough were the arrangements made by the organisers of the visit of the London Football Team to Southampton that it only needed fine weather to ensure complete success. In Spring-like sunshine a good crowd of spectators enjoyed a keenly contested match. Although the better team won it would be true to say that the 4-0 victory for London did not reflect the true run of the play.

During the tea the Inspector-General, who had travelled down with the visitors, made a gesture typifying his earnest interest in the social welfare of his Staff. Mr. Woodford had brought with him a very fine Silver Cup which he said he intended to present to the C. & E. Preventive Service Sports Club for competition amongst the various ports on the football field. He said also that he would propose that the trophy should be inscribed as the "Lupton Cup." The Service owes yet another debt of gratitude to the Inspector-General in providing this fine incentive for inter-port sport and particularly so in view of the fact that the gift will provide a perpetual memory of one who has done so much to further sport and social progress in the Waterguard.

Southampton has already indicated its intention of being the first name inscribed on the Cup but no doubt many other ports will have something to say, and do, about it.

It is understood that arrangements are in train for a football match at Liverpool at which the visitors will be from London. This will take place on 6th April.

Speaking of football matches reminds me that a unique match will take place on the ground of the Arsenal Club on April 20th, at 6 p.m. An eleven drawn from the Durham Social Service (Unemployed) Centres will meet a representative Civil Service eleven.

Tickets are not yet available but applications may be made later to the Association Headquarters, Beer Lane, E.C.3.

\* \* \* \*

Additional to the details announced in the last issue regarding the Dinner-Dance of the Horticultural Society on 19th March, it is now learnt that Mr. C. H. Middleton, whose broadcasts on gardening are a regular feature of the B.B.C. programmes, will be present as a guest.

\* \* \* \*

An announcement has just been made of the promotion of Mr. J. Kerr to the vacancy created at Headquarters by the retirement of Mr. W. J. Roberts, Inspector.

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## Important Notice

Subscribers and contributors are asked to note the change in the Editorial address.

THE EDITOR,

"THE CUSTOMS JOURNAL,"

93, FAIRFAX ROAD,

HORNSEY, LONDON, N.8.

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Head Office:

Thames Chambers,

13, Beer Lane,

London, E.C.3.

Telephone: ROYAL 4279.

President: W. E. STANDING.

General Secretary: W. H. POWELL.

Organising Secretary: A. E. FARMER.

Assistant Secretary: H. L. BOALCH.

### ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS.

In accordance with Rule 4, sub-para 2 (b) of the constitution of the Association the election of Grade Councillors in the Grades and Areas set out below is announced.

Nominations on the form printed herewith are requested. They may be signed by any two members of the Grade concerned stationed in the area, and should be forwarded in sufficient time to reach the undersigned at 13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3, on or before the 10th March next.

A. E. FARMER,  
Organising Secretary.

Election of **one C.P.O. Councillor**—Mr. P. W. HOWARD is retiring automatically under the above rule and is eligible for re-election.

Election of **P.O. Grade Councillor** in each of the following areas:—London, Liverpool, South Wales and Hull.

Election of **A.P.O. Grade Councillor** in each of the following areas:—South Coast, Gravesend, Tyne and Scotland.

The electoral areas are as follows:—

- London**, comprising East and West districts.
- Liverpool**, comprising Liverpool, Preston and Manchester districts.
- Cardiff**, comprising Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol districts.
- Gravesend**, comprising Gravesend and Harwich districts.
- South Coast**, comprising Plymouth, Southampton and Dover districts.
- Hull**, comprising Grimsby and Hull districts.
- Tyne**, comprising Hartlepool and Tyne districts.
- Scotland**, comprising Leith, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Belfast districts.

### CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

#### Election of Councillors.

##### NOMINATION FORM.

We, being two members of the above Association, hereby nominate

Mr. ....

as the.....grade representative for the.....Area.

Signature.....

I accept Nomination.

Signature.....

Signature.....

This form should be sent to the Organising Secretary, P.S.A., 13, Beer Lane, London, E.C.3. Closing date—10th March, 1937.

## This Business—

Yes, the business of Editorship is under entirely new management, yet, how often have we observed this notice at the premises of business people or at those of tradesmen, and have wondered whether the new undertaking will progress or do otherwise. In the case of tradespeople advancement rests upon the business ability of the new manager, coupled with the quality of the wares he purveys.

In the case of the "Journal," however, the Editor, no matter how hard he may work, can only offer reading of quality if sufficient copy of the right sort is submitted. There is no doubt about it, that Mr. Standing, our late Editor, has brought our paper up to a very high standard of perfection, but we do not intend for one moment to rest upon past laurels, for there is no earthly reason why this Journal of ours should not be one of the most interesting Service journals published; one that is looked forward to on the day of publication with a certainty of something interesting to read, and, maybe, to take home afterwards for further perusal.

