

# The Customs Journal

VOL. 34. No. 846.

March 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.



AS the date of the Half-Yearly Conference draws near, so the time available to District Secretaries in which to forward amendments to the Constitution and Resolutions for inclusion in the Agenda is shortened. At the moment there would appear to be a tendency to avoid the creation of new business in order to give a clear field to the major item. Whether this is intentional or not it is hard to say, but it is in many respects commendable in that it tends to indicate a definite, if rather belated, attempt to get on with an all-important job.

It is with great pleasure we announce that Mr. C. M. Woodford, O.B.E., has expressed his willingness to perform the opening ceremony at the Conference.

\* \* \* \*

Arrangements have been made for a meeting of the Waterguard Sectional Committee to take place in April and the date has been provisionally fixed for April 22nd.

Opportunity is taken here to refer to the recent illness of the new Chairman, Mr. C. W. Hardisty, and to express our sincere hope that he is now completely recovered.

\* \* \* \*

The question of the adequacy of Government Air-Raid precautions as affecting Civil Servants is receiving serious attention of Staff Sides, both Nationally and Departmentally.

At the last meeting of the Joint Committee (C. & E. Associations) a detailed report was given of the recent Conference held in London on this subject and, whilst it is not the intention of the Committee at this juncture to initiate action, nevertheless the situation is being watched very closely.

\* \* \* \*

When the Annual Report of the C. & E. Social Service Association is presented at the Annual Meeting on 26th May the members will have a pleasant surprise at the steady growth in membership and income, and still further pleasure in hearing of the extended scope of the benefits dispersed over a widened area. Amongst the adopted centres on the Association list will be noted several additions in Cumberland, Scotland, Northern Ireland and London. The question of Holiday Camps for unemployed men and their families is receiving close attention and it is hoped to extend last year's effort.

The football match between Cumberland Unemployed and the Civil Service is attracting a lot of attention and the tickets (1/-, 2/- and 3/6d.) are selling at such a rate that normal Saturday afternoon conditions may be expected at Highbury at 6 p.m. on April 20th.

It is announced that H.R.H. Duke of Kent has promised to be present and, to add further

interest to the match, Mr. Alex James the famous footballer will be the referee.

\* \* \* \*

The Horticultural Society's Annual Dinner on the 19th March was a very pleasant affair. In spite of the smaller numbers (or possibly because of this) the function was quite up to the high standard of previous dinners even in the limited accommodation.

Mr. C. H. Middleton, N.D.H., of the B.B.C., in proposing the toast of the Society in his inimitable style, referred to several amusing incidents in his contacts with this Department as an Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Chairman, Mr. J. W. Butcher, replied for the Society.

\* \* \* \*

The fact that these notes are shorter than usual is due to the incidence of the Easter Holidays and the fact that the day of going to press has been brought forward to ensure despatch on the 25th instant.

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## Scotland and Northern Ireland Area.

Gentlemen,

Will any member in the above area who has not already forwarded his views on the Re-organisation to me be good enough to do so before the half-yearly Conference. There may be a few members whom I have overlooked.

Yours faithfully,

R. M. MURRAY.

104, Mossspark Oval,  
Mossspark,  
Glasgow.

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## The C. & E. Dramatic Society.

Encouraged by a recent experiment in the Edgar Wallace line ("The Ringer"), the C. & E. Dramatic Society is attempting to go one better by way of enlisting and retaining your interest, and will present "ON THE SPOT," as its next venture.

This vivid play will be presented on 13th and 14th April next (Tuesday and Wednesday), at The Cripplegate Theatre, Golden Lane, London, E.C.1, at 7.45 p.m.

The Box Office Manager is Mr. A. J. Doust, 19, Ocean House, London, E.C.3. You may book seats. Prices are 1/-, 1/6, 2/6 and 3/6 inclusive.



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General Secretary: W. H. POWELL.

Organising Secretary: A. E. FARMER.

Assistant Secretary: H. L. BOALCH.

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## Changes in the Staff.

TO 15th MARCH, 1937.

### APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Goodfellow, J. W.

Layton, E. S.

### TRANSFERS.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR, WATERGUARD:—

Lewin, R. P., Unattached to Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT:—

O'Flynn, M. P., Unattached to Plymouth.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Buchanan, W. W., Weymouth, Southampton to Maldon, Ipswich.

Hoare, J., Cardiff to Weymouth, Southampton.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Allen, H. W., West Hartlepool, Sunderland to Hull.

Ferenbach, J. P., Troon, Greenock to Burntisland, Dundee.

### PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR TO INSPECTOR:—

Kerr, J., Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

WATERGUARD SURVEYOR TO ASSISTANT INSPECTOR, UNATTACHED:—

Griffin, A., Preston.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO WATERGUARD SURVEYOR, UNATTACHED:—

Matheson, D., Glasgow.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

### RETIREMENTS.

INSPECTOR:—

Roberts, W. J., Office of Inspector-General of Waterguard.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Phillips, H. M., Salcombe, Plymouth.

### RESIGNATION.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Flower, K., Holyhead, Chester.

## Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council.

The one hundred and ninety-third meeting of the Council was held at the Custom House, E.C.3, on Wednesday, 24th February, 1937, the Chair being taken by Sir G. Evelyn P. Murray, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### Remuneration and Establishment.

