

# The Customs Journal

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FORTNIGHTLY.

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

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

## CURRENT COMMENTS

OF all the current topics in Service circles undoubtedly "Cost of Living" takes first place and, with the measure of doubtful publicity recently given to it, the members must be hard put to it to decide on the merits of immediate and, possibly, precipitate action as against wise counsel and preparation.

The mind of the writer goes back to the Service-wide outcry against the iniquitous sliding scale of adjustment of salary and the unanimous and, apparently, sincere desire for stability. It is not without wonderment, therefore, that we hear of murmurings (6,000 out of 300,000 can hardly be said to have raised a shout) for action that *must* lead to the return of the sliding scale.

The Service as a whole does not want to sacrifice stability. We want more money, of course, but we want our remuneration harnessed to something more static, more reliable and more just than the will-o'-the-wisp inaccurate cost-of-living index figure.

Any leader, Service or otherwise, can get a show of hands in favour of more pay—the members would be foolish to vote otherwise, whether the case was made out or not. Further, the average member will not bother as to the method to be adopted; if the leader thinks he can get it, that is good enough.

The points for consideration are the desire and need for more pay, and the method and possibility of getting it. The first can be taken for granted. There is a desire and there is a need, too, but it is doubtful if anyone can prove that

the need has increased since the index figure passed the 55 mark to such an extent that will rend the heartstrings of the Treasury. We hold no brief for the existing unfair basis of arriving at a cost-of-living index nor do we approve of the terms of consolidation at 55, but we remember the Government's very firm policy of 1934 that Service remuneration should no longer be related to movements of cost of living, but that consolidated remuneration of civil servants as a general question will come under consideration only in the light of any substantial change in the levels of remuneration outside the Civil Service. If the Service is going to shift the Government on this issue we have got to bring something out of the bag different to that which has been fired at the stubborn opposition for the last few years.

The points at issue between the C.S.C.A. (or its leaders) and the rest of the Service (as represented by the National Staff Side) relate to the time and method of remedying the situation and *do not* relate to the merits of the case.

The C.S.C.A. (or W. J. Brown) suggested tabling forthwith a claim "for pro rata compensation for the increase in the cost of living since consolidation," without preparation, or consultations with the various executive committees, and on the assumption that members of the Service are in such dire straits that they would gladly and blindly accept anything without a thought to possible reactions and repayments in the future. Negotiations based on such tactics can only lead to botched-up settlements and ultimate dissatisfaction.

The National Staff Side decided, within one of unanimity, against taking any action at that stage which would harness Service remuneration once again to the cost of living. The National Staff Side aims for something more substantial—something more lasting. The Service wants a long-term settlement and the Service will only get it by sane politics.

\* \* \*

The Association's notice of withdrawal from the C.S. Confederation was to have expired on the 30th November and from that date the P.S.A. would have ceased to have contact with National Whitley. Prior to the closing date, however, the matter was again under review. It was thought that with uncertainty prevailing in the National sphere the situation would not be improved by the secession of even a comparatively small group and it was decided to cancel the notice.

The Executive Committee (P.S.A.) meets on December 6th, and the whole range of National affairs will receive careful attention.

\* \* \*

We have been asked to remind members that the lists in connection with the testimonial to Mr. T. Morton, the retiring Vice-Chairman of Departmental Council, should be now returned. The actual closing date is December 4th.

The difficult task of finding a successor is in some measure a tribute to the high standard of efficiency set by Mr. Morton. Associations have been asked to furnish nominations by December 7th, and the election will take place on the 14th of the month.

\* \* \*

Copies of yet another circular, in which the New Pensions Act, as it affects different classes, is explained, have been sent to all Districts and should have been made available to every member by now.

So far as those who are eligible only to take up voluntary insurance for Widows' and Orphans' Pensions under the New Act are concerned there is no immediate urgency, but for those who still have rights, under the Old Act, to insure for *all* benefits, there remains less than four weeks. Particularly we should like to impress upon new entrants that, for the outlay of  $1/4\frac{1}{2}$  per week, they can be assured of benefits which include Medical Attention, Sick Pay, Widows' and Orphans' Pensions and Old Age Pensions. No outside Insurance Company can offer you anything approaching this return for your money and though at present you probably have no family ties, if you do not take advantage of this last opportunity, the day will almost certainly come when you will deplore the fact that you had not sufficient foresight to secure lasting security for you dependants. Members of the Service had, a few years ago, similar opportunities to that now offered to you

and many have never ceased to regret their failure to act; their chance for full benefits has now gone and you have only until the end of the year. Be advised and act now.

\* \* \*

Service football is in the news again.

In the "Lupton Cup" London joins Southampton in the teams left in to compete in the next round, having won a hard-fought victory over Dover by the odd goal, 4—3. Our sympathy goes to Mr. "Chick" Lacey, of Dover who broke his arm in the first three minutes of the match and our appreciation of a sporting gesture goes to London for allowing a substitute to take the field.

Liverpool has yet to meet Hull, and Bristol to meet Cardiff. The latter match takes place as we go to press but the Editor is hopeful of getting it in this issue under "Stop Press."

The draw for the semi-final round of the Customs Fund Trophy is:—

London Waterguard v. London Central.

London Port v. Statistical Office.

London Central and London Port were in the final last season and we are expecting to help to make a change this year.

\* \* \*

The first edition of P.S.A. Diary, 1938, is almost sold out. The deliveries from Messrs. Letts should commence very soon and an announcement regarding a reprint (if any) will be made later.

We have been asked to state that the margin of profit (?) is so small that it does not permit the issue of receipts or acknowledgments of orders.

## Correspondence.

The Editor,  
Customs Journal.

Sir,

In the last report of the Annual Conference it is interesting to note that with regard to the issue of mackintosh leggings, the Board "can see no good reason for making a general issue of leggings."