I feel positive that this object can be achieved if I can obtain your support and enthusiasm. I am equally of the opinion, too, that there is a great deal of latent literary talent existing among the staff. There are dozens and dozens of subjects that you could write upon if you only give the matter your consideration. Of course, it is necessary to continue subjects of topical interest regarding Association activities, but at the same time, a succession of growls does not constitute a complete "Journal."

This publication of ours is essentially a Customs journal, and articles should generally deal with Service matters. I agree with a recent correspondent, that the Journal should not be a comic paper, neither a magazine, but, at the same time, we must realise that we have a comparatively large number of readers, and for the Journal to be popular it must, of a necessity, be versatile to cater for all readers.

Only the other day I was told that there did not appear to be a shortage of copy for insertion, but do not let that deter you from writing, for if your article does not appear in the next issue, it will not deteriorate by keeping.

However, for those who do not aspire to literary efforts, I would be much obliged if you would drop me a card giving a criticism and stating what you would like to see in the Journal. This would render me great assistance,

so that I could judge the trend of popular thought and act accordingly, for it is my earnest endeavour to please you all and to offer something that is interesting to everyone in the Service. Therefore, let us combine our efforts and achieve a journal that is on a par, if not better, than our contemporaries.

Anyway, it's up to you too, you know.

THE EDITOR.

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## Glasgow Notes.

We regret to record the passing, at the age of 78, of Mr. G. Murray, father of Mr. R. Murray, P.O., P.S.A. Scottish Councillor. Mr. Murray, senior, was well known throughout the Waterguard, having served in Liverpool, Cardiff, Middlesbrough and the Tyne in England, and at Dundee, Bo'ness, Glasgow and Greenock in Scotland. He retired from the last-named port in 1921, with the rank of P.O. Upper Section. It is interesting to note that his promotion to Upper Section P.O. was on account of his rummaging abilities. The sympathy of the Glasgow staff is extended to Mr. R. Murray, P.O., and his brother, Mr. G. Murray, P.O., Grangemouth, in their bereavement.

So far, it has not been possible to hold a full Glasgow District meeting to discuss the future of the P.S.A. Re-organisation proposals, but discussion among members is keen, with the balance hovering on the side of reconstruction WITH MODIFICATIONS.

A noteworthy change has to be recorded in connection with staffing. An increase of one A.P.O. each has been granted for Clydebank and Ardrossan, thus removing the long-standing anomaly of tidal attendance and restoring a three-legged A.P.O. watch at both places.

If rumour speaks correctly, changes advantageous to the staff may soon be in operation in Glasgow itself. But more of this anon.

One Glasgow A.P.O. doesn't see much prospect for the Junior Waterguard Officer, and has sat the limited competition for D.C.O.s. While questioning the wisdom of his choice, one cannot but wish him success in his effort to obtain a post with regular hours and the status of a "civvy"-clad Civil Servant. J.C.G.

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## Do You Know That—

The Long Room in the Custom House at London is 109 ft. in length, 66ft. in breadth and 55 ft. in height?

## Notable Notion by Nod.

Are your Codes up to date? Are your General Orders above suspicion? Can you say with any degree of certainty that this is so? No! decidedly not, and it is by realising the abject misery and despair that many of our Officers suffer in this respect that I, Nod, after many years of close study and exhaustive research have decided to introduce to the Preventive Staff my greatest work. I say with pardonable pride that it is the most stupendous, staggering and most amazing offer ever made to our Officers within human memory.

You are correct, Sir, it is the Kustoms Konsolidated- Kode. Never before has such an enormous task been attempted. It is in compact form comprising ten volumes, published by myself at no small cost, and printed by the People's Popular Press. This magnificent offer is within the reach of all, that is, providing they have the necessary.

Three editions are available. The de luxe edition is beautifully printed on India paper, fully bound in black morocco grained leather, 22ct. gold edges and title on spine and front ditto. A handsome addition to any library. Price 10 guineas. The useful edition is printed on cream wove paper with stout canvas covers. Very useful in the house. Weight 7 lb., price 8 guineas. The Everyday edition is printed on best art kitchen paper. Most useful for everyday use. In strong cardboard covers. Price 5 guineas.

Space here will not allow me to elaborate on the contents. The whole, however, is beautifully illustrated and contains many interesting photographs of "Old Sweats" now happily retired. (Split infinitive here? Ed.) NO, NOT NECESSARILY by NOD.) The first volume contains the Kodes Kondensed down to a minimum and all that is necessary for a Waterguard Officer to know. Should you want to know anything else ask your immediate superior Officer. After all what are they there for?

The rest of the volumes contain much useful information that all should know, of which the following is but a brief list. No line of demarkation regarding rank can be made but you can place it for yourselves.