The only item under this heading which came up for treatment arose on the resumed discussion of the daily rate to be paid to an Extra-man employed at a Land Boundary Station, and the Staff Side maintained their attitude that the employment of this man on the duties of a Land Preventive Man justified as a minimum the award of 9s. 3d. per 8-hour day—one-sixth of the weekly wage of a Land Preventive Man. The Official Side stated that they were not prepared to advance beyond the offer of 7s. 6d. per day made at the previous meeting, representing an increase of 1s. 10d. per day, and disagreement was recorded.

### Staffing and Methods of Work.

The bulk of the discussion arose under this heading, and, after a résumé of the present position, the questions of the control and staffing at Gatwick and Gravesend Aerodromes were re-adjourned for three months. Excise Station schemes in Cardiff and Aberdeen Collections were approved, and Woman Pension Officer schemes in Birmingham were ratified. After further discussion, the schemes for London Central Export Stations were re-adjourned, the Staff Side desiring further examination of the time value basis of the schemes, and the Official Side desiring investigation of the relief question. Two established and one unestablished Paper-Keeper posts were agreed upon for Headquarters' Offices, and a Secretaries' Office agreement changing the titles of the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Intelligence Branch to Chief of Intelligence Branch (Assistant Secretary) and Deputy Chief of Intelligence Branch (Principal) was approved.

On resumption of the discussion on the scheme of attendance at Markinch Station the Official Side said that the approved scheme was now in operation, but during the season of Christmas pressure it had been necessary to operate a different scheme. It was hoped that additional warehouse space would obviate the necessity for extended attendances in future. The Staff Side urged that all efforts should be made to limit extended working as far as possible, and that proper discussion should be afforded in respect of any future schemes of attendances varying the agreed arrangement. A locally agreed scheme of rotation of duties in Leith Collection was ratified on the understanding that the arrangement was subject to

the provisions of General Order 12/1933—this matter having been adjourned for the Official Side at the previous meeting.

A further item previously adjourned was the Newcastle disagreement on an Official Side proposal for the introduction of a temporary scheme for Newcastle Port as an experimental measure.

The Official Side said that the experimental temporary scheme upon which disagreement had been reached locally was actually in operation, and that it was hoped to produce firm staffing proposals in the near future. It was essential that decentralisation to at least five points of operation should be introduced, and the working of the present experiment on a partial application of the ultimate decentralisation would afford a valuable guide to future staffing requirements. Confirmation of the disagreement seemed the best course to take. The Staff Side pointed out that the local Staff Side had in fact tabled proposals of their own on a three-point operation basis, and that these proposals did not appear to have been discussed. They could not avoid sharing the apprehension of the local Staff Side upon the possible accommodation difficulties and upon the locally expressed views as to reduction of staff.

The Official Side said that at least five points of control were essential to the proper working of the Port, that local Staff Side representations would be considered in the normal way, that they were convinced that the office accommodation points could be met, and that they had an open mind on the question of the ultimate staffing requirements.

The disagreement was then confirmed.

### Instructions—Headquarters' Treatment.

The Staff Side referred to the agreement in 1931 when the revision of Instructions, General Orders, etc., was delegated to a Secretaries' Office Committee, and stated that they understood a change was being made. The Official Side replied that they were proposing to put the matter of revision of all instructions in the charge of an Assistant Secretary with power to consult whomsoever was concerned. The responsibility would thus be centralised in one individual.

The Staff Side had no comments to offer and asked that a record might be made in the minutes.

### Promotion—Controlling Grade Vacancy.

The Staff Side drew attention to a vacancy in the Controlling Grade and asked when interviews might be expected in connection therewith. The Official Side replied that owing to the incidence of forthcoming retirements they had considered it advisable to defer the interviews for a time, but they would be held in April and any vacancy would be filled shortly thereafter.

## Glasgow Presentation.

At an informal gathering of the Staff in Mavisbank on Thursday, February 25th, Mr. David Matheson was the recipient of gifts and sincere good wishes to mark his promotion to the rank of Waterguard Surveyor. Mr. F. F. Shannon, P.O., occupied the chair, and the presentation of a Rolls Razor, a Parker Fountain Pen and a Thorens lighter was made by the "Super," Mr. Ross.

Messrs. Gibson, Shannon, Kavanagh and Caley expressed the good wishes of the P.O. grade and Messrs. Kennedy and Stewart, A.P.O.s, testified to the consideration and encouragement which Mr. Matheson had given at all times to the A.P.O.s. Mr. Costaine, C.P.O., recalled old days in Hull with Mr. Matheson, who had been his tutor for the P.O.'s exam., and joined his own good wishes for Mr. Matheson's future success to those of the Glasgow Staff.

In reply, Mr. Matheson said that this was one of the few occasions which found him at a loss for words. He could only thank the staff for their gifts and expressions of good will, and assure them that he would always have happy memories of his sojourn on the banks of the Clyde.

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## Cardiff District.

### NOTICE OF DISTRICT MEETING.

It is intended to hold a District Meeting at the Old Arcade Hotel, Church Street, Cardiff, either on the 20th or 21st April, 1937.

As all members are aware the Re-organisation Scheme at present is at a standstill and is being left so until the next Conference, to be held on the 27th and 28th April next, when a decision is to be made as to future action.

All members have had individual copies of the scheme placed in their hands so as to enlighten them with the full details and this meeting has been arranged well in advance, and by this method of publication I hope that everyone will become acquainted with the date and turn up, thereby giving our Councillors your views and backing as to which way you wish them to vote at the Conference.

