

The Customs Journal

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FORTNIGHTLY.

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

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

CURRENT

THE Secretaries are now installed in the new Association Offices, but the process of sorting and re-filing the eleven years' accumulation of documents will continue for a time. The spread-over of this task is essential if current work is to proceed but, even so, a measure of slowing up will be unavoidable. District officers and correspondents please note.

Removals are disturbing incidents in more senses than one. The new offices are infinitely better than the old, but, as with a new car, a period of "living-in" will have to pass before the full benefits can be appreciated and full speed attained.

The June meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.) took place in the Association Offices on the 28th of the month.

The Committee discussed and finally approved a draft supporting statement in connection with Re-organisation and gave instructions to the Secretaries to secure early reference of the matter to the Waterguard Sectional Committee.

References have also to be sought on the questions of double initial issues of uniform to new entrants and of improved rummaging equipment.

The Committee considered the filling of the vacancy on the staff of tutors (Vocational Education Section) and eventually elected Mr. J. W. Perkins (P.O.) of Weymouth to the post. Mr. Perkins, it will be remembered, was previously employed under this Section and his past successes make him a worthy successor to Mr. Cumberland, whose inimitable style of

COMMENTS

efficient tutoring won for him the grateful admiration of scores of his colleagues.

The result of the Secretaries' circular to all districts in regard to short and split attendances was considered by the Executive Committee and, although much useful data had been supplied, it was regretted that several districts had not yet replied. This omission was particularly noticeable in respect of those ports where it is known that the incidence of "skiptide" causes much local dissatisfaction. The Committee adjourned consideration in the hope that the missing replies will be forthcoming before the next meeting.

The hearing of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal of the claim taken by the National Staff Side for the application of the seven-hour day to ex-Headquarters Clerical Staff employed in the London Area took place on the 4th June and the Award just issued indicates that "the Tribunal has given careful consideration to the evidence and submissions of the parties and decides against the claim."

The National Staff Side was represented by Messrs. W. J. Brown, R. D. Crook, A. J. T. Day, P. H. M. Hoey and L. C. White.

With no material amendment the new Pensions Bill has passed through both Houses of Parliament. Thus the united efforts of Civil Servants and other classes in excepted employment have failed to preserve the advantageous concessions of the old Act. Earlier in the life

of the new Bill an explanatory article was published in the "Customs Journal" but it is considered that this matter is so important and so complicated as to warrant another effort in this direction. Later the Secretaries will issue a lengthy circular to all districts—covering every phase of the Act and the effects.

* * *

The cricket match between London and Cardiff Preventive Staffs at Cardiff on 29th June adds yet another delightfully successful event to the Inter-port list.

Before the match commenced Mr. W. H. Johnson, Waterguard Superintendent, Cardiff, and Mr. C. R. Purser, Waterguard Superintendent, London, presented the respective teams to the Deputy Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lady Mayoress.

Cardiff batted first and the game resulted in a win for London—Cardiff scoring 123 for 7 (declared) and London replying with 130 for 6.

While the two teams were batting on this historic pitch, numerous re-unions were taking place among the crowd of spectators and this fact alone must have given the organisers great satisfaction and reward for their efforts.

After the match the teams and supporters adjourned to the Civil Service Club, there to contest in friendly rivalry at the various indoor games available.



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Impossible Sayings (2).

"I'm terribly sorry for the owner," said the officer as he signed for his seizure award.

Excerpts from "The Customs Journal," 2nd July, 1904.

To the Editor, 'Customs Journal.'

Sir,

Promotion in the Waterguard.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly give publication to this letter.

I have recently watched with interest the 'promotion' of several Boatmen to the rank of Preventive Officer.

Now as the grievances of these deserving officials are indetical, I will deal with them in a singular sense.

John Smith is a Boatman in one of the North Eastern ports, 16 to 17 years good service, a salary reaching the magnitude of £95 per annum; having reached his maximum he receives £85, two 'star' allowances brings his money to £90, being a good rummaging officer, he may average £5 a year seizure money, which makes a grand total of £95. Living in a town where he can walk to duty in a reasonable time, he incurs no travelling expenses, the rent of his house is £15 to £16 per annum and himself, wife and family, are fairly comfortable.

Suddenly this man is called up for promotion, passes his examination, and is appointed to London as a Preventive Officer, with a commencing salary of £95, for the first two years. He proceeds with his wife and family to the great Capital, he is compelled to live a great distance from his work presumably in the East

End. His rent here is 75 per cent. greater, and travelling expenses from 2/6d. to 3/- per week. In the transaction of removal, the scale allowance being wholly inadequate to the expenditure incurred, he loses £5.

Now if this man is not in possession of private means, a remote possibility; I put it to the readers of this Journal, what will be the position of that man, his wife and family, not for one week, one month, but for years?

I can answer—dire misery, hand-to-hand existence, emaciated care-worn wife ill clad, ill fed children; and this is called promotion which we are looking forward to with fortitude. God save me from promotion.

Hoping I have not occupied too much of your valuable space.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours, etc.,

PATRIA.

Civil Service Confederation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Confederation was held on Monday, 14th June, 1937, at Central Hall, Westminster, when Mr. F. Cooper, President, presided over an attendance of 28 members.

It was reported to the Executive Committee that official notices had been issued in certain Government Departments to the effect that it was assumed that members of the staff would participate in Air Raid Precautions Drill and that those members of the staff not desiring to participate must signify to this effect. This matter had been under consideration by the General Purposes Committee of the National Staff Side, who had decided to send a protest to the Treasury, on the ground that the form of the announcement involved a breach of the understanding reached some time ago, between the Treasury and the Officers of the National Staff Side, to the effect that any participation in Air Raid Precautions Drill on the part of Civil Servants would be entirely voluntary. It was decided that a protest should be made to the Treasury on behalf of the Confederation on similar lines to the action of the National Staff Side.