Latin words and phrases with their meaning that can be used with safety.—Useful stock phrases, very handy for "padding" reports.—A list of big words and their etymology.—How to cultivate an educated voice.—Etiquette for beginners.—How to inspire confidence in your staff if capable of giving it.—A carefully compiled list of C.P.M.'s excuses.—How to detect forged signatures.—How to extract and replace a new leaf in your Journal.—The eradication of

red ink and the copying of original signatures.—How to keep your crew in order, at the same time remembering that "He rules best who rules quietly." Fifty-nine different languages in saying "Anything to declare?" and "Health to the King/Republic/and/or yourself.—An infallible system on how to run a duty slip book.—Happy half-hours during the night watch.—Various smuggling devices and "nifty" tools you can carry.—A comprehensive list of good doctors who will certify a common cold as acute bronchitis.—One hundred and one excuses for being late. All original and not tried out before.—The best way of getting on the right side of the C.P.O.'s man.—Various pick-me-ups.—How to make a marvellous "reviver."—etc., etc., etc.

Waste no time! Prepare now for your examination in 1950! Situations found when proficient! Send your money to me and I SHALL be pleased!

## Dinner at Eight.

Oh, Hello, chaps! Oh, Hello, Cads!  
Let's hope you're feeling versy;  
Just straighten out the Old School Tie:  
Read on—but judge with mercy.

There was a bloke lived near the Tyne,  
Said, let us, Saint and Sinner,  
Forgather in some nice, big place  
And hold a Waterguard Dinner.

Straightway, then, he and other blokes  
Set to and fixed up details  
Decided on a Dinner Night,  
But not with Starch and Coat-tails,  
With, after Dinner, verse and song,  
And "Tricks" and band selections,  
To put the Blokes in fettle fine,  
And leave out no exceptions.

They fixed it up—at much expense;  
Sent round to all the Stations  
The kindly word: Oh, roll up, chaps,  
Let's dine—we're all relations.

You Blokes that sing, you Blokes that play,  
You Blokes that tell a story;  
Your voices clear, your fiddles scrape—  
Let's have some fun—not glory!

And so it was—and so they did:  
They gathered at the table;  
Were dined and wined and entertained  
With music, dance and fable.

The Blokes turned up a hundred strong,  
Old-timer and beginner;  
Now every year we hope to see  
Our Annual Waterguard Dinner.

TYRCONNEL.

### Dover District Meeting.

A District Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 10th, to discuss the motion affecting the Reorganisation Scheme.

After lively discussion on the Scheme the following proposal was carried by 13 votes to 6:

"That this meeting is not prepared to endorse the previous Council's Instructions."

Various suggestions, such as staffing A.P.O. i/c ports, baggage ports and all aerodromes with P.O.s, were discussed. As a result the following proposal was put to the meeting and carried: "That the Association press for a public enquiry into the whole of the Waterguard Service."

A further suggestion that a sub-committee should be appointed to explore the possibilities of further promotion to the P.O. grade was favourably received, but the sub-committee would not take any action until the result of our proposals was known.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Knights.

### Grimsby District Meeting.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, 2nd inst., at the Pekin Buildings, Royal Dock, Grimsby, and was attended by Messrs. Snell, Chief P.O., Brown, Dean, Leach, Long, Niven, P.O.s, Bailey, Bloomfield, Fozard, Grimble, Hobbis, Potter, Thomsen, and Woodend, Assistant P.O.s.

This representative gathering, and the spirit in which the meeting was conducted, shows that in Grimsby, at least, the Association's old motto, "Each for all and all for each," is not yet a back number.

The proceedings were opened by the Chairman, Mr. Bailey, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

The Hull circular on Reorganisation came up next for consideration, and it was decided unanimously that "This be left on the table."

Discussion then took place on the Reorganisation proposals in the light of recent developments. Most speakers, whilst agreeing that if it were possible to obtain all that was asked for, the Scheme was good, expressed fears that its ultimate outcome would be to reduce the numbers of the P.O. grade. After lengthy discussion it was decided, on a majority vote, to advise the dropping of the Scheme in favour of a straight salary claim.

A motion was also carried to the effect that the P.O. grade be increased in numbers in order that the direct supervision of the coast, and C.P.M., may be performed by that grade.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman for the able manner in which he had directed the meeting.

### Hartlepool District Meeting.

The largest P.S.A. meeting ever held in the district took place at West Dock Waterguard Office, West Hartlepool, on Wednesday, 10th February, 1937. The Tyne Area Councillors (Messrs. Davies and Moore) and strong contingents from Middlesbro' and Sunderland, with Hartlepool members, constituted a record. Mr. Staniland, A.P.O., was in the Chair.