Don't forget, gentlemen, this is the place to bring or send (if you really cannot turn up) your views, so make a note of the dates (actual date will be circulated as soon as possible) and turn up, whether you are for or against Re-organisation.

S. S.,  
District Secretary.

## Glasgow Meeting.

There was a good attendance of members at the P.S.A. meeting held in Mavisbank on Wednesday, 3rd March. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted, and the District Secretary, Mr. H. Gibson, P.O., then dealt with the principal item on the agenda, which was the P.O. and A.P.O. leave schemes.

The recent staff increases in Glasgow combined with the incidence of out-port relief, have made the drawing up of an acceptable leave scheme a difficult and arduous task. Our District Secretary deserves the thanks of all members for the able manner in which he put forward the Staff side views on this matter.

Mr. Gibson also reported that the Board were prepared to grant a further increase of one P.O. and one A.P.O. to Glasgow, these officers to be available for general duty during an experimental period, after which the Staff Side proposals for re-scheming within the port would receive consideration.

Mr. Murray, P.O., Scottish Councillor, reported that a plebiscite of members in the Scottish Area revealed a majority in favour of Re-organisation. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the Chair. J.C.G.

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## Without Comment.

There is no greater disloyalty to the pioneers of progress than to refuse to budge an inch from where they stood.—Dean Inge.

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## Do You Know—

That in March, 1913, the "North Western Daily Mail" said, "It is to be seriously doubted whether every airship that takes late and unauthorised flights over our startled islands is directed by the military birdman of hostile Powers, says a correspondent. There is at least a possibility that the high-flyers are comparatively harmless smugglers who are risking their lives and spoiling a night's rest for purely commercial ends.

As soon as flying is practised on a sufficiently large scale the question of smuggling by air will take the place that smuggling by sea once occupied, and a new type of excise men will need to be evolved. But at present the aerial road is comparatively clear, and, at the risk of observation by the curious, who are a long way off, a man might readily contrive to land from an airship an amount of dutiable goods that would soon pay the cost of his outfit. Saccharin, for example, pays a large duty and takes but little room?"

### Nervous Nothings, by Nod.

Yes, I have fallen a victim—nay, a martyr—to that terrible malady, influenza; and as I lay racked with pain upon my scented couch, I must perchance give a thought to my readers. I had in the course of preparation a brilliant article on the Origin of Biological Science from the Early Egyptians to the Arabs, but I'm afraid that it has gone the same way as the packet of paper handkerchiefs that my wife brought me. No doubt you have read the advertisements in the papers giving lists of the symptoms of influenza. Well, I had all those and some more.

At the onset of my indisposition I thanked my lucky stars that my affairs were in fairly good order. The rates are still to be paid and one or two insurances have lapsed for a time, while the last instalment on the wireless set is still outstanding. Otherwise, as far as I can remember, things are pretty fair. Any money that I have or may have at my demise will be distributed in unequal portions to my cadaverous and avaricious family.

After my two days "without medical" had elapsed, I realised that it was essential that my Merry Medico should be called. He is an awfully decent sort of chap when one is ill, but is apt to be rather pressing when one enjoys the best of health.

However, the doctor called, and as he entered my room he gave one look at me and gasped, "Good Heavens! What's the matter with you, man?" I managed to force an inane smile and mutter that was what I promised to pay him for. He looked at me very dubiously for a while and pulled something from his pocket. I thought at first that it was one of those fountain pens from which a silly little snake thing jumps out when you take the cap off, but it happened to contain a thermometer which he thrust under my arm. While he was waiting for the machinery to work he helped himself to my lemonade and soda. After a second peg he withdrew the instrument, gave one glance at it, and roared at my wife, "Good Heavens, madam! What have you been giving this man? Rhubarb wine? and look at his head. Is that his normal head or has he just had promotion? Your husband is in the secondary stage of double coryza and must be sent to Colney Hatch at once."

I became thoroughly alarmed at this and managed to struggle to a sitting posture, and tugging the doctor's sleeve implored him to tell me my temperature. "Temperature!" he shouted, "You haven't got one! it's 40 degrees below zero! I must call the Fire Brigade"—and gulping off the rest of my medicine he grabbed one of my old uniform hats and dashed from the house. I have since learned that the

poor old "doc." was overworked with about 2,000 patients but is now convalescing.

I have obtained the services of a very smart nurse. She has been so attentive that I have promised her three guineas a week. It appears that she comes from Gascony, so in order to please her, and to air my political knowledge I spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Hitler, but it seemed strange that my discourse did not seem to be appreciated. Subsequently I learnt, much to my amazement, that Gascony is in France.

Yvonne reads to me every afternoon. At first, reading took the form of extracts from Shakespeare, Pilgrim's Progress and an occasional delve into Immanuel Kant; but now I am getting much pleasure from the little books Yvonne brings me from her native Gascony, and although I cannot read them the illustrations are extremely interesting. I think I will promise her four guineas a week.

Some of my colleagues have been very good, for several have called to see me. One borrowed 5/-, while another said that as I was in dry-dock could he borrow my motor-bike? I don't mind, of course, but I wish that they wouldn't bring me nuts.

### Examination Pars.

Is there any truth in the rumour that owing to one or two questions at the oral the "Yorkshire Grey" is turning blue?

Who was the Officer when asked "What in your opinion is the necessary qualification of a Preventive Officer?" replied, "Look me over Bo"?

Who was it that burst into song on leaving Ocean House, howling, "Where's that Tiger?"