This seems extraordinary and hardly satisfactory. I wonder what really is expected of us? Our work is very much "out-door" and on a wet day our macks, and eventually the bottoms of the uniform trousers become soaked. Often it is necessary for an officer to proceed aboard a ship, while on rummage duty, and place a pair of overall trousers over these; a very unhealthy practice. We can only assume that it is the correct and proper thing to buy our own which is, of course, just what we do. But we are a rotten lot really, because we all seem to have such diverse tastes in what is a good colour-match for the blue of our uniform clothing. I have seen all hues from fawn and

yellow through the various darker shades, until one marvels at the miraculous way everybody seems to have missed the obvious navy-blue match. Thus it is possible to see a rummage crew on a wet day—caps to match—macks, to match—and their leggings forming a rainbow. On rainy days the Waterguard ceases to be, strictly speaking, a uniform grade. At least it is no longer a uniform uniform grade. We become “quasi-uniform” members; a trifle incomplete, so to speak.

Therefore, the next time it is raining heavily please remember you have no occasion to wear leggings. The fact that you found them necessary to keep you dry when coming on duty in spite of your good quality civilian mack, has nothing to do with it. Or has it?

J.K.K.

### Excerpts from “The Customs Journal,” December 3rd, 1904.

#### THE P.O. AND THE JERQUER.

In several ports, and during recent years, the Preventive Officer's work has been augmented by partially and fruitless jerquing. Often a petty slip of the pen or a trivial omission, is marked by an official query, when the P.O. might have been called upon to correct, without any sacrifice of discipline. Perhaps more discrimination and uniformity of procedure should be displayed. Examples could be given, but this would hardly be expedient.

The office of Jerquer is, no doubt, important and yet, in no position, can there be seen officers of such a variety of experience and rank. Is this just to the P.O.? Wreck, Registry, etc., are generally attended to by a Senior Officer, while clerks of short service often occupy the seat of jerquing. The result of this, it is obvious, cannot be very pleasant to the jerqued. It is meant to be a business check, too, and should certainly be free from all suspicion of caprice. It may be, that the head, or one of the seniors of the department, should do, not part merely, but all the audit of their branch, especially if the object of checking of work is aimed at, the discovery of serious errors in revenue matters. The senior clerks are, of course, experts, but they cannot be expected to know all the practical outdoor dodges.

Whoever does this work, or how, the most important point at present for us, is that the P.O. should be placed in the same position as the Jerquer regarding the supply of Board's Orders. This is only fair. Do the P.O.'s orders arrive invariably, to say nothing about circular letters, etc. He cannot be ever haunting the Collector's bookcases. Hitherto he has invested his pocket-money in “Hams,” which, though

a firm friend is not encyclopædian. He has, besides, his instructions and his memory. Thus equipped he faces an antagonistic world, and, after that, the Jerquer, who on the other hand has access to every order and authority under the sun.

Considering all, the Preventive Officer does not cause the Jerquer much trouble, who perhaps must show something. Occasionally indeed, even the auditor makes a slip and the chief puts it right. There are none perfect. As a rule, however, the P.O. deals with, say, one of the useless queries, at the lockpit watch-house, while the lion and the unicorn are at rest, and the inward bound skipper tootles “Home, Sweet Home” on his siren.

It should be remembered that the P.O. cannot carry the text of the regulations with him. Picture him trying to get up a ladder on a frosty day, with Board's orders under his arm to enable him, say, to carry conviction to the heart of a Russian skipper. Indeed, the Boatmen have had to fish him and his papers out of the river, after almost similar heroics. No, he must needs carry the law, like a certain schoolmaster, “all in his head.” These difficulties might, however, be taken into consideration before the issue of official queries. Many of the conditions of a case are of quite a different aspect a day after the event. Who could calmly consider pros and cons of a boarding question, when, like a certain officer, a steamer's exhaust pipe was filling his pockets with water? To be fair, the atmosphere should be admitted in the reference. How would the Jerquer manage under the affair of an exhaust pipe? It is a fair question.

### London Presentation.

#### “PAT” CASSIDY.

On Thursday, the 25th inst., at the Waterguard Offices, West India Dock, over 30 officers gathered to bid farewell to Mr. J. P. Cassidy, A.P.O., after 40 years' service.

Mr Purser, was in the Chair, supported by Mr. Stanford and Mr. Cahill (Landing Sur.).

Old colleagues in Mr. B. T. White, C.P.O. (retired) and Messrs. Gotts, Metcalfe and Page, P.O.s (retired) turned up to bid farewell to “Pat.”

Eulogistic remarks were made by Messrs. Purser, Stanford, Cahill, White, Gotts, Metcalfe, Page, Dilling, Sullivan, Precious and Stocker of “Pat's” sterling qualities as a Revenue Officer and colleague.

On behalf of the staff, Mr. H. Leonard, P.O., in a few well-spoken words asked Pat to accept a small present, suitably inscribed, of a solid gold watch, as a token of their esteem and regard.

“Pat” feelingly replied and thanked everybody for their kindness and good wishes, in his retirement, and so another good 'un has gone.

## Sunderland News.

A well-attended Association Meeting was held in the Waterguard Office, Thornhill Quay, on Friday, November 19th, 1937.

After discussion on the minutes of the previous meeting, the election of Officers for the forthcoming year took place, and the following were elected:—

Chairman—Mr. Noble, P.O.

Vice-Chairman—Mr. Simmons, A.P.O.

Secretary—Mr. Roy, P.O.

Whitley Representative—Mr. Lennon, P.O.

Local Org. Secretary—Mr. Miller, A.P.O.

Journal Correspondent—Mr. Crosby, A.P.O.

Following this, a lively discussion took place on the re-scheming of Seaham Harbour (a three-legged watch for A.P.O.s instead of tidal attendance as at present). Eventually, it was decided that agreement should be recorded on the Board's scheme of revised attendance, and our Whitley Representative was instructed to proceed accordingly.

"Other Business" did not occupy much time as some observant member had noticed that the hands of the clock were rapidly approaching the "Witching Hour" of 10 p.m., and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

This year, the Sunderland Waterguard Staff is organising the annual C. & E. Whist Drive, Supper and Dance, hitherto run in conjunction with the Long Room Staff. The date is February 1st, 1938 (conveniently close to pay-day!), the rendezvous, Meng's Cafe, Fawcett Street; the price of tickets, 3/6d. single, 6/6d. double. Book this date and get your tickets early, there's going to be a big demand and numbers are limited. J.M.C.