A report was given of recent National Whitley proceedings, with special reference to the subjects of Foreign Service Allowances; Official delays on Staff Claims; and the proceedings of the Sex Differentiation in Pay Committee. It was agreed that the Confederation representatives should support the adoption of a Report of the Sex Differentiation in Pay Committee, to be presented to a special meeting of the National Staff Side on the 17th June.

A letter was received from the Guild of Insurance Officials, calling attention to the application of the Railway Companies to the Railway Rates Tribunal for an increase in fares and expressing the opinion that a useful purpose would be served by the calling of a conference of representatives of clerical and professional bodies with a view to concerted action. The Executive Committee decided to refer the matter to the National Federation of Professional Workers, as the most appropriate body to take the initiative.

References was made to the claim of the Government Overseas Cable and Wireless Operators' Association for an increase in the allowance paid to Cable Room Operators, which had been submitted to the Confederation for advice. The case had been heard by the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal on Monday, the 14th June.

An invitation was received from the Federation Generale des Fonctionnaires for the Confederation to be represented at an Inter-

national Congress of Civil Servants to be held in Paris on the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th August 1937. It was decided to accept the invitation and Mr. A. J. T. Day was appointed to attend.

A report was received from the General Purposes Committee, covering the subjects of Season Tickets; Office Accommodation; Cancellation by Civil Service Commissioners of Modified (War) Certificate; Pensions for Widows; Removals by Railway; Annual Leave; Provincial Differentiation; Voluntary Aid Detachments of the British Red Cross Society; proposed "All-In" Medical Service.

A report was received from the Special Committee on Unestablished Classes, in which it was stated that a Joint Committee of the Government Minor and Manipulative Grades Association, the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the Association of Ex-Service Civil Servants, had been set up for the purpose of putting forward a joint demand to the Treasury for the establishment of unestablished messengers and unestablished paper keepers.

Standing Committees of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year were appointed as follows:—

General Purposes Committee.

E. E. Buck.
George Chase.
R. D. Crook.
A. J. T. Day.
A. J. Ellis.
Dick Gifford.
P. H. M. Hoccy.
W. E. Llewellyn.

Finance and Organisation Committee.

A. J. Broom.
George Chase.
Dick Clifford.
R. Johnson.
D. S. Paton.
W. H. Powell.
W. T. Seddon.
J. R. Simpson.

It was agreed to defer the appointment of a Publicity Committee, any publicity matters arising which need Committee attention to be dealt with by the General Purposes Committee.

The question of Secretaryship of the Confederation, remitted from the Annual Council Meeting held on the 28th May, 1937, was considered, and it was decided to refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and report.

Do You Know—

That the new Waterguard Office at West India Dock, London, is believed to be the only Government building that bears the insignia E.R. VIII on its stonework?

Civil Service Confederation.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT—

to June 18th, 1937.

House of Commons,
June 18th.

Anti-Gas Training.

A point of some interest was raised in the House of Commons on 17th June, when Mr. Banfield asked whether in the case of anti-gas training recommended to the Civil Service, the Treasury proposed to suggest contracting out of the training on the part of the staff or contracting in. Colonel Colville replied:—

“Civil Servants are being asked to volunteer for anti-gas training of a specialist kind, that is for first aid duties in Government Departments. In addition instruction will be provided for the staffs as a whole in regard to personal protection against the effects of gas. This instruction will be in official hours and will not be compulsory, although it is hoped that the staffs will avail themselves of the facilities provided. For this instruction it seemed most convenient both to Departments and to individuals to ask those who did not desire to take advantage of the arrangements to inform their Departments to that effect. Representations in a contrary sense have been received from certain staff associations and these are under consideration.”

Mr. Banfield then pointed out in a supplementary question that the matter is causing a great deal of discontent, and that practically the whole of the staffs are in favour of contracting in and do not like the idea of contracting out, so that serious difficulties may result. Colonel Colville agreed that certain representations had been received and were under consideration, but that from the Departmental point of view the present arrangement seemed the most convenient both for the people concerned and for those who have to run the scheme. He added, in reply to a second supplementary question from Mr. Banfield to the effect that there is always the possibility of victimisation of those who may stand by certain principles:—

“I cannot agree with that statement. The hon. Gentleman must bear in mind that while it is possible to contract out of taking this instruction, it is not possible to contract out of the risk of air-raids, and we desire to ensure that as many as possible shall receive this instruction, which is entirely voluntary.”

Civil Service Educational Council

SPECIAL SUMMER SESSION.

In view of the Civil Service Examinations which will be held in the late summer and early autumn it has been decided to hold a special summer session for students entering for the following examinations:—

1. Typists and Clerk-Typists.
2. Shorthand-Typists and Clerk-Shorthand Typists.
3. Clerical Assistants.
4. Clerical Officers.

The classes will commence on 1st July, 1937, at H.M. Stationery Office, Princes Street, Westminster, S.W.1, at 5.30 p.m.

Full information can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Civil Service Educational Council, Parliament Mansions, Westminster, S.W.1.

This Eye Business.

