

# The Customs Journal

VOL. 34. No. 862.

November 6th, 1937.

FORTNIGHTLY.

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

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

## CURRENT COMMENTS

THERE was a feeling of disappointment at the opening of the Annual Conference when it was announced that Mr. Woodford would be unable to attend and perform the opening ceremony, although this possibility was anticipated.

The clashing of the date of this meeting with that of the C.P.O. Examination was unfortunate and the Councillors, indeed the whole membership, understand and appreciate the reason that governed his decision. To quote from his letter: "I want to keep my mind as free as possible from all other matters to deal with what I regard as one of my gravest responsibilities."

\* \* \*

It has been found impossible to rush through a detailed report of the Conference in time to catch this issue but this will appear in the next and, in accordance with past practice, that publication will coincide with the circulation of the Interim Report to all Districts. Members will appreciate that these reports are dependent on the verbatim shorthand report, the transcribing of which is no light task.

Comparing the proceedings of this Conference with those of the past two years, the outstanding difference was the absence of detailed and lengthy discussion on re-organisation. The reason is obvious, of course, in that the reply from the Official Side is awaited and the most the meeting could do was to give instructions regarding protracted negotiations. Nevertheless, the Council did put in some really solid work and provided the Executive Committee and the Secretaries with more than sufficient work to

ensure that their time will be fully occupied during the ensuing half year.

An amendment to the Constitution was adopted, the effect of which is to change the system of Area representation on the South and South East Coast. The new Areas are:—

**S.W. Area** comprising the Districts of Southampton and Plymouth;

**S.E. Area** comprising the Districts of Gravesend, Harwich, Dover and Folkestone.

Two councillors will represent each area and the task of arranging the initial election has been left to the Executive Committee. A significant aspect of this revision is that the election of councillors for the S.E. Area may result in provincial representation on the Executive.

On the question of representation, the C.P.O. Councillors gave notice of intention to move at the next Conference a proposal that representation on the Council, exclusive of Officers, shall be equal for all grades.

Discussion of the position that might arise in consequence of the promotion of the Organising and Assistant Secretaries was deferred until the next meeting.

\* \* \*

During the past few months considerable space has been given in these columns to the New Pensions Act and its effect on the Service generally. Nevertheless the number of enquiries still being received seem to indicate that there is a definite desire for further information and explanation. With this object in view the Secre-

taries have under consideration the publication of a circular showing the position of members in the various categories under the Act. By this means it is hoped to ensure that no one will have cause to complain that, through lack of full information, he has missed a last opportunity to insure.

The basis of determining the yearly income for insurance purposes (i.e. the upper limit of £400) of those whose annual earnings fluctuate from year to year (and this, of course, applies to most Waterguard Officers), has yet to be decided. The Joint Committee of C. & E. Associations has the matter well in hand and an early decision may be expected.

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The first match in connection with the competition for the Lupton Cup took place between Gravesend and Southampton and resulted in a victory for the latter team by 3—0. The next match takes place at Dover on 23rd November when London will be the visitors.

The keenness of the game at Gravesend and the enthusiasm of the spectators indicated in some degree the measure of friendly rivalry running through this competition.

It was a pleasant thought that prompted the sending of a telegram notifying the result to Mr. and Mrs. Lupton. Possibly this may be taken as a precedent; club secretaries please note.

One cannot help but notice that one of the effects of this competition is to bring the various Waterguard Sports Clubs closer together and it would seem that the day of the formation of the Preventive Service Sports Club under one President, with its port branches and common club badge, is not too far distant.

Efforts are being made to insert in this issue the Reservation or Order Form for the P.S.A. Diary, 1938. Although numerous requests have been received there is no evidence that the first edition is going to be sold out in double quick time. Nevertheless, members will be well advised to make sure of securing a copy.

The order form, with its picture and description, gives a good idea of the diary and the value.

Particular notice should be taken of the map supplement that has been incorporated. A unique feature this and one which should prove useful.

Details of the Eleventh Annual Customs and Excise Dinner and Dance are now available. It will take place on Saturday, December 4th, at the Criterion Restaurant. The Chairman will be Mr. W. H. Nithsdale, Superintendent Inspector, and we understand that the Commissioners of Customs and Excise have accepted invitation.

The tickets at 10/6 are obtainable from Mr. R. Muldroch (C. & E.), 101, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.2.

The saying that "nothing succeeds like success" aptly sums up the situation regarding the C. & E. Rally to be held on November 11th. The success of last season's function and the difficulty experienced in getting tickets at the later stage has resulted in a hectic rush, and long since the notice "sold out" has been put up. Seven hundred and one fortunate ticket-holders will make their way to Harrod's full of expectations and, if we know anything, they will not be disappointed.

## Changes in the Staff.

(to 1st November, 1937).

### APPOINTMENT.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Lockhart, E. H.

### TRANSFER.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Welch, T. M., Leith to Tayport, Dundee.

### OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT—PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Connor, R., Liverpool.

## Salcombe Presentation.

MR. H. M. PHILLIPS.