Who fell out of Ocean House and slipped into a "hole in the road?"

Who were the two Officers from the North who were asked if they would like to go up the Monument said they would sooner go into it?

And who was the Officer upon his return home smashed his wife's camera because he didn't "Leica"?

### Customs Waterguard Associations

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## The Camera and the Customs.

A belief has grown up that once a camera of foreign make has found its way into England without payment of duty it is once and for all exempt from payment of duty, and that on bringing it back into England at the expiration of a holiday it is sufficient for the owner to prove to the Customs that the camera was in his possession before he went abroad.

On the basis of this belief it has become customary to advise those who are taking a camera away on a holiday abroad to find a Customs officer at the port of departure, and to obtain from him a certificate that he has seen the camera. This certificate, when it could be obtained, has been regarded by its holder as a certain passport that would frank his camera through the Customs on his return.

### Authoritative Information.

Since the imposition of a general tariff, the Customs examination at the ports has necessarily become more rigorous, and we have taken it upon ourselves, for the information of our readers, to get in touch with the Customs authorities in order to have the position clarified.

In the first place, it is necessary to realise the position of the Customs officer when he is confronted by a passenger carrying an expensive camera of foreign manufacture. That camera may have been imported in the ordinary course of trade by the manufacturer's agent in this country; in that case it may be assumed that duty has been paid on it.

On the other hand it may have been imported by a private person and that private person may have paid duty upon it; or he may have smuggled it through in his pocket without declaring it. He may, however, have been allowed to bring in the camera free of duty because he had had it in his possession and use abroad for over a year; in that case the free admission of the camera would be conditional on the owner undertaking not to sell it.

Lastly, it may have been admitted free of duty when it was not entitled to be so admitted because the owner deceived the Customs; for example, by falsely pretending that he was merely in transit through this country and was not coming here to stay.

Now, if the camera is still in the possession of the first purchaser, who therefore knows all its history, the Customs officer's task is a comparatively easy one. His difficulties commence when the camera has changed hands, and its present owner knows nothing about its previous history.

The duty on foreign cameras is high, and there is no doubt that many cameras, particularly those of the expensive miniature type, do get into the country free of duty when, if

the true facts had been known, they would have been required to pay it. Obviously the mere proof of previous importation cannot be accepted as evidence that the camera is entitled to admission on the reimportation without payment of duty.

### A Common Fallacy.

The fact that a Customs officer may have been shown a camera by its owner before the latter went abroad, and may have issued a certificate that he has seen it (out of courtesy, since the issue of such a certificate is not part of his official duty), does contribute something to the knowledge of the previous history of the camera and to that extent is helpful to the officer who examines it on reimportation. But the belief that such a certificate is a valid passport to free passage through the Customs is a fallacy, for in law it remains liable to duty if this has not already been paid.

So many cameras which have improperly escaped duty on first importation are caught on a second or even third entry into the country that the Customs authorities may insist, in certain cases, that nothing short of proof that duty has already been paid can be accepted as entitling the camera to free passage through their barrier.

It must not be thought that the Customs authorities are unreasonable; they are often content with something far short of strictly legal evidence that duty has been paid. In cases where the passenger has bought his camera new from an agent or dealer, one of the most helpful documents that he can carry with him is the receipt giving particulars of the original purchase. This should show the date of purchase and serial number of camera and lens, and if the original has been mislaid most dealers will supply a duplicate or will write a letter setting out the facts of purchase.

### Another Useful Document

Where it is impracticable to get in touch with the dealer we would advise readers to communicate with the head office of the maker's agents in this country, giving full particulars of camera and lens and asking whether the camera was imported through their agency and, if so, whether they will be so kind as to give the writer a letter assuring him that duty was paid on importation.

The above covers the case of cameras already in their owners' possession. To readers who are contemplating purchasing a new camera we might mention that we have heard that Messrs. Leitz, the makers of Leica cameras, contemplate issuing a certificate with every camera they sell in this country, stating that duty has been paid on it. This certificate will not necessarily be accepted by the Customs authorities as legal proof of payment of duty,

but it may be assumed that for all practical purposes it will ordinarily serve to free the holder from trouble at the Customs barrier. Similarly, we are informed that the guarantee which will shortly be issued on request to customers of Zeiss Ikon Ltd. will be acceptable to the Customs.

Turning now to the cases of the many readers of "The A.P." who have bought cameras of foreign manufacture second-hand from dealers, private advertisers and others, we are afraid that their position is a somewhat more difficult one. Those who have bought from dealers can only rely upon the dealer to supply them with evidence of the camera's previous history; and we earnestly advise all dealers in second-hand cameras to consider the best interests of their customers and themselves by insisting on the production of evidence of payment of duty when they buy a camera in.

#### Help from the Customs

They should remember that if the seller paid the duty but has lost the duty receipt he can obtain a duplicate from the Customs authorities on request. If he says that he was not required to pay duty on the camera, that concession was almost certainly a personal concession to him, and by selling the camera he may render it liable to be detained by the Customs for payment of duty if at any time it should come to their notice, whereas if he had kept the camera in his own possession such liability would not have been incurred.

All that the dealer can do in the latter case and in the case of a seller who has himself bought the camera second-hand and cannot discover its previous history, is to obtain a written statement of the facts from the seller and pass it on with the camera to the buyer, who will then have to leave it to the discretion of the Customs whether he has to pay duty or not.