A full-dress debate on Reorganisation occupied nearly 2½ hours, and after a lively and general debate, in which all members had every opportunity of voicing their opinions, and after the resolution from Headquarters asking members to endorse going forward with the new proposals was put to the meeting, the Headquarters proposal was turned down on voting by a small majority. As this was constitutional I hope all members will accept the voting in good spirit. The main stumbling block appeared the J.P.O. grade. The question of a straight salary claim or Reorganisation was also fully discussed. It is hoped to hold another meeting in time for the next Conference, and members have promised to attend and produce new constructive proposals, which when, hammered together, may satisfy the views and opinions of P.O. and A.P.O. grades alike. I am sure all members will agree after this meeting that there is no quarrel between the P.O. and A.P.O. grades, as has been so grossly misrepresented. Members did, however, request that Headquarters cause a referendum of the two grades to be held before any further steps are taken.

A sincere vote of thanks to the Area Councillors and the Chairman concluded a memorable meeting. May we have many such.

J.B.

### Hull District Meeting.

A crowded meeting of the Preventive Staff Association was held at Minerva Pier on the 4th February last, when the Executive Committee's latest circular on the Reorganisation Scheme was the main theme of discussion. The meeting examined the scheme from all angles and finally the following resolution was passed without a dissident: "That this meeting does not approve of the E.C. proceeding immediately with the Reorganisation Scheme." It was also decided that, if necessary, a meeting of the Council should be called in connection with the matter. It was quite evident that all the members of both grades who attended the meeting were dead against the proposed introduction of the J.P.O. grade.

After this matter had been disposed of, discussion turned on the composition of the E.C., and a proposal to amend the constitution of the Association was moved as follows: "That the Association revert to annual conferences and that the E.C. be elected from the Councillors attending that meeting." The resolution was carried unanimously.

Before the meeting closed the members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. A. Rhodes, A.P.O., who had died suddenly at his home a week previously. R.W.B.

### London District Meeting.

A well-attended meeting of the London Branch of the P.S.A. gathered at the St. Katharine's Dock Hotel on Tuesday, 9th February, to discuss whether or not it should endorse the previous instructions to Councillors in respect of the approved Reorganisation Scheme.

A very interesting debate took place on the resolution, which called for a re-affirmation of the instructions given to Councillors to proceed with reorganisation.

Several amendments to the proposal were put forward, discussed and defeated; among them being that we should proceed with a direct salary claim instead of reorganisation.

An amendment put forward and carried resulted in the original motion with its amendment being placed before the meeting:— "That this meeting endorses previous instructions to Councillors, with the addition, that seizure rewards for the P.O. grade be abolished." The resolution was carried without a single dissentient.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was unanimously carried "That this meeting expresses its confidence in the Executive Committee, particularly in the General Secretary. Further, it expresses its appreciation for the vast amount of work expended in the preparation of the Re-organisation Scheme over a period of three years.

W.W.B.

### Merseyside District Meeting.

A Special General Meeting of the P.S.A. was held at the Bradford Hotel on Tuesday, Feb. 9th, to discuss the all-important and topical subject of Reorganisation.

After the reading of a letter from the General Secretary, explaining the object of the meeting, the District Secretary, Mr. W. B. Clayson, moved "that this meeting endorses Council's

instructions that the Executive Committee proceed with the adopted Scheme of Reorganisation," and the meeting was opened to discussion. This discussion lasted two and a half hours, various speakers airing their views, and when at last the proposal was voted upon it was found that the meeting was exactly divided. It was divulged, however, that fifteen members, unable to attend, had written to the District Secretary expressing their opinions, and these being counted as votes, the proposal was defeated. Thus the scheme was vetoed.

This was the best-attended meeting held in Liverpool for a number of years, and the revival of interest on the part of the officers attending is very welcome, in view of the apathy which in recent years has been lying like a drug upon P.S.A. activity in the district. We venture to express the hope that this concern for the welfare of the staff, through the Association, will not only continue, but even extend, perhaps, to financial support in the way of subscriptions. J.W.D.

## THE CUSTOMS FUND.

### NOTICE.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Subscribers to the CUSTOMS ANNUITY AND BENEVOLENT FUND, INCORPORATED, will be held in the REFRESHMENT CLUB, CUSTOM HOUSE, E.C.3, on THURSDAY, the 1st APRIL, 1937, at five o'clock p.m., in accordance with the provisions of Rule 28; also for the purpose of electing three Directors and one Auditor in the place of the undermentioned Gentlemen, who, in accordance with the provisions of Rules 20 and 21 go out of office on that day, but are respectively eligible for re-election.

#### Directors:

W. Henderson, Esq., O.B.E.  
A. G. May, Esq.  
A. J. Taylor, Esq.

#### Auditor:

F. G. Perkins, Esq.

H. H. HOLLAND, Secretary.

Customs Fund Office,

H.M. Customs & Excise,  
London, E.C.3.

27th February, 1937.

## “Whither Waterguard?”

The Reorganisation scheme—whether it lives or dies—will be acknowledged by all as being the means of arousing flagging interest amongst ourselves in ourselves. Apathy and complacency are giving way to enthusiasm; even the stumbling blocks are falling over themselves to express their views. This may be the “tide in our affairs which, taken at the flood, will lead us on”—but whither?