According to our friends the daily press, we Customs men these days apparently have developed bird and animal-like tendencies, especially about the eyes. Already we have been accredited with hawk-eyes and eagle-eyes, and now we are lynx-eyed. Soon no doubt some enterprising newspaper will go a step further and call us X-ray eyed. There is no telling where this eye business is going to stop. It only needs now an incoming celebrity to say, ‘Your British Customs have such wonderful eyes,’ and like the poor London policemen, and we shall be forced to take our place with the Tower of London and the Horse Guards as one of the sights of England.

Are the eyes of this Department as marvellous as the papers lead us to believe? The other morning I glanced round the watch-house at breakfast time to see if I could detect any remarkable qualities in the eyes of our colleagues, but I confess I was disappointed. Some eyes looked sleepy, others peered studiously at the morning crossword. Several pairs of eyes shone with anticipation as breakfasts were brought in and I noticed the reminiscent sparkle of those whose owners were recounting the events of the previous evening.

But nowhere did I see that keen piercing look we are supposed to have; a kind of Sexton Blake cum Svengali expression, with which we lay bare the souls of passengers.

I am very much afraid this eye business is a myth but as long as the press do not call us ‘cock-eyed’ or ‘cat-eyed’ we can grin and bear it.

H.L.F.

Correspondence.

Sir,

I was very interested in the letter published in the last C.J. by "Dynam" on the cost of living and monthly salaries for A.P.O.s. I discussed the matter with the family "chancellor" who agreed most emphatically with the sentiments voiced by your correspondent, on all but one point. Her views were "To get the true feeling on this all-important subject one would have to take a plebiscite from the womenfolk who have to manage on the pittance the status experts describe as 'Salary.'"

I think my wife is like Dynam's and I venture to say 90 per cent. of the other A.P.O.'s' wives, wishing her life away from one month end to another. For the single men a salary is admirable; but for the married—well, perhaps the following will ventilate my views:—

Now Percy was a Status Spiv,
 A brand new A.P.O.,
 He paid his subs. up one by one,
 And into the P.S.A. did go.
 There were many things in the Waterguard
 That did not meet his eye,
 He swore he'd change them all, by jove!
 Or he'd eat his old school tie.
 A quiet three-legged station he'd condescend
 to take,
 And there he'd sit and ponder
 On improvements he could make.
 Of course we could not expect him,
 The bunker coals to dig,
 Such labour for our Percy,
 Would be quite 'Infra dig.'
 We really should be honoured
 To have with us such a wit
 He could have been an "Officer"
 If he'd only cared to sit.
 Now one thing that he could not bear
 He must change without delay,
 No matter what the consequence
 He must have salary for his pay!
 The years have passed
 And now poor Percy
 Walks by with sloven gait,
 For better or worse, he vowed he'd be,
 To his landlady's daughter, Kate.
 No wonder that our hero
 Looks sad or c'en forlorn,
 When fourteen days of every month
 His suit goes into pawn!!
 And yet forsooth, he won his day
 And think how grand it sounds,
 To be a salary carner
 On thirteen—————pounds!!

"WAITING."

Watch House Yarns.

Some years ago during my early days in the Service I was stationed with an officer who was one of the most conscientious I ever came across. Well I remember the occasion when we boarded a ship with heaps of stores on board and amongst other things was a huge quantity of Low Duty Goods such as Marmalade, Jams, Sugar, etc. He made the steward find lockers for everything which was all duly placed under seal. When we came to the low duty goods the steward said:

"Surely Officer you won't bother with these?"
 "Yes," said my boss, "you must find a locker and they must all be sealed up."

This so much exasperated the steward that he turned and said:

"My God, Officer you must have been sealing up TEA and LIMEJUICE in the GARDEN OF EDEN!"
 B.J.B.

On the baggage floor recently a girl passenger watched her friend taking part in an animated discussion with two Customs Officers at the duty table. Thinking that a photograph of this incident would make an admirable addition to her record of the voyage, she innocently took a snap of the group with her tiny box camera.

If this picture ever comes out it will be a tragic reminder of the occasion, for apparently this young lady was unaware that her friend was just being offered the option.

A passenger on the S.S. Atlantis returning from a cruise produced a leather pouffe.

"What do you intend to do with this?" asked the A.P.O.

"Stuff it," replied the passenger. H.L.F.

Customs Officer (finding a bottle of whiskey in baggage): "I thought you said you had nothing in your bag except wearing apparel. What's this?"

Lady Passenger: "Oh—er—that's my husband's nightcap."
 —"Liverpool Echo."

Customs Waterguard Associations
 An Offer Worth Accepting **COUPON** Privileges to Members
To KENDAL & DENT
 WATCHMAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY, &c
 Gold Medal, Paris Exhibition
 Manufacturing Goldsmiths, Wholesale Jewellers, &c
106 Cheapside, London, E.C.2.
 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

The Custom House, London.

(Continued).

NEARLY one half of the Customs of the United Kingdom, says a writer on the subject, are collected in the port of London. In 1840, while the London Customs were £11,116,685, the total of the United Kingdom was only £23,341,813. In the same year the only place approaching London was Liverpool, where the Customs amounted to £4,607,326. In 1849 the London Customs were £11,070,176. The same year the declared value of the exports from Liverpool amounted to no less than £33,341,918, or nearly three times the value of the exports from London, for in foreign trade London was surpassed by Liverpool. Mr. McCulloch estimates, including the home and foreign markets, the total value of produce conveyed into and from London annually at £65,000,000 sterling.

The number of foreign vessels that entered the port of London in the year 1841 was estimated at 8,167, and the number of coasters at 21,122. The expense of collecting the Customs in Great Britain alone is calculated at over a million sterling.