Very much the same procedure must be followed by the photographer who buys from a private person. Either he must have the duty receipt or a full statement of the circumstances in which the duty was not paid. Indeed, in the absence of the actual duty receipt, and particularly when the original importer is not known, we are strongly inclined to advise him (if he intends to take it abroad) not to buy at all, although he may, if he likes, approach the London agents in order to see whether the camera was originally imported through trade channels.

One thing is certain, and that is that if he buys a camera "blind," knowing nothing of its previous history, and takes it abroad with him, he runs a very grave risk of being called upon to pay the duty on return to this country, even though he has bought at a duty-paid price. It may hard on him in a sense; but the old Latin tag, *Caveat emptor* (Let the buyer be-

ware), is still the law of the land and readers would do well to remember it:—*By kind permission of "The Amateur Photographer and Cinematographer," March 17th, 1937.*

## CAMEO.

### POINT OF AYR.

There seems to be some doubt, in the minds of those who have heard of this outpost, as to the spelling of the Ayr, Air, or Ayre. I gather this is so by the frequency with which official documents reach here via Scotland or the Isle of Man. Of the historical connections of the word "Ayr," I know nothing, so that I can only give the spelling used by the Colliery here, who are practically in sole possession of the place.

The colliery appears rather out of place in the general surroundings. It commands a position on the Welsh side at the entrance of the River Dec, and a clear view of the Wirral on the opposite bank is generally obtainable. Alongside the coal-mine are the sandhills of Talacre, a now popular rendezvous for week-enders and campers in the summer. At the rear, the country rises sharply to grassy and wooded hills. The quay is alongside the colliery, and is reached by vessels by a long winding gutter from the Dec.

The Colliery has been working since 1885, but until 1924 the Customs work was performed by the P.O. at Mostyn. As the station at Mostyn was then discontinued, an A.P.O. was placed in charge of Point of Ayr. In 1928 an admirably constructed Custom House was built some 400 yards from the quay on the Colliery's private road to the main North Wales coast road. The A.P.O. works a seven-hour day with two night visits and one Sunday visit per month. Arrivals, which are all in ballast, from the Irish Free State average about 11 per month, and coast-wise about 32 per month. Occasional assistance is given to the P.O. Connahs Quay with the foreign arrivals at Mostyn and Rhyl.

Lodgings at 27s. to 30s. per week are obtainable in the village of Ffynnongroew, a quarter of an hour's walk from the Custom House. Prestatyn, five miles distant, affords a more modern scene of residence.

This district provides an excellent starting-point for the exploration of the scenic beauty of North Wales, and considering the scantiness of the population other entertainment is not lacking. Football, cricket, table tennis and billiards are popular. There are also numerous whist drives and occasional dances during the winter. Visits to the cinema entail journeys to Prestatyn (5 miles) or Rhyl (9 miles) by a frequent but expensive bus service, and convenient cheap railway excursions are run from Mostyn to all parts.

A.D.

## For Your Note-book.

There are very few of us who do not carry a note-book containing miscellaneous items that are of practical use whilst on duty. The multifarious knowledge that is necessary for a Waterguard Officer to know, coupled with the fact that an officer cannot carry the Codes around with him, prompts us to suggest commencing a column in this Journal containing items that may be of everyday use.

Whether the reader be a student A.P.O., a P.O., or perhaps those of higher rank, a little note-book of this description is not only desirable but requisite, therefore, officers are invited to submit little notes that may be of assistance. These may be cut out and, it is suggested, pasted in a note-book for easy reference.

**Dip Rod.** The rod is 3 feet in length,  $\frac{4}{10}$ ths of an inch square, and folds with joints to 9 inches in length. On one side is a diagonal of marked contents for casks, etc., of from 1 to 100 imperial gallons. On two other sides, reading from left to right, are lines of measurement for ullage casks, lying, of content from 8 quarts to 20 gallons; and, inversely, from right to left, for ullage casks of similar sizes standing. The fourth side is divided into inches and tenths of inches.

The diagonal line referred to above is formed thus: by experiment a cask of 40 gallons has a diagonal of 26 inches, therefore 40 gallons are marked against 26 inches, and as the content of casks vary as the cube of their diagonals, we have the formula, 26 inches (3) : any given diagonal (3) :: 40 gallons : content.

**How to use Rod.**—To find the content of a cask lying take the rod and, keeping the side marked imperial gallons uppermost, insert the chisel end through the bung-hole to the chine of the cask, where the bottom stave meets the head. Note the figure or mark on the rod at the centre of the bung-hole in line with the lower side of the stave. Take a second diagonal towards the other head, and the "mean" gives the content of the cask.

If the cask is only partly full, the next step is to find the ullage quantity. This is done in the case of a cask lying by taking a perpendicular dip through the bung-hole with the chisel end of the rod, noting the wet inches, and reading off from the ullage scale on the rod applicable to the content, the actual quantity in the cask.

For casks standing the dip is taken through the head of the cask with the square end of the rod, and the method for lying casks followed, except that the scale on the square end of the rod is used. The internal length at the same

time gives the content of these smaller sizes of casks.

As the ullage scales on the rod only provide for casks up to 20 gallons, the ullage quantity in larger casks can be ascertained approximately by the following rules:—

**Casks Lying.**—With the rod find the content, inside bung diameter, and wet inches. Divide the wet inches by the bung diameter. If the quotient be greater than .5, add  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the excess to the quotient; if the quotient be less than .5, deduct  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the difference from the quotient. The result multiplied by the content will give the ullage quantity.