## Hull News.

### HUMBERSIDE v. LIVERPOOL.

The 1st round of the Lupton Cup competition between the Humberside and Liverpool teams will be played on the Ellerman's—Wilson Line ground at Woods Lane, Cottingham, on Wednesday, December 8th, kick-off, 2.15 p.m. Arrangements have been made to entertain the Liverpool team and supporters at a smoking concert at the Grosvenor Hotel after the match. All Officers and their friends are cordially invited to the match and the smoking concert, and it is hoped that as many of the Humberside contingent as possible will attend to give our visitors a real welcome. Transport arrangements have been made to convey the Liverpool team and supporters to the ground at Cottingham.

## P.S.S. Club Badge.

To those inquirers we have to reply that the matter is still in hand and as soon as one or two points have been settled, full particulars will be given. The design of the Club Tie has not been fixed.

## Newport Notes.

**P.S.A. Annual Local Meeting.** A good number of the local Waterguard Staff assembled at the Queen's Hotel on Friday, November 12th, and this is what they did:—

1. Mr. J. Helm was elected to the chair and promptly declared the meeting open at 7.45 p.m., which was fairly punctual. (Meeting was scheduled for 7.30 p.m.) There were then present 14 members. Noticeable was the A.P.O. representation. There were 10 present. A.P.O. Association strength here is 14. There were two on duty. Turn up therefore was 80%. Other ports to note.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were then adopted, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year:—

Secretary:—Mr. J. T. Lyons

Organiser:—Mr. F. S. Lewis.

Whitley:—Mr. A. R. Deans and Mr. F. S. Lewis.

Auditors:—Mr. S. Steadman and Mr. J. Collier.

Journal Correspondent:—Mr. J. Kennedy.

3. Mr. F. S. Lewis gave a very brief report on his visit to the last Conference. Diplomatically he informed junior members that after five years' service, A.P.O.s will receive 21 days' leave. Faces lit up. One member was heard to mutter, "Who wants more leave, anyway?" Time must hang very heavily with him. In the Civil Service, the amount of annual leave varies directly as salary and status. Will this member please note.

4. The most important item of local interest was the discussion on "office accommodation." We had hoped for a new building but deadlock on this issue seems to have been reached. Obvious alternative is the re-construction of the present buildings, and then perhaps we can expect something substantial to relieve the present overcrowding, particularly at the Central Station.

A rather interesting episode about half-way through the meeting. Members suggested the usual 10 minutes interval at half-time. Suggestion turned down and the business proceeded with. Who said that "Beer is Best"?

**By The Way.** At the last Municipal Elections Mr. J. W. Dawson, ex-Collector of this port, now in retirement, was successful in winning the Alexandra Ward seat as an Independent Candidate. And making the victory more complete was the fact that his victory was an "Independent Gain." Some members of the local Staff did a little to help Mr. Dawson to victory by an energetic "eve-of-the-poll" canvassing campaign. We feel sure that we shall hear from him. And soon. J.K.K.

## Merseyside News.

**Football.** On Wednesday, 24th inst., Customs met their old rivals, Wallasey Grocers F.C., to decide the right of entry into the semi-final of the Jenkin Cup. With two of our regulars unfit on account of injury, we were none too sanguine about the result against such formidable opponents, but after a splendid game, full of thrills, we were victorious by five goals to three. After five minutes' play, Billington raced half of the length of the field to score a magnificent goal, beating both backs in the process. This early success was soon nullified and at the end of twenty minutes Wallasey had piled on three goals and this score remained until half time. The second half opened very evenly and it was not until fifteen minutes had gone that Billington scored number two with a choice header. This aroused the Customs spectators, who gave such vocal encouragement that the same player obliged with the equaliser, converting a centre by Roberts shortly afterwards.

This goal seemed to unnerve Wallasey, who began to introduce "feeling" into the game. Excitement was at fever heat when the veteran Pollock side-stepped a vicious tackle and drove home one of his specials. Several otherwise staid officers lost their hats at this point and five minutes from the end "Ould Ned" crowned a grand display by netting one of the old-time free kicks, placed with unerring accuracy into the top left hand corner of the goal. In a game where everyone did his part, laurels must be handed to Billington, Pollock, Quine, and Urquhart, our new goalkeeper Ould Ned's cool head and deadly shots saved the day for us and we are looking to the semi-final and beyond.

### LUPTON CUP.

**Hull Match.** This game will be played on Wednesday, December 8th, at Hull and the Liverpool team and followers will leave Central Station at 8.30 a.m., arriving in Hull Paragon at 12.30 p.m. approximately. We are hoping for as large a party as is possible, and all who can travel will be assured of a real Yorkshire welcome from our Hull colleagues. An interesting game should be witnessed and may the better side win. The Liverpool eleven will turn out as follows, barring accidents:—

A. Urquhart, T. T. Brown, W. Gray, J. W. Dinsdale, A. C. Quine (capt.), R. L. Walmsley, S. Dixon, W. McLachlan, N. S. Billington, E. J. Pollock, H. S. Abblett.

J.W.D.

### Without Comment.

Always mistrust a subordinate who never finds fault with his superior:—Churton Collins.



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## Changes in the Staff.

to 29th November, 1937.

### APPOINTMENTS.

#### ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Beckett, E. W.	Livie, G. C.
Elliott, E. H.	Pearson, C.
Hollingsworth, A.	Rodgers, T. G.
Jarvis, J. D.	Walker, T.
Lee, G. P.	

### TRANSFERS.

#### CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Francis, A. G., Fishguard, Swansea to Liverpool.

#### PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Denby, J., Burntisland, Dundee to Whitehaven, Preston.  
Goff, R. H., Barry Dock, Cardiff to Southampton.  
Phillips, H. L. V., Hull to Plymouth.  
Padsey, W. M., Kirkwall, Aberdeen to Hull.  
Skinner, F. W., London to Southampton.  
Spencer, W. C., Plymouth to London.

#### ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Agnew, J. A., Seaham, Sunderland to Southampton.  
Harrison, A. H., Newport, Mon. to Southampton.  
Heal, D. P., Bristol to Southampton.  
Lamberton, M. I., Liverpool to Southampton.  
Stevens, A., Greenock to Liverpool.  
Strachan, A. S., Methil, Dundee to Southampton.

### PROMOTIONS.

#### ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Boocock, A., North Shields, Newcastle to Southampton.  
Knox, J., North Shields, Newcastle to Southampton.  
Smith, H. E., North Shields, Newcastle to Barry Dock, Cardiff.  
Spinks, B. E. G., London to Gravesend, London.  
Wasp, R. A., Southampton.

### OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE.

#### RETIREMENT—PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Brent, J.A., Whitehaven, Preston.

#### DEATH:—ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Mortley, H. J. R., Faversham, Dover.

## The Lupton Cup.

DOVER v. LONDON.

It was a merry throng of about 30 that journeyed down to Dover on the 23rd November, when the London Waterguard team met that of Dover in the first round for the Lupton Cup. We were pleased to see Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Lupton, who travelled down with us, as did Mr. C. M. Woodford, our Inspector-General, Mr. C. R. Purser, Waterguard Supt., London, and Mr. J. Merron, Waterguard Supt., Unattached. Space will not permit the inclusion the names of all the distinguished supporters but mention must be made of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. White and Mr. G. W. Gotts. These retired gentlemen seem ever to be present at all Waterguard functions.

The match was played on the Dover County Ground, which has a fine pitch set in delightful surroundings. London won the toss and Mr. E. P. Whettingstall, Waterguard Supt., Dover, kicked off with London having a slight advantage of the prevailing wind. Within about three minutes from the start it is to be regretted that "Chick" Lacey of Dover had the extreme misfortune of a fall which resulted in breaking his wrist. His place was taken by Pateman. During the first half most of the game was on Dover's territory. Dover's spectators certainly gave audible support to their team and the ladies present added their voices to no small degree. We wonder, however, that when crying "Come on, Dover!" they realised that London's skipper is named Dover!

From a throw-in Wilkinson (Dover) got the ball and passed it across to the goal-mouth where Milligan only had the goalkeeper to contend with. His effort resulted in the first goal being scored for Dover. A few minutes before the interval Stanley (Dover) sent a long pass to Shearer who scored the second goal.

At the resumption, excitement ran high and Dover appeared to be a valiant team in spite of the fact that play still continued in their half. From the number of shots that were made it is really surprising that there was no result from London. Davis (London) eventually got the ball and passed it to Douglas who ran through to score for London. On one occasion there was quite a scrum in front of the Dover goal and we really believe that Taylor was lying on the ball! When things had sorted themselves out, cries of "Well done, Taylor!" were heard. After a time Dover (London) picked up the ball about the half-way line, took it out on to the left wing and scored, thus equalising. Eventually Davis (London) brought London's score up to three whilst Williamson's goal was scored from a scrum in front of Dover's goal. As the result of an penalty Stanley scored for Dover a few minutes before the end which found London the victors by 4 goals to 3.

Although London played remarkably well, credit is due to Taylor, Brown and Stanley of Dover who played a very solid game.

We imagine that it was about 100 who sat down to tea at the Co-op. Stores in the High Street. Mr. E. P. Whettingstall, in a very pleasing speech, welcomed the London team and its supporters and said that he was pleased that the table was graced with the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Lupton, also for the presence of Mr. C. M. Woodford and the two Presidents of the London and Gravesend Clubs, namely, Mr. C. R. Purser and Mr. T. O. Hughes, Waterguard Surveyor. Mr. Woodford said that he was more than grateful with the success that the Lupton Cup has already met with. He spoke to Dover about the Cup, its origin and object. Referring to the afternoon's play, he said that he had enjoyed a good, clean and sporting game and that Dover was by no means disgraced by the result. Mr. A. S. Lupton, in an amusing speech, said that he hoped that the Waterguard would eventually obtain a ground of their own like that of the Working Men's College, in which he is immediately interested. He expressed thanks to all and his very good wishes to both teams. Mr. C. R. Purser recalled that after the Gravesend match, he said that Old Father Thames still had another string to his bow, and although during the present match several times his heart seemed to be in his mouth, the tide eventually turned. He congratulated the players and gave thanks to Mr. Whettingstall and the Dover team for a charming evening.

Several others spoke but much applause was heard when "Chick" Lacey, with his arm in a sling, got up to say a few words. He said that he had intended to say a lot but nevertheless he was pleased that London had won and mentioned that he had several cheap tickets to Liverpool for sale! He is to be congratulated on joining the function when he must have been in extreme pain.

After tea a pleasant convivial was spent at the "Queen's Head," nearly opposite. Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gotts, several entertained us with song and story and at the piano. The evening terminated with Auld Lang Syne and the King. Unfortunately, London had to leave early in order to catch the boat-train back from Folkestone. The party arrived at Victoria shortly after 11, and all agreed that a very fine day had been spent.

### Stop Press.

Result of Lupton Cup Match at Cardiff, Wednesday, 1st November:—Cardiff 4, Bristol 1.

## Preventive Service Sports Club. ANNUAL DINNER.

There can be little doubt that the Annual Dinner of the Sports Club is deservedly one of the most popular events of the Service social season, for, stripped of the essential formalities, it is indeed a homely gathering of people drawn from all sections of the Department. Possibly it is best described in the words of a lady visitor who, from a long programme of social functions, marks it down as "that jolly affair at which Mr. Woodford is in the chair."

The Eighth Annual Dinner held at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, on Thursday, 18th November, might be said to be almost a repetition of the previous one, except that with the passing years the friendships we have created earlier become more firmly cemented and make the presence of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Lupton, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Holland, Mr. W. Christian, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. W. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. May, and many other old friends on these occasions seem part and parcel of the affair.

It is obvious that Mr. Woodford really enjoys his job of Chairman, and it is no less true to say that together with Mrs. Woodford they give the impression of being out with the family for the evening. In such an atmosphere as this it would be impossible to feel any sense of formality and, if the Chairman's remarks could be read aright, the provincial members of the family were with us in spirit and only distance had prevented the gathering being three times as large.