The Board of Commissioners, that sits at the Custom House, has all the outports of the United Kingdom under its superintendence. It received reports from them, and issues instructions from the central Board. The recording of the business of the great national firm, now performed by the Statistical Office in the Custom House, was attempted in the reign of Charles II, and urged on the Commissioners of Customs by the bewildered Privy Council for Trade; but it was declared, after many trials, to be impossible. It was first really begun in the business-like reign of William III, when the broad arrow was first used to check thefts of Government property, and when the office of Inspector-General of Imports and Exports was established, and the Custom House ledger, to record the value, first started. The Act of 1694 required all goods exported and imported to be entered in the Custom House books, with prices affixed. Cotton, therefore, was taxed at this the official value, till 1798. In this year the Government imposed a convoy duty of four per cent., ad valorem, upon all exports; and to do this equitably, every shipper of goods was compelled to make a declaration of their then actual value. This was called "the declared or real value." A daily publication, called the "Bill of Entry," is issued at the Custom House, to report the imports and exports and the arrival and clearance of vessels.

Prior to the year 1825, says a writer in Knight's "London," the statutes relating to the Customs had accumulated, from the reign of Edward I, to 15,000, and were naturally as confusing and entangled as they were contradic-

tory. Mr. Huskisson, Mr. J. D. Hume, and eventually the slow-moving Board of Trade, at last revised the statutes, and consolidated them into eleven acts. They were still further simplified in 1833, and again consolidated in 1853. One of the acts passed in 1833 enumerates not fewer than 1,150 different rates of duty chargeable on imported articles, while the main source of revenue is derived from a very small number of articles. "For example," says a writer on the subject, "the duty on seventeen articles produced, in 1839, about 94½ per cent. of the total revenue of Customs, the duties on other articles being not only comparatively unproductive, but vexatious and a hindrance to the merchants, shipowners, and others. In the above year, forty-six articles were productive of 98 2/5 per cent. of the total Customs' revenue.

"The occasional importation of articles which are not enumerated in the tariff of duties is often productive of amusing perplexity. Mr. Huskisson mentioned a case of this nature when he brought forward the plans of consolidation already mentioned. A gentleman had imported a mummy from Egypt, and the officers of Customs were not a little puzzled by this non-enumerated article. These remains of mortality, muscles and sinews, pickled and preserved three thousand years ago, could not be deemed raw material, and therefore, upon deliberation, it was determined to tax them as a manufactured article. The importer, anxious that his mummy should not be seized, stated its value at £400; and the declaration cost him £200, being at the rate of £50 per cent. on the manufactured merchandise which he was about to import. Mr. Huskisson reduced the duties on non-enumerated manufactured articles from £50 to £20 per cent., and of non-enumerated unmanufactured articles from £20 to £10 per cent." A somewhat similar case, relating to an importation of ice from Norway, mentioned in a debate in the House of Lords in 1842. A doubt was started what duty it ought to pay, and the point was referred from the Custom House to the Treasury, and from the Treasury to the Board of Trade; and it was ultimately decided that the ice might be introduced on the payment of the duty on dry goods; but as one of the speakers remarked, "The ice was dissolved before the question was solved."

In the time of Charles I, the Customs were farmed, and we find Garrard writing to Lord Stafford, January 11th, 1634, mentioning that the farmers of the Customs (rejoicing over their good bargains, no doubt), had been unusually liberal in their new year's gifts to the king, having sent him, besides the usual 2,000 pieces, 5,000 pieces, and an unset diamond that cost them £5,000. Yet what a small affair the Customs must

have been compared to now, when sugar, tea, tobacco, wine, and brandy produce each of them more than a million a year.

Defoe says, "In the Long Room it's a pretty pleasure to see the multitude of payments that are paid there in the morning. I heard Count Tallard say that nothing gave him so true and great an idea of the richness and grandeur of this nation as this, when he saw it after the Peace of Ryswick."

Mr. Platt's account of the working of the Custom House system of years ago shows a remarkable contrast with that of the present day. Writing in the year 1853, he says, "The progress of an article of foreign merchandise through the Customs to the warehouse or shop of the dealer is as follows:—First on the arrival of the ship at Gravesend, tide-waiters are put on board and remain until she reaches the appointed landing-place. The goods are reported and entered at the Custom House, and a warrant is transmitted to the landing-waiters, who superintend the unloading of the cargo. A landing-waiter is specially appointed to each ship; officers under him, some of whom are gaugers, examine, weigh, and ascertain the contents of the several packages, and enter an account of them. These operations are subject to the daily inspection of superior officers. When warehoused, the goods are in charge of a locker who is under the warehouse-keeper. When goods are delivered for home consumption, the locker receives a warrant from the Custom House certifying that the duty has been paid; he then looks out the goods, and the warehouse-keeper signs the warrant. When foreign or colonial goods are exported, the process is more complicated. The warehouse-keeper makes out a 're-weighing slip;' a landing-waiter examines the goods, which continue in the charge of the locker, and a cocket, with a certificate from the proper officers at the Custom House, as his authority for their delivery. The warehouse-keeper signs this document, and a counterpart of the cocket, called a 'shipping bill,' is prepared by the exporting merchant. The goods pass from the warehouse-keeper into the hands of the searcher, who directs a tide-waiter to receive them at the water-side and to attend their shipment, taking an account of the articles; and he remains on board until the vessel reaches Gravesend, when she is visited by a searcher stationed there; the tide-waiter is discharged, and the vessel proceeds. But before her final clearance the master delivers to the searcher a document called 'a content' being a list of the goods on board, and which is compared with the cocket. It is then only that the cargo can be fairly said to be out of the hands of the Custom House officers."

Tide-waiters are not now specially appointed to each ship on arrival and cockets have been abolished.