On Thursday, 28th October, the Custom House at Salcombe was the venue of a pleasing ceremony, when Mr. Harold M. Phillips, retired P.O./c, Salcombe, was presented with an Imperial Service Medal. The presentation was made by Mr. M. P. O'Flynn, Waterguard Superintendent, Plymouth, in the presence of Mr. W. H. Finley, Waterguard Surveyor, Plymouth District; Mr. J. Fox, P.O./c, Salcombe; Mr. C. H. Saunderson, A.P.O., Plymouth and Mr. A. E. Haynes, C.P.M., Salcombe.

Before pinning the medal on Mr. Phillips's breast, Mr. O'Flynn pointed out that such an investment should be regarded as an honour, as the I.S.M. was the highest award given to members of our service; and being issued by Royal Authority was only given as a token of appreciation of long and meritorious service.

Mr. O'Flynn expressed his pleasure at being able to invest the recipient with his honour and coupled with his good wishes those of the Collector at Plymouth. Mr. Finley endorsed the good wishes and spoke of how good a servant Mr. Phillips had been and how deserving he was of his medal.

Mr. Phillips expressed his grateful thanks at being made the recipient of this coveted decoration and spoke of his younger days in the service in terms which left no doubt as to the meritorious nature of his service.

The ceremony concluded with all present giving voice to the hope that Mr. Phillips—who is still very young in spirit—would have many years in which to wear his medal on auspicious occasions.

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C.H.S.

## Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council.

The two-hundredth meeting of the Council was held at the Custom House, E.C.3, on Wednesday, 20th October, 1937, the Chair being taken by Sir G. Evelyn P. Murray, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### Remuneration, Establishment and Allowance questions.

The Council resumed discussion of the conditions of service and rates of pay of Extramen, and the Official Side, in requesting adjournment, said that they had not completed their inquiries in the matter but that they were still considering the substitution of permanent staff for casual labour wherever possible, and they were also considering a revision of the rates of pay to Extramen necessarily employed. The item was adjourned accordingly.

The Outdoor Service Sectional Committee reported agreement on the arrangements for travelling, subsistence, etc., of Women Pension Surveyors together with a disagreement in respect of travelling expenses for Unattached Women Pension Surveyors in London, and both decisions were confirmed by the Council.

Other allowance questions dealt with included that of the consolidation of the former £20 basic allowances within the Department, and that of a language allowance in respect of a Clerical Officer post in the Secretaries' Office. The former was adjourned at Official Side request, pending consultation with the Treasury, and the latter was dealt with by confirmation of the disagreement reached on the subject in the Office Committee, the Staff Side stating that they must support the disagreement in view of the principle involved, despite their understanding that the practical difficulty no longer existed.

The remaining item under this head concerned the application to Departmental Higher Clerical Officers of the new salary scale, without provincial differentiation, set out in Treasury Circular 15/37 for Higher Clerical Officers. Correspondence had passed on the subject and the Staff Side, in referring to this, said that the Official Side letter of the 20th August, 1937, seemed to seek to impose unwarranted and unprecedented restrictions and conditions which the Staff Side could not accept. They felt that in making this verbal reply to the letter in question reconsideration would be given to the subject by the Official Side, and they were prepared to reach agreement forthwith if the restrictions and conditions were removed.

The Official Side said that they accepted the Staff Side's statement as a reply to their letter, and that they were, in fact, re-examining the question, but were unable to make any final announcement.

### Leave Questions.

Leave arrangements for Women Pension Surveyors were approved, and a Cardiff Waterguard leave scheme was agreed. A local disagreement was re-argued, and related to the restrictions imposed upon four Officers in Orkney Island in that they had to take leave in consecutive periods.

The Staff Side said that two alternatives seemed open—the first, to give the four men concerned free choice within the whole summer period—the second, to link them on a normal leave list with Officers on the mainland. The Official Side said that the first alternative did not seem practicable to them but that they would examine the second alternative.

The matter was accordingly adjourned for the Official Side.

### Staffing and Methods of Work.

The Council considered and adopted the Report of an *ad hoc* Committee, appointed in January, 1936, to consider the approval, staffing, and general conditions of control of, and work at, Aerodromes. Agreements from the Outdoor Service Sectional Committee were ratified, and covered revenue control and survey of Breweries, devolution of Collectors' duties in connection with the payment of duty in respect of averages, and the selection for verification of Blended Tea drawback claims. One disagreement from the same Committee covered Staff Side proposals regarding the re-scheming of Units Stations, and the Staff Side said that whilst this subject had been fully argued in Committee they felt compelled to take the present opportunity of stressing their feeling of dissatisfaction with the present system and the inordinate delays involved therein. The main difficulties seemed to arise during the consideration which was required to be given in the Chief Inspector's Office to cases of re-scheming. The Staff Side appreciated these difficulties but felt that some change for the better could be made.

The Official Side said thata they had no comments to make beyond those already made in the Committee and the disagreement was confirmed.

Schemes for Waterguard Staff at Holyhead, Customs Staff at Cardiff, and Excise Stations in Bristol Collection were approved, whilst schemes for Harwich, and certain Stations in Liverpool and Northampton Collections were adjourned for informal consultations.