There seems to be a misguided tendency to trust heedlessly to the future which, we should realise, rests entirely with our action in the present. Though we of the Waterguard would like to agree to “Let the dead past bury its dead,” we appreciate that it is the philosophy of the poet rather than of the practical man. And the poet would need to exercise a good deal of licence to glorify the past of the Waterguard. But by retrospection we can avoid retrogression, and although we may not be rich in glorious tradition we have a wealth of experience to support our aspirations of the present. That we have continued to have aspirations speaks well of the resilience of the personnel of a department with a history of setbacks such as ours. That quality in our predecessors supports our own energies towards ensuring the welfare of our successors and establishing a department with a record of efficiency and integrity second to none; a department the name of which will not be a byword—“*only the Waterguard.*”

We have learnt from our earliest days in the Service to regret and to condemn the evils of the past (those good old days). We suffer to-day from the mysterious method of recruitment—the absurd tyranny which was a travesty of discipline (are there really those who would revive it?); the continual subjection of the Waterguard Officer as an individual and the department as a whole. And we have learnt, too, unfortunately, to deride the type of entrant amongst our predecessors. Likewise we have learnt to appreciate the work of those who have struggled for emancipation and by whose efforts we have progressed and will continue to progress.

There appear to be amongst us those who object to the march of progress and deny the need for reorganisation. If they be intelligent men let them take the Reorganisation Scheme and consider the proposals one by one. Let them delve deeply into the underlying reasons for each suggestion and let them be honest with themselves and be convinced. If the reme-

dies do not suit them, let them suggest some of their own. And let them remember our future depends on wise “statesmanship” to-day. Let those who come after us bless our wisdom, and let them have no reason to regard us as inferiors and with derision.

There also appear to be some who would secede from the United Front which our Association leaders have secured. Let those would-be secessionists take warning from mistakes of the past. Have they forgotten our experience in the Industrial Court when our salary claim, so near success, was weakened by the counter-reorganisation scheme, so that we suffer from its imposition to-day? Have they forgotten, too, how faulty staff organisation allowed us to be passed over in the post-war salary adjustments?

Let all differences, individual and grade, be sunk in this flood of real and active interest. Those differences, when examined, have no real substance. The A.P.O. must not abuse the P.O. who appears obstructive—he must keep in mind his ultimate object. The unreasoning P.O. must not regard the zealous A.P.O. as a usurper of his prerogatives. The A.P.O. has been, and, with his present capabilities, adequate training, and some stimulant to his zeal, will continue to be, his competent and loyal assistant. The C.P.O. who has in these days an understanding staff, can surely show some sympathy towards his subordinates. And out of our ranks, to-day, can be formed a new Service, God-fathered, we hope, by our Administrators, nursed by our Staff Side leaders, and carefully nurtured by ourselves, until it grows into that ideal department of our hopes. Let us all go forward, then, faithful to our Association, in unanimity and concord, knowing where we are bound. And I can complete my quotation—“the flood will lead us on to fortune” (or success). G.T.C.

<b>Customs Waterguard Associations</b>		
An Offer Worth Accepting	<b>COUPON</b>	Privileges to Members
<b>To KENDAL &amp; DENT</b>		
WATCHMAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY, &c Gold Medal, Paris Exhibition		
Manufacturing Goldsmiths, Wholesale Jewellers, &c		
<b>106 Cheapside, London, E.C.2.</b>		
Please send me, free of charge, a PRIVILEGE TICKET relating to your offer of Special Discount to members		
Name.....	Office.....	
Address .....		
.....		
This Coupon can be posted in an envelope under ½d. stamp		

## Correspondence.

To the Editor, "Customs Journal."  
Sir,

### REORGANISATION.

The object I had in mind when forwarding my first letter has been achieved—to halt the Reorganisation proposals until such time as members could give them District and Local consideration in a constitutional manner, and to arrest what appeared a breaking up of the Association, as we now know it, to the detriment of all concerned. As the proposals are now before the Districts it is well to await results, but the request for a referendum of all members will still be a necessity as a TRUE guide.

To all my letters I appended my name. I do not resent but welcome criticism, but only from members who also sign their names. I refuse to be drawn into discussion by any member who hides behind anonymity. If your cause is just and your principles sincere come out into the open. Fear no one. In passing I would like a brief word or two to some of the younger critics. On occasion their letters have not only been in bad taste but downright rude. Reading some of them I am sure many members will be struck with the thought that it is not Reorganisation, not promotion or responsibility that many of them want, but a good strong dose of DISCIPLINE. After all, we are a uniformed grade.