(To be continued.)

Nabbing the Notorious by Nod.

You know, I had always conceived the idea that diviners—that is those versed in the art of 'dousing'—were restricted to the finding of water. Therefore it came as a considerable surprise to me, for in miscellaneous reading of late, I learn that there are 'dousers' who are gifted in the finding of oil, metals and various other things by their uncanny powers.

I must admit that some years ago I tried this experiment but the result was rather disappointing. However, I accounted for this by the reason of my no great liking for water except for washing and shaving.

To resume, may I say that it is by realising that some do possess a certain power in this direction and that as not only water could be found, could not this be tried out by our officers in their capacity of detecting smuggling. The more one thinks of this idea the more one realises the vast possibilities it holds out. I would suggest that officers should try themselves in an endeavour to ascertain if they are gifted in this respect. If one is a heavy smoker he may find that he reacts to the call of tobacco only, while other nice boys might to the call of silk and other goods of a delicate nature and so on and so on.

If this idea was properly organised throughout Great Britain, imagine what magnificent rummage crews we would possess. Instead of a nondescript crew going aboard a vessel burdened with the impedimenta of their calling, to wit, tucksticks, jemmys, and not to mention sundry private rummaging tools, we would have a light crew going aboard with their dainty little rods neatly stowed away in small attaché cases.

By the way, I read of one lady diviner who requested her audience not to speak during operations as she required her brain to be a complete blank. I have no doubt that this would afford no difficulty to some of our officers as this is their natural propensity, while others more gifted would find this somewhat of a handicap for there is always the possibility, whilst in this state of oblivion, of falling down a hatchway or in the bilges.

But that is only putting a wet blanket on the idea, and I feel sure something could be done about it. Possibly a Probationer could follow on behind as being part of his training. The idea, of course, would have its lighter side. For instance, suppose for one moment an officer having the call of tobacco only fell into the bilges and in endeavouring to extricate himself fell across a load of spirits! What rivalry and good humoured badinage would take place.

Look at the number of officers who would want to go on the rummage. No more shovelling away tons of coal and getting filthy dirty. All one would have to do would be to wander

Continued on page 160—Second column.

The Eve and Waterloo.

(in six stanzas).

Being the ramblings of our tame poet on the occasion of a cricket match at Parkeston on 21st June, when the Harwich Waterguard played a cricket eleven drawn from the Officer and Clerical staff, Harwich.

There was a sound of revelry that e'en,
And Harwich Waterguard had gathered there
Her beauty and her chivalry;
And bright the sun shone
On fair P.O.s and brave men.

No trumpets blared as forth they went,
Our opening batsmen heaven-sent (?)
Though scoring slow they played "the field,"
We thought it long e'er they would yield.
But Gotts—four runs—then left for "home,"
And Heppel went for runs to roam.
'Gainst Orchard's cannon soon he fell,
Hampshire stood forth, but sad to tell,
Soon he his tent did fold and come
Off stage. Then Colling beat the drum,
And slashing fiercely soon scored twelve
E'er leather in his stumps did delve.
Meantime both Welsh and Coates had gone,
Jackson could only score his one.
Poor "Holly" ne'er commenced to score,
But "Brownie" kept them on the floor.
Our fondest hope, Simms, then went west—
Six scored he of the best.
While Weston defended at one end
"Brownie" tried hard our score to mend,
And, when his partner fell through doubt,
Had scored eleven runs not out.

Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note
As our score in the score-book was scribbled,
Not a bugle sounded his farewell note
As into the field our team dribbled.

The foemen defending, we pressed them tight,
Heppel and Gotts were soon in flight.
Thund'ring along they hurled 'em down—
The enemy's forehead wore a frown.
With Weston demonstrating why
The hands were quicker than the eye,
And missing catches ne'er a one,
Soon four of their best men were gone
For twelve—our hopes began to rise
And victory seemed to ope her eyes.
But stubborn batting made us pause
Though we invoked the newest laws.
The attackers tiring, change was made
Of bowling, and these partners staid
Soon separated were, and we
Began to breathe most hopefully.

Their seventh down at thirty-five
We brought, but though we hard did strive
Our score was passed, and missing catches
Is always sure to tell in matches.
But to the end we fought along
Though not to the tune of triumph's song.

Epilogue.

Preventive men of England free or wed
Should deem themselves accused they were
not here,
And hold their peace while any speaks
That fought upon this spiffin' day.

P.S.—The full score should command
attention,
Your pardon for no previous mention.
Our total score was forty-two,
Ninety-three **they** made e'er they were
"through." —"Jay."

Grabbing the Notorious by Nod.

Continued from page 159.

around the ship in a state of coma. Imagine how time would pass and can you conceive the look of awe on the seamen's faces as they remark, "Don't touch 'im, 'e's doing 'is stuff!"

These gifts, if properly applied, would give unbounded assistance to the possessors, for supposing you, as the local collector of subs., approached a member regarding the payment of ditto and he told you that he was broke, out would come your little stick and no doubt an affirmative answer would be registered as to the presence of the needful.

With all great ideas, however, difficulties are bound to be encountered at the offset. For the moment I think that the examination of baggage calls for a little more than due consideration as, until such time as super-men were trained, quite a number of officers would have to congregate around one piece of baggage with their little sticks in operation. But still, if no manifestations were visible, probably in the aggregate the baggage would be passed quicker.

One could go on and on in realising this great possibility; nevertheless, one cannot help but say that it would at least draw forth the comment from our foreign visitors, "I tink you English Customs iss wonderful or balmy."

Obituary.