In proposing the toast of the Club, the sporting achievements of the year were well told by Mr. J. S. Sutton in a somewhat sad and whimsical account of "what might have been" if—but even this sad story only dampened our joys momentarily, for when the Chairman replied and warmed to his job of recounting the various successes over a much wider field—tennis at North Shields, golf at Glasgow, football at Liverpool—we felt that far from all being lost, the Club had not only earned many distinctions but was assured of a wonderful future. Added to which, of course, we now have a competition in progress for the Lupton Trophy between the various ports which bids fair to become the most popular and exciting contest that the Department has known.

To avoid repeating what has been said so many times before to our friends and visitors is a difficult task, but with this toast entrusted to Mr. C. R. Purser, we were treated to a very skilful and pleasant discourse of which the main theme was that our charming lady visitors took a great share in the success of the event. Mr. Holland, who responded to the toast, is by no means new to this job and if, indeed, his professed difficulty of finding new words for the occasion was a real one, it was not apparent in the easy and humorous speech delivered in his own inimitable style.

A high spot of the evening was the presentation of the Sportsman's Trophy to the best all-rounder of the year—on this occasion a young member of the Club with only eighteen months' service in the Department—Mr. D. Ralph, whose enthusiasm and zeal on the playing field appear to have no limits judging by his various activities on behalf of the Club. Opportunity was also taken by the Chairman to hand the Lupton Trophy to the Club Secretary, Mr. W. W. Bishop, for safe keeping pending its final destination at the close of the Competition.

So to the dance, and here again the organisers had contrived to introduce some novel features that had a general appeal and, although making the evening all too short, placing on it that hallmark which lingers long in the memory and is a splendid tribute to the excellent work of the Committee.

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## That Personal Touch.

Those of our readers who are making their mental lists of Christmas gifts would be well advised to keep one extra special address in their minds. That address is Winegarten's, 145, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2. For many years past this old-established house has been a favourite with Civil Servants for its fine selection of jewellery, silver and articles for the home. Quite apart from the attractive discount of 4/- in the £ which is refunded to all Civil Service shoppers, there are two points to which especial reference should be made. The first is that the courteous service extended here to personal shoppers has become a tradition; that it is appreciated, the Winegarten postbag continually shows. The second point is no less worthy of being stressed: Winegarten's, being actual manufacturers, obviously save the shopper intermediate profits, and are in a position to offer that excellent value for money that makes of shopping at 145, Bishopsgate, always a judicious investment. The beautifully-produced catalogues issued by this house will be sent free on request. They are worth the closest study.

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## Obituary.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. H. J. Mortley, A.P.O. in charge at Faversham, which took place suddenly from a heart attack on Tuesday, November 9th. The interment took place at Teynham Parish Church on Saturday, November 13th. A representative gathering of Waterguard Officers from the Dover District attended, including Mr. E. P. Whettingstall, Waterguard Supt., Mr. H. Fowler, Waterguard Surveyor, Messrs. E. A. C. Hall, P.O., and C. L. Burton, A.P.O., Ramsgate, Messrs. H. M. Bullock, P.O., A. R. Taylor, T. A. Muskett, S. Powell and G. P. Fitzgerald, A.P.O.s, Dover, Mr. A. G. Vigeon, P.O., Ridham Dock, Mr. B. E. Haigh, P.O., Whitstable, M. D. Salter, A.P.O., Sandwick, and Coast Preventive men from the district.

## Metamorphosis

Ted Brown joined us in Bayport—straight from a wee village in Lincolnshire. Big and heavily built, painfully careful in his elementary duties as A.P.O., he was all but inarticulate; save only when he asked questions. Some of us deemed him dumb and shook our heads over the exam. system—but the P.O.s who answered his questions were not among these.

Bob White came to us at the same time as Brown. From his earliest days he had heard Bow Bells and forswore that no good could come to any of the unfortunates doomed to live beyond the limits of the Underground. His banishment from Concrete Fields in search of bread and butter, however, did not weigh too heavily upon him. Alert, intelligent, this bantam cock made the best of his bargain.

After a time these two, Brown and White, were seen together at times and in places. The Bayport Dog Show found Brown (a reluctant White in tow), almost guilty of enthusiastic enjoyment. At the Bayport Charity Ball, little White dazzled and danced his brilliant way while a perspiring Brown lumbered a very correct round or two. Digging together and swotting together for P.O., they must have cancelled themselves out after a fashion, for they passed "en paire" and in due course were promoted. At their appointments the Fates must have been in March mood, for Brown was sent to London and White to the rural small port of Deemouth.

To the surprise of us all, that was all there was to it, they just settled and more than one Bayport maiden grieved that she had not been asked to change her name to a colour.

Some years slipped by. About a year ago the affairs of an obscure aunt, deceased, brought White to London in claim of his mild inheritance. A 'phone call brought Brown hotfoot to the Strand Hotel where White, pleasantly amazed at the amount amassed and left him by the proprietor of a Forest Gate Corner Shop, had hung his hat.

Waiting, White saw through the foyer crowd a big fellow heading a purposeful path to the desk. Brown, yes—but what a Brown! From patent-leather shoes to hand-tied bow, this trim man spoke assurance, albeit his former brick-red countenance was toned down. While White hesitated, the big man's roving eye picked him out, sweeping over the ample middle, the ruddy face and down to the heavy shoes. If his astonished mind spoke "Farmer White" he showed no sign.

Their greeting was a thing of joy. Draw the curtain. Some eyes, unable to comprehend the love of man for man, do not favour such things and should not look. Towards 8 o'clock, dined and wine, Brown and White cast round for amusement. After friendly argument, Brown

accompanied White to a newsreel talkie on the understanding that White would go with Brown to a "club" later.