One accuses me of haste in constructive criticism. That can't be helped. I have not five years in which to prepare. Has he studied the new proposals? Here's one illustration: An A.P.O. goes to J.P.O. by selection. What if he is not selected and remains an A.P.O.? His maximum would be £215 p.a. At the present moment the A.P.O. maximum is £215 3s. That means the present well-thought-out proposals reduce the future A.P.O. 3/- per year below what he now gets. This is robbing Peter to pay Paul with a vengeance. Again, £4 per week as an A.P.O.'s minimum was ridiculed. I don't suppose £4 would ever ensue, but one must have a margin for bargaining. Perhaps this critic, and others, who say we have no case for a straight salary claim has missed the point. If they can say **now** what the members of the Industrial Court would be thinking on a certain day months hence, gentlemen whom they have never met, then they are wasting their time at £4 per week when a fortune as clairvoyants is awaiting them in the outside world.

J. BURKE, P.O.

Sir,

Should Reorganisation live, die or rise again in a new form, there is another object as vital as the removal of stagnation and one that might be more easily attained: increased overtime pay. There is a splendid case for an increase for the three Waterguard grades:—

1. C.P.O.—The salary for the important post he holds is too low. Better overtime pay would improve it without altering the scale of pay. This later would be a difficult thing.

2. P.O.—After a few years' service his overtime rate is less than his ordinary rate.

3. A.P.O.—As P.O.

I think on the grounds of fairness alone we could have had an increased rate of overtime long ago. But there were certain dangers. The Reorganisation scheme, however, includes a claim for increased overtime pay, and the General Secretary has said that we should now face the dangers. We should face them immediately with or without the Reorganisation scheme and get going right away. We don't want overtime, but as we have to have it we want adequate pay for it. C.F.S.

Sir,

If Mr. Spear does not possess a typewriter I must admire his industry. His last letter (13.2.37) is a valuable contribution to the furtherance of an ideal Preventive Service. However, a different view on one or two of the points stressed by him induces me to reply.

I also am not enamoured of the title or introduction of the J.P.O. grade, **providing** that work now performed by A.P.O.s would be recognised officially, but it is because I cannot see senior A.P.O.s being **officially** recognised both by increased responsibility and increased remuneration without being classified or upgraded that I support the introduction of a J.P.O. grade.

Now to the snag of J.P.O.s performing P.O. work at J.P.O. rates. This snag is feared by many, but it should not be allowed to arise.

J.P.O.s should not perform the duties proper to the P.O. grade unless in receipt of an acting allowance (as at present) to emphasise the fact that they are **temporarily** performing work proper to that of a higher grade. This clause should be an established fact in any scheme submitted. Throughout my area, as occasion arose, I have endeavoured to emphasise the foregoing and to point out that some alternative schemes submitted were open to the abuse mentioned by Mr. Spear and visualised by many others.

A.C.B. stresses the security of an earlier examination.

Officially recognised responsibilities and duties, a salary commensurate with them, and sure, if slow, promotion to P.O. A reasonable desire, don't you agree?

Between the ages of 25 and 35 the majority of A.P.O.s have the ability and the **desire** to give useful and intelligent service to the Crown. Don't stultify that natural urge to perform useful and responsible work.

I am, etc.,

F. S. LEWIS.

## “Walker” Appeal Fund.

Mrs. A. J. Walker, widow of Mr. A. J. Walker, late Assistant Preventive Officer, Grimsby, wishes to extend her most sincere thanks to all who helped to make this tangible expression of their sympathy. She is particularly grateful to the gentlemen who served on the Committee:—Mr. Wratten, Collector, Grimsby; Mr. Perry, Assistant Collector, Grimsby, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. Jacklin, Officer, Grimsby; Mr. Green, Waterguard Surveyor, Grimsby; Mr. Groat, Chief Preventive Officer, Grimsby; Mr. Potter, Assistant Preventive Officer, Grimsby; through whose untiring efforts the Appeal was so successful.

The Committee also wish to thank all those who responded to the Appeal.

The following is a complete list of donations:—

	£	s.	d.
The Collector's Office, Grimsby ...	8	10	0
The Landing Staff, Grimsby, 1st and 2nd District ... ..	8	13	0
The Grimsby Waterguard Staff ...	11	18	6
The Immingham C. & E. Staff ...	2	11	0
The Boston C. & E. Staff ...	2	4	6
The Hull Waterguard Staff ...	3	13	0
The Southampton Waterguard Staff ...	7	0	0
The London Waterguard Staff ...	4	5	0
The Home Office Officials, Grimsby ...	0	15	0
Mr. Belsham, A.P.O., Gravesend ...	0	10	0
„ Cuthill, A.P.O., Dundee ...	1	10	0
„ Ellingham, A.P.O., Gravesend ...	0	7	6
„ Hate, P.O., Swansea ...	0	5	0
„ Kinnaird, A.P.O., Leith ...	0	10	0
„ Marshall, P.O., London ...	0	10	0
„ Masson, Officer, Dundee ...	0	10	0
„ Pigg, A.P.O., Liverpool ...	0	2	6
„ Simms, P.O., Harwich ...	0	5	0
Grand Total ...	£54	0	0