Old friends of Mr. W. S. Lobb, retired Preventive Officer at North Shields and formerly of South Wales, will regret to learn of the death of his wife on the 20th May after a protracted illness.

For Your Note-Book.

WINES AND SPIRITS

Bitters.—These are beverages, usually alcoholic, containing a bitter substance or substances, used as tonics, appetizers, etc. The bitterness is imparted by such substances as angostura bark, bitter orange rind, cascarilla, cinchona, etc., macerated in rectified spirit or rum; while cinnamon, cloves and other flavouring agents are added, with sugar or syrup for sweetening. A few of the better known are: angostura khoosh, orange and peach bitters.

Other branches of the compounder's business are the manufacture of pharmacy preparations, perfumery, aromatic toilet specialities, dentifrices, and other alcoholic compounds.

Medicinal Preparations.—The pharmacy alcoholic preparations comprise (a) elixirs, (b) essences, and (c) tinctures.

(a) **Spirit Elixirs**, also termed syrups, are medicinal compounds prepared with alcohol, syrup and aromatic liquids—elixirs of anisi, vitriol, aurantii, roborans whytei, curassio, gari, pepsin, etc.

(b) **Spirit Essences** are for most part alcoholic solutions of a volatile (distilled) oil—essences or spirits of anisi, camphor, chloroform, ether, formicarum, juniper, lavender, lemon peppermint, rosemary, rusci, russicus, aromatic spirit of ammonia, sweet spirit of nitre, etc. Other spirit essences as essentia anisi, essentia episcopalis (Bischof-Essenz), kronen essenz (Crown Essence), essentia menthae-piperitæ (Essence of Peppermint), essentia pepsini, essence of cider, cognac, ginger, orgeat, rum, etc.

(c) **Tinctures** are alcoholic extracts of drugs, etc., chiefly of vegetable origin, prepared by macerating, percolating, or by mixing the substances in spirit.

Simple Tinctures.—Aloes, arnica, auranti, belladonna, catechu, cinnamon, iodine, myrrh, opium, quinine, tolu, wormwood, etc.

Compound Tinctures.—Benzoin (Friar's Balsam), camphorac, chloroform, morphine, etc.

Balsams (compound tinctures).—Aniseed balsam, anodyne balsam, baume de commandeur, baume de fioraventi, kinder balsam, Riga balsam, etc. (In most balsams the characteristic ingredient is a gum resin solution of benzoin, tolu, peru, camphor, etc., with aromatic herbs held in alcohol, but several balsams are purely carminative compounds dissolved in spirits.)

Perfumed Spirits.—For tariff purposes perfumed spirits are defined as mixtures containing

only alcohol, water and essential oil or attar, with possibly a little liquid ammonia and neutral colouring matter, and of alcoholic strength not falling short of proof spirit.

In the manufacture of perfumery the art consists in extracting the fragrant odours mainly of plants such as rose, jasmine, lavender, violet, cassie, bergamot, myrtle, marjoram, rosemary, orange-flower, etc. The perfume of the plant is absorbed in such substances as fats, oils, spirits, starch, etc., by the processes of distillation, enfleurage, maceration, or expression to obtain the required "otto." This "otto" is then dissolved in a highly rectified neutral grain spirit to produce—

(i) A Perfumed Spirit Essence As

(a) lavender, white heliotrope, peach blossom, etc., by distilling the "otto" with the alcohol; or

(b) orange-flower, violet, jonquil-rose, jasmine, cassie, etc., by extracting the perfume from the enfleurage oils through contact with alcohol; or

(ii) A Perfumed Spirit Tincture As

ambergris, musk, civit (all of animal origin) or vanilla, orris-root, storax, tonka-bean, etc., by dissolving the "otto" in alcohol.

The various essences or tinctures are then blended to form the desired "bouquet" which is bottled and marketed under a floral, place, or proprietary name as heliotrope, honeysuckle, carnation, sweet-briar, floral extrait, esprit-de-jasmine, fleur-d'Italie, etc., or passes into use as one of the well-known perfumed waters—lavender water, Florida water, or Hungary water, or as eau-de-Cologne, eau-d'Ypres, eau-de-Bretfeld, eau-de-Lisbonne, eau-d'Portugal, etc.

But perfumery, like many other commercial commodities, can now be produced by synthetic means. Synthesis (or synthetic) is defined as the preparation by laboratory methods and from inorganic materials of the compounds naturally found in the life processes of animals or plants. In other words, synthetic perfumes are artificial products built up by chemical combinations, e.g., the higher alcohols and their derivatives, aldehydes, esters, ethers, etc. Each generally contains a proportion of the natural perfume of the name under which it is marked.

Without Comment.

Jupiter is slow looking into his note-book, but he always looks. —Zenobius.

Imperial Service Medal.

F. A. METCALFE.

At 4 p.m. on the 24th June, in the presence of numerous personal colleagues of Mr. Metcalfe, retired Preventive Officer, London, an interesting ceremony was performed in Room 14 of the London Custom House.

Mr. Purser, Waterguard Superintendent, London, said he welcomed such a pleasant opportunity for the renewal of his direct association with the London Waterguard staff. He then pointed out that Mr. Metcalfe's retirement from active official life had been marked by three events. The first, which might be said to be almost automatic, being the award of a pension; the second was the spontaneous gesture by Mr. Metcalfe's colleagues in asking him to accept a token of their esteem. Now by the gracious command of His Majesty the King, Mr. Metcalfe had been awarded the Imperial Service Medal for meritorious service. Some little time usually elapses between an officer's retirement and the presentation of the Imperial Service Medal and this might be taken as indicating a period for investigating the eligibility of a proposed Medallist. It therefore could be stated definitely, that such an award was not lightly given and there could be no doubt that Mr. Metcalfe fully deserved the honour.