**Casks Standing** (content known or ascertained).—Find the internal length of the cask and the wet inches. Divide the wet inches by the length, then proceed as for lying casks with this difference, that where  $\frac{1}{4}$  is added or deducted for lying casks,  $\frac{1}{10}$ th is added or deducted for standing casks. If the content of a standing cask is unknown, it may be approximated thus: With the tape line measure the girth of the cask at the middle. Divide the girth by  $3\frac{1}{7}$ th (3.1416) and the quotient, less twice the thickness of the stave, will give the bung diameter. Next measure the head diameter and the internal length, then proceed under the following rule: Add  $\frac{7}{10}$ ths of the difference of the head and bung diameters to the head diameter. Multiply the square of the sum by the internal length (all in inches). Multiply the product by .002853, and the result will be the content of the cask in gallons.

**Drums or Cylinders.** To ascertain the capacity of a drum or cylinder measure the outside length and diameter (deduct twice the thickness of the iron), then work as follows:—

1st Method.—Diameter x diameter x length (all in inches) x .7854 ÷ 277.284 gives content in gallons.

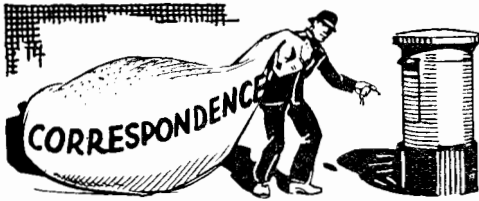
2nd Method.—Diameter x diameter x length (all in inches) x .00283 gives content in gallons.

**Demijohns.** To find content in gallons, measure internal height (deducting length of neck), ascertain internal width, then use the following rule:—Height x width x width (all in inches) x  $\frac{2}{3}$  x .00283 gives capacity in gallons.

**Perfumery Bottles.** Measure in inches as follows, deducting length of neck:—

**Round Bottles.**—Measure or ascertain internal length and diameter, then the following rule:—Length x diameter x diameter x .283 gives contents in hundredths of a gallon.

**Square Bottles.**—Measure or ascertain internal length and width, then calculate:—Length x width x width x 100 ÷ .287 gives content in hundredths of a gallon.



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

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

To the Editor, "Customs Journal."

### REORGANISATION

Sir,

This, I hope, will be my last contribution to the "Journal" until after the next Conference. However, let us turn to the last "Journal." Everyone has now a copy of the new proposals, and in fairness to me I would ask members to again read paragraph 4 part IV, and then look at the old and new salary scales. In this sub-paragraph "allowed to qualify," is plainly written. To those who don't qualify my previous enunciation holds good. As to the presumed unfortunate use of the word "discipline." I am afraid it does sound harsh and out of date in these enlightened days. However, it helped to make our Empire. To those who hold up their hands in horror at the mere mention of the word I can only say the cap must fit.

Now I am going to make an appeal. The damage done, in trying to right a wrong under Reorganisation and save the Association from breaking up, can't be helped.

Before the next Conference, let us all rally to our District and Local meetings and give our E.C.s clear, concise and emphatic instructions as to our collective wishes. Careful thought and consideration NOW to some scheme agreeable alike to P.O. and A.P.O. might save much heartburning in the future. Something tangible must be "thought out, wrought out and fought out," so that no whispering campaign or subterranean moves will be heard around the Watch-house. With sincerity, honesty of purpose and the will to keep intact our Association, unity may once again be restored. In the meantime let us not forget the old classic:—

"Careful of fire, is good advice, we know.  
Careful of words is ten times doubly so.

Thoughts, unexpressed, may sometimes fall  
back dead.

But God himself can't kill them once they're  
said."

J. BURKE, P.O.

To the Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

Of all the correspondence that has appeared on the question of Re-organisation I am most impressed by the contribution made by "Jock" in your last issue. I am not a member of the grades directly affected by the proposed re-organisation and perhaps for that reason I can see somewhat further afield than some of your correspondents who have tackled this question. My sympathies are definitely with the grades concerned because my knowledge the other grades in the Civil Service convinces me that the Preventive Officers (this includes the Assistants of course) are certainly not getting a fair valuation for their work. "Jock" sums up the situation very clearly, and the final three points at which he arrives and suggests as a basis for the next forward push are reached by a process of sound reasoning. He points out that the Industrial Court claim, stressing as it did the low valuation of Preventive Officer responsibilities, would have succeeded but for two things. Firstly because of the assertion by the Board that their hurried re-organisation scheme would materially reduce those responsibilities; and secondly because of the extraordinary attitude of the Chief Preventive Officers in intimating that they were well satisfied with their pay and conditions. This latter folly is something not likely to be repeated if the case had to be tried again in the Arbitration Court, even though there are some people who have so far forgotten that lesson as to advocate splitting forces once more. Neither would it be possible for the Board to get the other argument across again so easily. At that time the re-organisation scheme had not of course been tried out, and any attempt to shew that it would not achieve its supposed aim must have been purely theoretical.

To-day, however, there is no theory about it—or at least the theory of the claimants at that time has been amply borne out by practical facts. In other words the Preventive Officer's responsibilities are demonstrably just as great as ever they were and certainly more numerous owing to the complexity of our growing Tariff. Everything that was claimed before

the Industrial Court can again be claimed with added emphasis and without the former formidable handicaps. I certainly believe that "Jock's" line of thought is the correct one. Nevertheless, being a strong constitutionalist, I realise that no good can come of casting aside the considered advice of the Association leaders—if they do not know when and when not to launch a claim of this sort, then who else does?