## C. & E. Orphans', Widows' and War Memorial Fund.

The Quarterly Meeting was held in Room 120, Custom House, E.C.3, on Monday, January 4th, at 5 p.m. Mr. T. Morton, M.B.E., Vice-President, presiding over a good gathering of members. A distinguished member of the Committee, A. S. Lupton, Esq., C.B.E., attended for the last time prior to retirement on superannuation. His active interest in the work of the Fund has been a marked feature of a long association. Mr. Lupton carries with him into retirement the good wishes of all members of the Executive Committee.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and the Hon. Secretary's quarterly

financial statement was presented and adopted. Income from subscriptions, donations and dividends, amounted to £1,082, and expenditure, under various Rules, amounted to £935.

There were 81 candidates for membership of the Fund, and all were elected. These new members comprised 12 Officers, 11 U.Os, 14 A.P.O.s, 1 E.O., 2 H.C.O.s, 29, D.C.O.s, 6 C.O.s, 5 W.C.D.O.s, and 1 Typist.

New applications for assistance were considered by the Committee. Grants to assist in the maintenance and education of children were made to three widows at an annual cost to the Fund of £30 per annum, per family, under R.23. Grants under R.26 were made to 7 widows, 3 at £20 each, and 4 at £15 each. One application was referred back for further inquiry. A grant of £20 was made under R.27 (a case where the bread-winner of a family is physically incapable of attending to his official duties).

Seventeen widows had applied for renewals of grants. The Committee made 6 grants of £20, and 9 grants of £15, under R.26, and 1 grant of £20 was made under R.27. One application was disallowed.

The report of a sub-committee on minor amendments of the Rules was adopted, and the suggested amendments will be on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting in June next.

Two vacancies on the Committee were filled by the election of Mr. W. J. Alden, Chief Clerk, and Mr. G. Washington, D.C.O.

A strenuous evening terminated at 7.20 p.m. with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

## Obituary.

### MR. G. E. RICKS, A.P.O.

Members of the Service in many parts of the country will be shocked to hear of the death of Mr. G. E. Ricks, A.P.O., of Avonmouth, after 26 years' service. He passed away after a brief illness on Thursday, 11th February, and on Tuesday, 16th February, his colleagues bore him on his last journey.

The esteem and respect in which he was held was apparent from the large number of Waterguard Officers of all grades, Landing Staff, Immigration, Sanitary, and Dock Authorities who attended the funeral.

George's cheery face will be sadly missed from the office at Avonmouth, where he held the position of Office A.P.O. for so many years. His devotion to duty was ever coupled with good nature, the desire to advise and assist all with whom he came into contact, which characteristics earned him the love of service and shipping fraternity alike. He leaves a grief-stricken wife and daughter, to whom our hearts go out in deepest sympathy.

F.S.

## Civil Service Veterans.

The success of the various associations of veterans in the Post Office has caused a feeling that similar associations might be formed in other Departments, and the National Staff Side was kind enough to call a meeting recently, at which Mr. W. E. Llewellyn, Chairman of the National Staff Side, presided.

Briefly, the Post Office position is as follows: Where there is a sufficient number of Post Office veterans in a town, they form themselves into an association for social purposes, such as concerts, whist drives, excursions into the country and other places of interest. They get concessions such as special rates for Boots' Library, and some of them have other activities. The main object is to give old colleagues a chance to "fight their battles o'er again," and, generally speaking, they are "all grades" associations. There are exceptions to this rule. The London Postal Supervising Association has a Veterans Section, the members of which remain associates of their old society, and it may be mentioned that, in the general service, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants has something similar.

There is no hard-and-fast rule, nor is it sought to impose one, but it may be added that, although every society is autonomous, and there are a number, a Federation has been formed, and through it a monthly journal, called "The Veteran," is circulated to members.

All sorts of interesting reunions have taken place, old friends who have not met for many years have found one another, men and women who have removed far away from their old offices have found new friends in their local veterans' associations, and in some places ex-Civil Servants from Departments other than the Post Office have become associate members of the nearest Post Office Veterans.

The meeting presided over by Mr. Llewellyn agreed to appoint a Committee, of retired people, to consider the possibility of a wider movement to embrace all Departments. It is composed of:—

- Mr. G. H. Court (Chairman), Superintending Clerk, Admiralty.
- Mr. E. J. Nevill, Head Postmaster.
- Mr. J. W. Bowen, Ex-General Secretary, Union of Post Office Workers.
- Mr. F. W. Stammers, Staff Officer, Patent Office.
- Mr. A. R. Wilkin, Overseer, General Post Office.
- Mr. G. H. Stuart-Bunning (Secretary), Ex-Chairman, National Staff Side, National Whitley Council.