Having decorated Mr. Metcalfe with the medal, Mr. Purser closed by saying that he hoped the recipient might enjoy many years of happy retirement.

Messrs. Hughes, Standring, Stocker, Hill, Precious and other speakers suitably expressed their appreciation of the award and conveyed their good wishes to Mr. Metcalfe.

The Medallist expressed his deep appreciation of the honour that had been conferred upon him and said the Medal would be a constant reminder of his service days and of the splendid colleagues with whom it had been his good fortune to be associated.

Salcombe Presentation.

Mr. H. M. Phillips, who, until his recent retirement was Preventive Officer-in-Charge at Salcombe, was the recipient of a presentation made by the Plymouth and District Waterguard Staff at the Custom House, Salcombe, on the 15th July.

The presentation, which consisted of a suitably inscribed barometer and Parker propelling pencil, was made by Mrs. W. Finlay, wife of the Waterguard Surveyor, who also attended. Amongst others present was Mr. Fox, P.O./C. and Mr. Haynes, C.P.M. who spoke of the happy associations with Mr. Phillips since his coming to Salcombe. Several letters were read wishing him good health and fortune in his retirement.

Mrs. Phillips was presented with a beautiful cut glass vase. The gifts were tokens of the esteem and respect in which Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are held by their many friends.

Mr. Phillips had been in the Customs and Excise Service for 35 years. He is a native of Plymouth and belongs to a well known seafaring family. He spent his early days in the trawling industry and at the time of joining the Waterguard at Dartmouth in 1902, he was the youngest skipper in the port of Plymouth.

Mr. Phillips served at Southampton and Plymouth and, in 1919, was appointed P.O./C. at Longhope, Orkney. Since 1923 he has been P.O./C. at Salcombe, and has made many friends throughout the locality. Their many acquaintances join in wishing both Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, good health and happiness for the future.

Changes in the Staff.

TO 28th JUNE, 1937.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—
Liddle, R. Moore, E.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—
Snow, H. W., Gravesend to Chatham, London.
Thomson, E., North Shields, Newcastle to Clydebank, Glasgow.

The transfer of Mr. F. W. Nichols from Swansea to Chatham, London has been cancelled.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—
Clarke, G. T., Poole, Southampton to Plymouth.
Downie, J. I. S., London to Glasgow.
Forsyth, W., Bo'ness, Edinburgh to Leith.
Fryer, C. E., Hull to London.
Gairdner, J. A., Swansea to Glasgow.
Hill, T., London to Chatham, London.
Hope, T., Greenock to Ardrossan, Greenock.
Jones, J. T., Newport, Mon. to Dover.
McCurdy, D. A., Leith to Greenock.
Pateman, A. E., Gravesend, London to Folkestone, Dover.
Reay, J., Middlesbrough, Sunderland to North Shields, Newcastle.
Stewart, J., Glasgow to Clydebank, Glasgow.

PROMOTION.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—
Goulding, A. D., North Shields, Newcastle.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—
Page, F. E., London (to Board of Trade).
Scott, R., Methil, Dundee (to Scottish Education Department).

The "Lupton" Inter-Port Challenge Cup.

Suggested Rules.

1. The Cup to be known as "The LUPTON Inter-Port Football Challenge Cup."

2. The Cup to be competed for by teams comprised only of officers in the Waterguard Service, including the Launch Service.

3. Teams to be confined to officers drawn from one Port, or in the case of smaller Ports, to officers drawn from a District under one Waterguard Superintendent.

4. In order to cover any expenses such as postage, insurance, engraving, etc., each club entering shall pay a fee of 2/6d.

5. The Contest to be on the knock-out principle and all distant teams entering to be matched as far as possible in the first rounds with the team which is geographically nearest, or by reason of travelling facilities more easily accessible, or other method, to ensure fairness of competition.

6. The final venue to be arranged so that as near as possible an equal expense will be borne by the finalists.

7. Each team to supply a linesman, the home team to supply the referee, except in the final, when the referee can be arranged by the finalists.

8. Entries to be forwarded to the General Secretary of the P.S.S.C. not later than August 1st in each year.

9. The first round draw to be notified to all Club Secretaries by the General Secretary, P.S.S.C., before August 7th, and the first round played off before September 30th in each year, in cases where there are eight or less entries, and the semi-final round before the end of February.

10. The result of all matches to be sent to the Secretary P.S.S.C. together with the names of the players.

11. Whenever possible the whole draw for the season is to be given, and in any case where this method would prove unfair to the teams or would involve considerable expense, the semi-final or next round after the first to be arranged as per Rule 5. This rule is in order that arrangements can be made to suit local duties and other circumstances, and in order to speed up arrangements.

12. Extra time to be played if necessary.

13. The Draw to be made in the I.G.W.'s Office.

W. W. BISHOP, Gen. Sec., P.S.S.C.,
West India Dock, London.

Entries for this competition are called for, with entrance fees.

The above rules are the ones suggested by the Executive Committee of the Preventive Service Sports Club, who welcome any addition, alteration, or suggestions from other Clubs.

Photographic Competition— Open to All.

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

The Customs and Excise Arts Club are holding a Holiday Snapshot Competition this summer and entries are invited from all Customs and Excise Amateur photographers, whether members of the Club or not.

Three prizes of £1/0/0, 10s., and 5s. have been kindly given by the Vice-Chairman of the Arts Club, P. S. Brandon, Esq., O.B.E., and the closing date for receiving entries will be 30th September, 1937.