It would be utter nonsense to follow the advice of any self-appointed hot-air specialist, no matter how plausibly enthusiastic he may be. A few doses of cold reason soon cures that kind of madness, but if the remedy is not quickly administered a lot of damage occurs to the negotiating machine. My own opinion is that the P.S.A. and its individual members have already suffered more damage from irresponsible "cure-all" remedy purveyors than could possibly have occurred by backing the judgement of the properly appointed leaders. Even if those leaders do not always succeed in being infallible that is no reason for pushing them aside for other fallible beings. Good faith is the important thing and there is many an individual in the P.S.A. ranks who has cause to know the trustworthiness and sincerity of the officials. Common sense tells us that the maintenance of a solid organisation is the only hope of eventually proving that the Preventive Officer job is work of high-grade importance. I believe that many members are only half convinced of the fact that their work is high-grade work. If it were otherwise they would not surely have been too busy airing their views on this subject to find time for telling the world that their Association is a wash-out. There is a real need to beat the drum about the value of Waterguard duties and to keep beating it until the truth is indelibly impressed upon the minds of those people who still persist in thinking of the Waterguard as the men who walk round the docks just as the country policeman walks round his village beat. Let me stress the point that this crude idea is much more prevalent than most of us believe. District meetings might well occupy themselves in devising ways and means for removing the erroneous conception. It *can* be done and it is well worth doing. The driving force should come from the youngsters who have entered the Service during the past few years. These young men are quite up to the standard of the Assistant Examining Officer of the old days in the Outdoor Service which is the Officer Grade of to-day. These Assistants did not however have the advantage of the Waterguard Assistant in getting an all-round knowledge of Customs work. There is a bright future for the modern A.P.O. if he does not fall into the Waterguard habit of crying "stinking fish." Let him take a leaf from the book of the old-time Assistant who forced the pace

towards finding a place in the sun for the whole Outdoor Service. My appeal to the young men is because their energy and ambition are still unimpaired and these qualities can be usefully employed in carrying on the fight for ample recognition of duties performed by the Waterguard Service. I want them to realise that the work performed by their seniors is valuable work, and that in their own interests they should go all out in proving to the world that this is true. I have already said that I think that "Jock's" line of thought is sound, and I would add that I do not regard the P.S.A. Re-organisation scheme as being inconsistent with that line. As a matter of fact the argument for a J.P.O. grade would be stronger if the P.O. grade were raised to the proper status.

LOOKER-ON.

To the Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

So much has been said and written of late concerning the proposed re-organisation proposals that our responsible Association officials should now know the general feeling and opinion of many of its members.

Perusal of this organ would show that the majority are against the proposals. Yet one has to admire the honest endeavours of those responsible for them. They are convinced that the scheme is sound and workable. We have our doubts, and both are entitled to opinions. To test out the general opinions why not have an immediate ballot?

Our proposals are naturally bound up with the present structure of the Waterguard.

One never hears from our officials how they propose to clear up the many old-time INSTITUTIONS which are still with us. Re-organisation should commence with the abolition of such things as boat cleaning and painting. Not to say rowing boats.

How can you boost the claims of those who have to perform these duties? It is this kind of work which keeps the status of A.P.O.s where it is to-day.

You, member, would be doing a good service to put the abolition of such items of work to the fore at your next district meeting. Rid yourself of these things or progress will be denied you.

Coast Preventive Men, apart from baggage duties, appear to have a better status than A.P.O.s, and in any case are free from the irksome duties referred to.

One would think that our Association Officials would summarise the many low-grade duties, and have them removed before proceeding to enhance the claims of A.P.O.s. It

does seem ridiculous to press for a superior type of entrant to the service and then to know very well that he might be sent to a port to row a boat and paint it, if necessary. This sort of thing tends to lower the dignity of the service, especially in out-ports. These things are overlooked, apparently, and in my opinion it is a mistaken policy.

Reverting to the proposed re-organisation proposals. Assume that the official side state they are quite satisfied with the present organisation. How are we to prove otherwise? They will quote figures to prove that they are.

I see it in this light, and much of the watch house criticism of the present organisation is logic, but perhaps biased.

It has been said that once an Officer leaves the P.O. grade he ceases to be of any practical value to the revenue, and there is little room for many unpractical people in this department.

Can it be proved that any port is more efficient with the extra supervision? If so I would like to hear a comparative case.

Recollect, if you can, what your port was like with one C.P.O. Can you see any difference now that you have two, three or four of them? Are the staff more efficient? Can you muster any more efficiency, and do you work any better because you fear the C.P.O.'s presence.

I contend that an inefficient P.O., automatically reports his inefficiency. You cannot be slipshod nor afford to make mistakes and, least of all, take chances without being brought to book.

Supervision, as we have it, tends to timidity, and the class value of a good P.O. is weighed down with pin-pricking, when you are left with a growing number of routine P.O.s who work within a small sphere, and then good practical knowledge is thrown to the winds.

Does a P.O. ship a consignment of stores better because the C.P.O. is present to supervise the shipment, and does an A.P.O. purposely discover a seizure because the C.P.O. supervises the rummage?

It has been argued that once a C.P.O., you automatically drop tools. You say, "Well I'm clear of worry now, because I do little to worry about."

I have heard C.P.O.s say that they are wasted man-power. There is something in it, if you care to think it out.