The main purpose of the Committee at the moment is to ascertain whether there is a demand for such a movement as to warrant going on with a scheme. That there is a demand is known. What is not known is the strength of the demand.

No policy has been considered and the suggestions which follow are simply ideas which have been mentioned, and the Committee will welcome further suggestions and criticisms. It will be well to summarise them:—

1. Wherever possible, veterans of a particular Department shall form an association.
2. Where numbers or other circumstances render this impossible, a Veterans' Association of various Departments shall be formed.
3. The main principle shall be an all-grades movement and the minimum subscription shall be one shilling per year. Naturally higher subscriptions will be welcome, but this to be purely a matter for the individual member.
4. That sixpence per member be allocated to a Federation of the Associations, mainly to pay the cost of a small monthly journal to each member.

Any veteran who reads the above is at liberty to tear any or all the suggestions to pieces, but the primary thing the Committee desires to know is whether there is a general desire for such a movement. Please write to Mr. G. H. Stuart-Bunning, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Do not send any money yet.

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## Changes in the Staff.

TO 15th FEBRUARY, 1937.

### APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—  
Weeks, F. W. O.

### TRANSFERS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—  
Bell, G. R. B. P., Liverpool to Newcastle.  
Gubbins, J. K., London to Newhaven, Brighton.  
Lister, A. H., Liverpool to Immingham, Grimsby.  
Pearce, W. T., Cardiff to London.  
Stanley, R. H., Milford Haven, Swansea, to Dover.

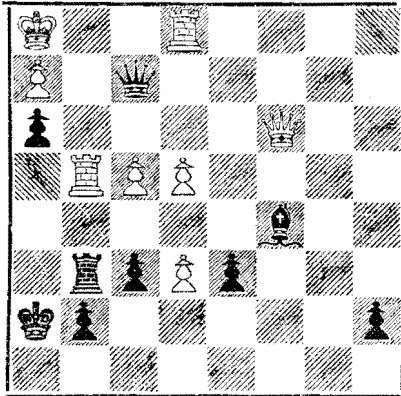
### RETIREMENTS.

Fell, A., Plymouth.  
PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—  
Collings, G. P., Liverpool.

**Preventive Staff Chess Club.**

**PROBLEM NO. 148.**

WHITE



BLACK

Mate in two. Black to play.

**Solution to No. 147.**

1. Kt—Kt6 dis. ch. K—B2.
2. Kt.×R mate.

**HULL WATERGUARD SPORTS CLUB.**

Another successful whist drive and dance was held under the auspices of the above club on the 2nd of February last. A pouring rain took the place of the dense fog experienced on the evening of the previous event of this nature, but this did not damp the spirits of those attending, who were over 300 in number. Mr. W. F. Read was M.C. for the whist, whilst Mr. K. Fieldhouse acted in the same capacity for the dancing. Mrs. Burkey presented the prizes for whist, after which Mr. Read proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Burkey for their kindly interest in the club's social functions, mentioning the fact of Mr. Burkey's impending retirement. The vote was carried with great acclamation. In addition to those mentioned above, the following were also present: Mr. C. L. Foster (Asst. Collector) and his wife, Mr. T. Forth (retired Waterguard Superintendent), Messrs. P. W. Howard, R. J. Girling and W. G. Manson (C.P.O.s) and their wives, and Mr. S. C. Steel, (C.P.O.). R.W.B.

**MERSEYSIDE FOOTBALL.**

We have pleasure in recording two further league victories on the past two Wednesdays, 10th and 17th February, when we defeated Hanson's Dairies F.C. by six goals to nil, and Bootle Shop Assistants' F.C. by seven goals to one. The side is all set for the Hambleton Cup, and if present form is maintained, to use a colloquial expression, "it's in the bag." His many admirers will be pleased to note that our veteran inside left, "Ould Ned," scored a hat trick in the Bootle match, in spite of the fact that he declared himself unfit to play. Long may he continue. J.W.D.

**Civil Service Educational Council.**

**DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.**

**University of London.**

The Council is glad to be in a position to announce the removal of the matriculation qualification which hitherto has prevented large numbers of Civil Servants from sitting for the Examination conducted by the University of London for the Diploma in Public Administration.

Since the inauguration of the Diploma, possession of the matriculation qualification has been essential before a student could sit at the Diploma Examination, and the agreement of the University that it is no longer necessary is extremely important.

The negotiations on the subject have been difficult and prolonged, but students contemplating entering for the examination next year, will now be in a position to arrange their studies with the knowledge that whether they have matriculated or not their entry will be valid. The concession applies to the whole of the Civil Service without distinction of sex, age, or grade.

The examinations for the intermediate Diplomas in single subjects in the Public Administration Course, will be carried on as heretofore by the Civil Service Educational Council.

Full information concerning the Examinations and the special lectures and tuition held in connection therewith can be obtained from the Secretary, Civil Service Educational Council, Parliament Mansions, Westminster, S.W.1.