Photographs may be of any subject, e.g., outdoor figure, landscape, architecture, etc., but while competitors must make the selection of subject and the actual exposure, there are no restrictions as to developing and printing.

Points that will be considered in judging will be:—

- (1) Composition.
- (2) Choice of Subject.
- (3) Clarity of Expression.
- (4) Quality of Print.

There is no entrance fee or charge except that a stamped addressed envelope must be sent for return of prints.

No more than four photographs may be submitted by each entrant.

Arrangements will be made for exhibition of a selection of the photographs in the Refreshment Rooms, Custom House.

Entry forms may be obtained on personal application to:—

Mr. B. W. R. Batchelor, Valuation Branch,
Vintry House,
Mr. G. J. E. Chase, Refreshment Club,
Custom House,
Mr. R. G. Hayden, Section 17, West Quay
Buildings,

or by post from:—

Mr. W. H. Owen, Hon. Sec.,
Customs and Excise Arts Club,
Sugar Drawbacks, Adelaide House,
King William Street, E.C.4.

Although you may not have entered for a competition before, do not think you will stand no chance. Just select your four best holiday photographs and send them along.

O wad the Power—

"A well-meaning coastguard patrolling a lonely beat, suspicious of something being 'run' in the darkest hours, cannot fail to be switched from his post of duty by a frantic appeal from a woman to follow her to a desolate spot where, she says, tragedy is being enacted. Then she vanishes, and the cargo is landed a mile away."

—"Daily Mail," 10th June, 1937.

**Preventive Service Sports Club.
CHESS SECTION.**

A Queens Pawn Opening.

Annotation by Miss Vera Menchik.

"The Albin Counter Gambit," won by W. Turner, playing Top Board in a Hampshire League match.

- 1. P-Q4. P-Q4.
- 2. P-QB4. P-K4 (a).
- 3. P×KP. P-Q5.

(a) Though the Pawn sacrifice is hardly correct, it leads to a very lively game. As a compensation for his Pawn, Black gets greater freedom for his pieces and by advancing P-Q5 hampers White in the development of his QKt.

- 4. Kt-KB3. Kt-QB 3.
- 5. P-QKt3 (b).

(b) The right combination here is 5 P-KKt3 or Kt-Q2, of course not 5. P-K3, otherwise B-Kt5ch, 6 B-Q2, P×P, 7 B×B, P×Pch etc., with a better game for Black.

- 6. QKt-Q2 (c). B-B6.

(c) As his Pawn was at Kt3 he should have played B-Q2. His troubles now begin. (The first four moves on either side were the orthodox moves in the Counter Gambit).

- 7. R-Kt1. B-B4.
- 8. P-K4 (d). B×P.

(d) This move was of no immediate use and only delays matters by one move.

- 9. B-Kt2(e). Kt-Kt5.

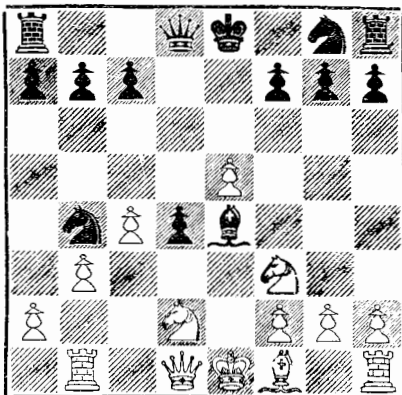
(e) This is fatal since White cannot avoid the loss of the exchange, he should play 9 B-R3 preventing Kt-Kt5.

- 10. B×B (f) (diagram).

(f) Black now mates in two moves. What are they?

PROBLEM No. 157.

BLACK



WHITE

- Solution to Problem No. 156.
- 1. Q-K6ch. K-R2.
 - 2. R×Pch. P×R.
 - 3. Q-B7 mate.

**Hull Customs Waterguard
Sports Club.**

GOLF SECTION.

The annual outing of the above club took place on King's Birthday. Our party was eleven strong and as was the case last year the venue was the Templenewsam Course, Leeds.

The round was played on the championship course, before lunch and many members took the opportunity of playing a league match. Mr. Drury was the outstanding player of the day, returning the best gross score in the morning and winning the putting competition held after lunch. After tea, time was found for a further nine holes and then to Leeds proper where we all tried our hands with the ivory balls. It is incorrect to say "Captain" Emmer-son and "Secretary" Harrison obtained a "birdie" on the green cloth with their niblicks.

The outing ended at midnight with everyone satisfied that our secretary had, on this his last opportunity before promotion, excelled him- self in his arrangements.

Before closing I would like to deny the rumour, circulated round the port, that one member spent the whole of last month's O.T. on golf balls. As a matter of fact he had sufficient cash left, on arrival back in Hull, to pay his bus fare home (3d.)

Now to settle down for the league and cup.

ESSBEE.

Southampton Golf.

On the 24th June, a match took place between the Custom House staff and the Waterguard. Seven games were played of which we won two, lost four and halved one. Although our players are showing marked improvement in their form, lack of consistent practice is a drawback.

H.L.F.

Annual Sports Meeting.

The Customs and Excise Sports Club held their annual sports meeting at the Civil Service Sports Ground, Chiswick, on the 17th June, and we are pleased to record the success of the following, belonging Waterguard and Launch Service.

The Launch Service won the Tug of War (2 Pulls), Mr. S. Wandless, A.P.O. came second in the 880 yds. Handicap, while Mr. C. Moloney, C.P.O. was second in the Golf Putting Competi- tion with 19 putts against the winner's 18.