Midnight found them, then, at a little table, half hidden by synthetic palms, at the "Hot Dog." They were, if not lit up, burning very brightly, and quite prepared to meet their fun half-way. A bottle with gilt capsule lay within easy reach. Suddenly one of them, watching the cabaret out on the floor of the place, felt within him the stirrings of a faint uneasiness. Out of the corner of his eye he had seen a young man, a most impeccable young man—one of two at a window table—look twice within a few minutes at his watch and glance covertly round the room. He waited. The band was playing a tango now, and couples were slipping and dipping to the rhythm, laden tables neglected. The stirring within him increased—ran up to action. Grabbing his brother P.O. by the arm, he hustled in a few swift strides to the cloakroom and so down the heavily carpeted stairs. Safely on the other side of the road and while his companion expostulated explosively, he turned—and pointed. A big blue ambulance was braking to standstill, the rear door open and pouring out a small army of Metropolitan Police; the vanguard already three stairs up towards the "Hot Dog." Within three minutes the doorway was hidden by the crowd which springs, in London, from just nowhere in particular when a raid is on.

Brown and White were in a taxi, speeding towards the Strand, bemusedly thankful.

Which one sensed the raid? Well, young man, I leave it to you. When you've worked it out, come to me for a prize. I'll give you a ticket for the National Gallery!

TYRCONNEL.

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## As We See Others.

On page 7 of "The Drums of Peace" we find an article by Beverley Nichols in the course of which he writes:—"In the most unlikely places (on the Continent) I found men and women who were eager to know more about the Group (Buchmanite). One of the queerest cases was a little Hungarian travelling from Budapest to Vienna, who was so excited by the first principle of "absolute honesty" that he produced quantities of smuggled cigarettes from his suitcase and ran along to present them to the Customs officer. The officer was a very fierce man, gorgeously clad, like an animated Christmas tree. But he was so overcome by this unwonted exhibition of honesty that tears came to his eyes. He shook the little Hungarian by the hand and swore that the occasion should undoubtedly mark the beginning of an Austro-Hungarian entente!"

## Politeness.

"French Customs officials are to attend a special school to teach them politeness.

This is an excellent idea which might be copied. On the whole, British Customs officers are polite, but not always, and often rather frigidly so. But even if it is only a refresher course, a week at the politeness school would be useful.

There is no reason why *toujours la politesse* should not be translated into English."

News-Chronicle, 12.11.37.

Such a cutting would be best put in "Without Comment," which is really an abbreviation for "Without Printable Comment." On the other hand, it provides me with something to write about, which is something—or is it?

My own expression of opinion (with censorial dashes) upon first reading the paragraph was, "What the — — — do they want, Do they think we're a lot of — — Frenchmen? Let them attend to their — — jobs and we'll attend to ours."

Here, of course, we strike right at the foundations of the British Public. They simply cannot resist the criticism of public servants. I myself have often wanted to inform a bus conductor that he's a public servant, my man, and he'd better be careful. I suppose the root of it lies in the fact that we think we pay the wages of public servants and, as employers, must have our say. Pity the poor 'bus conductor who relies on my contribution—he'd have an elfin look.

Anyhow, we cannot be compared with other people who deal with the public. To the shop assistant "the customer is always right"; to us, the customer is only right until we prove him wrong. We don't tout at a shop window, but wait, backed by an impregnable bulwark of legal authority, until our clients come to our counter, and when they come they do not waltz blithely in to buy something they desire, but come with a glow of resentment against authority, to endure that which has to be endured, to cheat us if they can, and to report us if we're not civil.

Even bare civility to every passenger is not easy. I have long since come to the conclusion that when a person (and particularly a woman) travels, he loses all his decent civilised instincts. He becomes fretful, rapacious, unreasonable, egotistical and resentful. Where we see twenty A.P.O.s perspiringly wading through the baggage of six hundred passengers, he sees fifty impeccable, overbearing officers indolently chatting to each other, while he stands alone. When one officer hands him a notice to read, and at the same time reads its contents to him, he not unnaturally thinks that the assumption is either that he is blind or deaf. The final disturbance

of his baggage doesn't ease matters. Is it any wonder, then, that our clients, for whom we do nothing, except to upset them, purr not so loudly as when they have been flattered and soothed by an obsequious tailor or milliner?

In any case, would it be possible for us to be effusive with a passenger who may later be prosecuted by the department which we represent? It savours to me of the geniality of the hangman, or the feeding-up of the Christmas turkey. We are not a Latin race, and anything beyond a "frigid politeness" to a stranger is not natural to us. It seems to me that the only possible attitude for us to adopt towards passengers is one which indicates quite clearly that we have a job to do, which we must do whether they like it or not, that we'll do it as unassumingly as we can, but that if we detect them in an attempt to defraud our employers we'll report the matter officially. Only a courteously official manner indicates all these points.

I think that the evenness of the demeanour of the British Customs is to be preferred to the variable moods of those of a more excitable race. They are like the little girl who, "when she good, she was very, very good, but when she was bad she was horrid." Any person who deals with our department receives justice—but justice is no pleasant thing to the smuggler.

H.G.R.

## O Wad the Power

With the aid of science and secret agents, the British Customs authorities are rapidly driving air-smugglers out of business.

In the past, enormous profits have been made on drugs, cigars, silk and rare wines smuggled into this country by private plane, but now the risks are so great that pilots cannot be found to make the attempt.

The method generally adopted by the air-smugglers was to drop their consignment of contrabrand by parachute to accomplices at lonely parts of the coast or in the country.

The authorities, however, are now too vigilant for that.

Another smuggling plan was to land at some isolated and pre-arranged spot and hide the cargoes. The planes then continued to their destination.

But, to-day, a close watch is kept on the coast, and if a plane seems to take too long on the trip, investigations are made.

Even petty smuggling by air passengers from the Continent is being stamped out.

Well-trained men at 25 Customs airports in Britain can generally "spot" the would-be smuggler.

"The People, 21st Nov., 1937.

## Night of Nights by Nod.

Our annual dinner and dance was held at the "Bug and Glue Pot" Arms, Northport, on the 22nd Nov. (O.T. day). A full score and ten turned up in their best bibs and tuckers. The —ch car park at the back was crammed to capacity, in fact the roof of the chicken-house had to be removed to accommodate the last 1913 model that arrived. Chauffeurs in resplendent uniforms reminiscent of our own, partook of their repast "below stairs."