Be a P.O. to-day and C.P.O. to-morrow, then try to convince yourself that you of yesterday are not so good or efficient as you pretended to be.

Re-organisation in the opinion of many should be on the following lines :—

Rummage should be handed over to a lower class of entrant. It is, without doubt, dirty manual labour.

To use the present type of entrant for this class of work is an insult to the schools which educated them.

Nothing is more surprising to the present-day A.P.O. entrant than to have to don overalls and perform a labourer's task.

The A.P.O. grade should be abolished and the P.O. grade recruited direct into the service, sent to training centres and then drafted to required ports in the same manner as unattached officers. I do not think this is impracticable.

The P.O. grade should be treated with the same confidence as the Officer grade. Lack of confidence has without doubt been the Waterguard's biggest enemy.

The same class of man is now entering both this department and the Officer grade.

The C.P.O. grade should be entirely abolished.

Present districts are too large and could be split up into small ones and remain in the charge of a Surveyor.

Similarly, ports where there are at present C.P.O.s should revert to single control by the Surveyor grade, for this would make for decisiveness.

One question which will arise, is, who will examine baggage? I think this could be performed solely by the P.O. grade. The boarding of vessels could well be undertaken by a P.O. accompanied by the proposed new Rummage class.

Of course it will be said that these suggestions have been previously considered, but I do not think they have received serious consideration, if you take into account the proposed salary scale of the P.O., who without doubt is still the man upon whom this service relies for its initial and proper functioning. There is for instance no comparison with the work performed by a P.O. in a large baggage and general port and that of a Waterguard Surveyor who spends practically the whole of his time visiting C.P.M.s and small ports, which must at some time become a monotony.

Realise that every new proposal presents some difficulty, and that whatever any re-organisation brings forth there will always be those who feel that they have been injured.

Re-organisation proposals by the Staff Side is tantamount to saying that the Official side's attempt has been a failure.

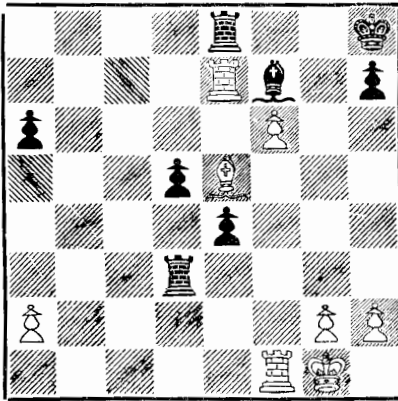
I do not envy those who have the job to prove it.

Yours faithfully,  
"E.S."

## Preventive Staff Chess Club.

### PROBLEM No. 150.

BLACK



WHITE

Mate in two.

Solution to No. 149—

1. R—Kt3 ch.            K—R4.
2. B—B7 mate.

## Merseyside Football.

On Wednesday, March 10th, the F.C. entertained Hansen's Dairies F.C. in a Hambledon Cup match and won a hard game by 3 goals to nil. A. C. Quine, centre-half, had a field day, scored two goals, one a glorious free-kick from 40 yards, and generally was the man of the match.

The following week, on St. Patrick's Day, we visited another milkmen's team—Walkers Dairies and won a very easy victory by 5 goals to nil. The score does not reflect the play in any way as Customs could have scored as many as they liked against a very gallant but most ineffective side. This also was a Hambledon Cup game and by now the Cup is practically on the shelf in the Baggage office.

Apropos the London match, which is to be played on April 6th. We have secured the well-appointed ground and pavilion owned by the Liverpool Co-operative Society Sports Club at "Bellefield," Sandforth Road, West Derby, and judging by the interest shown we should have a record crowd of spectators. Come along and enjoy yourselves!

J.W.D.

## London—Gravesend Football.

These two old rivals met at Ilford T.L.A. ground on Tuesday, March 16th. This is always a keenly contested match and the honours have a habit of going to the Gravesend team. On this occasion, however, London proved the winners by four goals to one. The first half was played with a diagonal wind in the visitors' favour and half-time was reached with two shared goals. Most of the play in the second half was in Gravesend's territory and some exciting periods were witnessed.

A number of supporters braved the weather, among whom were Mr. Cattell (C.P.O.), who did his best to cheer his hard-pressed side, Mr. Stanford (Waterguard Surveyor), and M. Standring (C.P.O.).

## Cap a Pied.

Mit Schnappes, cigars und Hollands Gin,  
Der smuggler always will come in,  
While Tollmen on the Rummage wait.  
For some soft mug to meet his Fate,  
So "Underneath The Arches" they,  
Wait for their unsuspecting prey,  
But cap badge made so gold and bright,  
Reveals their forms in murky light,  
And smuggler then to heels he takes,  
While A.P.O., grunts, "What a Bake."

Their quarry now has gone to earth,  
And of seizures there has been a dearth,  
Then up spake Jock, the Scot of the crew,  
"Can we no gang aboard, and rummage th'  
noo?"

So down the gangway they all trip,  
Tug-stick and overalls with natty zips.

Into the bunkers, among dusty coals,  
Crawling in boilers, not yet cold,  
Sweating and panting, their energy flags,  
Till out they haul a bulky bag,  
"Eureka!! yells the P.O. that's the stuff my  
men,

It's a court job to-morrow, sharp at ten.

The moral I hope, stands out to you bold,  
Cap-badges, tho' bright, will never be gold,  
It's hard work that's needed to get in the  
money,  
And for my last line, you'll admit that's not  
funny.

R. W. TYNE.