Our one and only Watcher, Mr. Speakum, who in engaged on hailing duty, was employed with a megaphone to announce arrivals and to keep order at any subsequent stage, if required. The scene was magnificent as officers and their ladies arrived en bloc at 5.30 p.m., when the doors opened. One could pick out Mr. and Mrs. Uptisch, the latter wearing an exquisite gown of pink diamente, delightfully set off at the corsage with a bunch of artificial geraniums. Her train was held up in her left hand while her husband's trousers were held up with safety-pins. Mrs. Downham, too, was tastefully attired in shot silk and split flannelette, and she, with her husband in plus fours, made a delightful pair.

Our ever-popular Mr. Codeligh, P.O., said in his opening remarks that he was sure that we did not want to listen to a lot of piffle from him (hear, hear!) as we were there to have a good tuck-in. He welcomed Mr. A. Schedule, our local tax collector, who had kindly deigned to be our guest of the evening.

At the word "Go" we set to and certainly gave a splendid compliment to the chef, Mon. Casey, whose *hors d'oeuvres* of liver and milk piquantly flavoured with garlic is worthy of praise. The Consomme d'Aquaguard was reminiscent of the prefix in our title. The winkles and red wine proclaimed a unique note in the menu and, while Beuf et Bier found many partisans, the Fromage et Biscuit (1921 vintage) spoke for itself. The wine list was excellent and carefully chosen. It ranged from cider to benzine.

Many endeavoured to speak but the dance was already in progress. Mr. and Mrs. Lovely gave a delightful exhibition of the Apache Dance and the attention that Mr. Lovely's eye required at its termination suggested that they are past-masters at its rendering.

Mr. Marjoribanks-Smith, A.P.O., would persist in perpetrating Mark Antony's Oration in the midst of "Knees up, Mother Brown." The evening was about to terminate with "Should old acquaintance be a Jolly Good Fellow" when a number of rude Police fellows entered and sold us tickets at £1 each for their dinner and dance on 1st April.

## Impossible Savings (13)

"One man," said the Lascar.

## Watch House Yarns.

The rummage crew were on board and in the pantry "dis-robing." It appears that the Master of the vessel had ordered a large cake to be baked for some special occasion, but unfortunately the bottom of the cake was badly burned and the Goanese steward was busy cutting about an inch and a half of the burnt part away. Said our young hopeful,

"Who burnt the cake, steward?"

"King Alfred!" came the unexpected reply.

\* \* \* "C." L.

A young P.O. only recently promoted was naturally a little nervous, and on one occasion when taking duty from a Chinese steward he noticed that the steward had signed his name on the duty-slip in Chinese.

"This won't do," said the P.O., "You sign your name in English."

"All right," replied the Oriental, "I sign my name in English if you sign yours in Chinese."

\* \* \* D.B.

An old boss of mine a few years ago always used to refer to a case of whisky as a case of musical fruit. When we were shipping bonded stores on one occasion I asked him why he gave it this name and he replied,

"Because after sufficient of it anybody will sing!"

\* \* \*

I heard tell the other day of a superior officer paying a visit to a small port. He was very meticulous in all his checking and required to see everything. Eventually, he wanted to test the alarm, but the officer entreated him not to in case of alarming those outside in thinking that there was a robbery. The superior insisted however, and in a few minutes the landlord of the local hostelry entered with two pints on a tray!

## Gloves.

Talk of it softly,  
Rash speculations.  
Kid gloves for rummage?  
'Great Expectations.'

Think of it gently;  
Someone has blundered.  
Think on it darkly,  
Your fingers are numbered.

A nice brilliant yellow,  
With navy cloth suiting;  
A dark pair for rummage,  
Boys, are we dreaming?

God save our press men,  
But spare us their prattle.  
They'll be telling us next,  
King Kong waves a rattle.

TROPWEN.

## For Your Note Book.

**The Hydrometer.** The hydrometer is an instrument used principally for determining the specific gravity of fluids, though some of them can also determine the specific gravity of solids. The hydrostatic principle on which the use of the hydrometer depends, is the well-known one, that when a solid body floats in a liquid, and thus displaces a quantity of the liquid, the weight of the solid body is equal to the weight of the liquid that it displaces. The density of the liquid is determined either by observing the depths to which the hydrometer sinks, or the weight required to make it sink to a given depth, therefore it will be seen that different weights will be required to sink it to any marked depths in different liquids, the denser the liquid the greater will be the weight required; and if the weight of the instrument itself is known, and also the standard weight or weights required to sink it to a marked point in distilled water, the calculation of the specific gravity of any liquid, from an observation with the instrument is very easy. The whole instrument is so weighted as to float upright.

The hydrometer (Sikes's) used in the Customs consists of a spherical ball and an upper and lower stem; the upper stem has 10 principal divisions, which are sub-divided into five parts, and by the separate application of nine weights in succession, completes the range of strengths from alcohol to water, each weight being equivalent to ten principal divisions.

The hydrometer with the 60 weight on the lower stem, is adjusted to float in proof spirit of 51° of temperature to the line below the letter P, engraved on the side of the stem; and by the addition of the square weight or cap on the top of the stem, to the same point in distilled water of the same temperature; the cap being one-twelfth part of the whole weight of the hydrometer and weight 60, shows the difference between proof spirits and water, and is the standard as declared and established by the Hydrometer Act, Geo. III, Cap. 28, which states proof spirits at 51° of temperature, to weigh exactly twelve-thirteenths parts of an equal bulk of distilled water.

Operations with the hydrometer should be conducted with the utmost care, as a very slight error in its indications will often seriously affect the result.

It is desirable that the samples and hydrometer should be together in the place where they are to be used, for some time previously, so as to equalise the temperature; where this is not practicable, and the thermometer on being stirred in the sample, shows a difference, the hydrometer should be gently moved up and down in the liquor for a few seconds, holding it by the extremity of the upper stem; it should

then be sunk until the whole of the scale is immersed and allowed to rise and settle.

When not in use, the hydrometer should be kept afloat when practicable in spirits or water to prevent abrasion as well as contraction of bulk, from sudden cooling by the evaporation of the spirit; and it should only be laid down, when necessary, in such a way as to secure it from being either bruised or scratched. The observance of these conditions is necessary to ensure correctness in the use of the hydrometer.

The indications should be read with the eye just below the level of the surface, the sub-divisions on the level with, or immediately beneath the surface being the proper indication. Where the colour of the spirit or other cause prevents reading from below, take the sub-division next under that cut by the upper part of the capillary line of the liquor on the stem for the true reading.

Before returning the hydrometer and weights to their case, they should be thoroughly dried and cleaned, without rubbing, with a soft cloth, and the box itself must be kept perfectly dry and free from dust.

**How to Use.** The operation for testing a sample is as follows:—

A sufficient quantity of the spirits having been put in a testing glass, the thermometer would be immersed in the liquid for a short time to discover its temperature, which we will suppose registered 45°, now open the book of tables (Sikes's) at the page headed, 45 temperature. The hydrometer with, say, the 40 weight on the lower stem, is now immersed, and allowed to rise so that a part of the divided stem intersects the surface of the liquor, say at 6.2; the number on the weight and the division of the surface must be added together for the indication, viz., 46.2, and on looking down column 40 will be found, opposite that number, 22.8 per cent. over proof.

Again, if the temperature should appear 55° and the weight 60 should cause the stem of the hydrometer to intersect the surface at 7.4, the addition of the numbers would be 67.4. Now if the book of tables is opened at page headed 55 temperature, against 67.4 in column 60, will be found 12.3 per cent. under proof.

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## Inter-Port Chess Trophy.

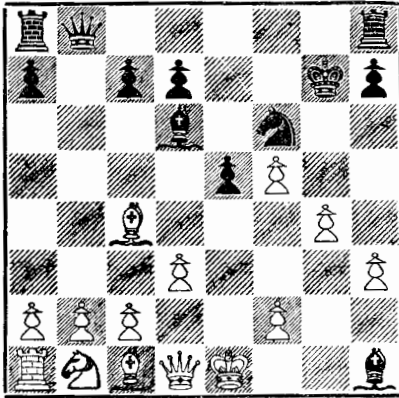
Entries should be sent to the Gen. Sec., P.S.S.C., before December 25th, please Teams of four players drawn from one Port of District under the supervision of a Waterguard Superintendent. If the team entering is not composed of members of the Chess Section, P.S.S.C., the entrance fee is 6d. for every player.

## Preventive Service Sports Club.

### CHESS SECTION.

#### PROBLEM No. 168.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White Play and win.

Solution to No. 167—

1. B—Kt 5 ch.                      K×B.
2. Kt—Q6 mate.

## Post Office Sanatorium Society.

All grades of Civil Servants, both permanent and temporary, are eligible for membership. The subscription is 4/4d. per annum for weekly-paid staff, and 5/- per annum for salaried staff, which may be deducted from salary. The Society exists to combat tuberculosis amongst the staff and the following are the benefits given:—

- (a) Free treatment without limit after a year's membership.
- (b) No payment whatever for medical or other fees apart from subscription;
- (c) Treatment in Sanatoria in Locality recommended by member's own doctor either in the United Kingdom or, in selected cases, in Switzerland;
- (d) Specialist's consultation without charge, in active cases or in cases of suspicion;
- (e) Free travelling to and from the selected Institution;
- (f) Financial and other assistance in "after care." An additional benefit adopted this year. The object being to assist members who have been superannuated as a result of T.B. To maintain their homes; to provide additional nourishment; to assist in preparing for some form of employment; to assist to cover the period seeking other employment; to help finance a business or in any way that the Committee may deem suitable in each individual case.

Existing members paying 3/- per annum are eligible to benefit under the new scheme, but it is hoped that all existing members will voluntarily increase to 5/- or 4/4d. according to whether they are salaried or weekly paid staff.

Over 300 cases of Tuberculosis in the Civil Service are dealt with annually. A case for treatment costs on the average £80 to £100.

Anyone desirous of joining this Society or increasing their subscriptions, please communicate either with Mr. Watson, Secretary, Post Office Sanatorium Society, Lion House, Red Lion Street, W.C.1, or J. W. Howe, Secretary, C. & E. Constituency, Registry, Custom House, E.C.3.

## All Ye Who Pass This Way—

IN OUR LAST ISSUE WAS ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF THE LIVERPOOL BULLETIN. BUT ONE THING IT ADVOCATED SHOULD NOT DIE. THAT WAS A "DRIVE" FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICE MOVEMENT. REALISING THAT MONEY AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR IS "TIGHT" WE ARE MAKING A COLLECTION OF OLD CLOTHES—UNIFORM AND CIVILIAN—BOOKS, ETC. PLEASE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY. FOR SOME REASON, ANYONE WHO RECOGNISES THAT THE POOR *ARE* POOR IS CALLED A SOCIALIST, BUT ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A SOCIALIST TO KNOW THAT THE ILLS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE DEPRESSED AREAS ARE ECONOMIC, AND LARGE-SCALE POLITICAL MEASURES ARE NEEDED TO ABOLISH THEM; BUT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE. IF A MAN WAS HUNGRY AND WITHOUT CLOTHES ON YOUR DOORSTEP, YOU WOULD NOT HESITATE TO HELP HIM. BECAUSE YOU DO NOT DAILY SEE THE MISERY, DOES NOT MEAN IT IS NOT THERE JUST THE SAME AND *YOU* CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR COLLECTION, AND THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE WILL PAY THE POSTAL EXPENSES. WE USE THE "JOURNAL" SO THAT THIS NOTICE MAY HAVE A WIDE CIRCULATION IN LIVERPOOL AND TO INCITE OTHER PORTS TO IMITATE. IF YOU KNOW A NON-READER OR NON-MEMBER (THE TERMS ARE NOT SYNONYMOUS) CALL HIS ATTENTION TO THIS CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

## Christmas Toy Appeal.

Although the list is closed on Saturday, members will still be able to find ways and means of adding their quota to this splendid gesture. Last year we helped to gladden over 24,000 little hearts.

From 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th December until Friday, the 10th, the massed exhibition of the toys will be on view in the courtyard, India Office, Whitehall. It will be a brave sight.