### Instruction of New Entrants to the Officer Grade.

On resumption of discussion of the Committee disagreement on this matter, the Official Side said that whilst they had reached no final conclusions they were now in a position to give an indication of the lines on which they were considering the matter. They contemplated that

new entrants to the Officer Grade would undergo training for a period of six months—roughly three months on the Customs side and three months on the Excise side—and during this time they would be supernumerary. This training would normally be followed by a period of practical work in an assisting capacity, but the length of this period had not yet been fixed. Instructors with a flair for teaching would be established at suitable commercial centres—not necessarily in every Collection. Certain practical issues concerning the frequency of entrance examinations and the flow of new entrants were being discussed with the Civil Service Commissioners, but it was hoped to circulate a paper to the Staff Side outlining the proposals at a later stage. The Official Side suggested adjournment of the item for two months.

The Staff Side, in agreeing to such adjournment, expressed their appreciation of the manner in which the Official Side had tackled this problem.

#### Retiring Rooms and Sick Bays, Office Accommodation, etc.

The Official Side stated that after a further examination of the question of provision of Retiring Rooms and Sick Bays they felt that it was largely a matter of practicability, especially in city offices, and that it would be advantageous to have the matter discussed informally. The Staff Side concurring, the item was readjourned.

The Staff Side proposal for the discontinuance of use of copying-ink pencils containing methyl violet was again examined, and the Official Side said that experiments had been made and were still proceeding with a view to substituting for the copying-ink pencils other pencils of an indelible character. They were also investigating the question of the supply of pens as used in Post Offices. The question was re-adjourned for the Official Side.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, 17th November, 1937.

### Unknown Warrior—1937.

He stood all heedless of the falling rain,  
 And clanking tramcars thundering by;  
 Repeating his monotonous refrain,  
 The while with tragic impotency,  
 He thrust his wares before the passing throng.  
 "Laces and Buttons!" (*spare a copper, sir!*).  
 In sooth he had but little cause for song;  
 And yet neglected by the prosperous stir  
 That hurried to its snug suburban rest,  
 Nor glimpsed the medal ribbon on his breast,  
 Anon his purséd lips essayed a tune;  
 A merry, ribald, half-forgot refrain,  
 I heard long since, and 'neath an alien moon,  
 While men in khaki died in mud and rain.

J. C. GRANT.

## Excerpts from "The Customs Journal," 5th November, 1904.

### SUNDAY LABOUR IN THE CUSTOMS.

From the statement made by Mr. Victor Cavendish that "the department has done everything in its power to reduce Sunday labour," we can conclude that the Waterguard officers are more likely to get time off for work performed on a Sunday, than they are to get extra pay for it.

In future agitation, therefore, we shall have to guard against accepting compensation leave for work performed on a Sunday.

It has always been a mystery to Waterguard officers, why the officers of the sister department receive special treatment for duty on this day.

I presume their salaries were fixed on the basis that they too, were to perform Sunday labour for they used to do duty on that day in the Waterguard for a paltry shilling.

It would appear however that the Waterguard duty is unimportant compared with that of the landing, as the Examining Officers and Assistants, to-day, are paid for every hour of duty performed on Sunday.

It will be remembered that the year 1895 saw a great change in respect to the payment of the Boatmen. Those who entered before that time were to receive £5 per annum, and those who had the misfortune to join the Service at a later period were to work for nothing on Sunday. Of course the latter do precisely the same kind of duty, and on as many Sundays in the year.

It is possible that the authorities will be expecting payment themselves from the next batch of Boatmen for the privilege of being employed, things being cut so fine.

How many Boatmen would be willing to sacrifice the £5 per annum and receive four shillings for every Sunday employed?

Mr. Victor Cavendish says "Considering the conditions of the Service, they could not abolish it altogether." Some of the timid amongst us might hesitate to give up the £5 although we have the assurance that Sunday labour cannot be abolished.

We admit that it is possible to work the Sunday by reliefs, and unless we have it in black and white that our hours of duty shall not exceed 48 per week (of six working days), unless we are paid at the recognised rate of overtime, we would, perhaps, be foolish to grasp the shadow and lose the substance.

The alternative of course is to pay the Boatmen who have joined the Service since the year 1895 the sum of £5 per annum; still we cannot think that this is satisfactory or adequate payment for Sunday work at some ports.

Why should one Boatman at N—do 40 Sundays in the year for the same sum, as compared (continued on page 267, col. 2).

## The Annual Conference.

It did indeed seem strange that at the opening of the 15th Annual Conference our I.G.W. should not be present. The opening did not seem the same without seeing him. Really, it was unfortunate in so far that the examination of P.O.s should fall at such a date that prevented his attendance.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, stated that this was the first Conference for some considerable time that Mr. Woodford was unable to attend and said that the General Secretary had received a communication from Mr. Woodford regretting his inability to perform the opening ceremony but at the same time felt sure that we would appreciate the position and trusted that the Councillors' decisions would be guided by wisdom and sound judgement. It was immediately suggested that an appropriate reply should be sent.

It was rather anticipated that a large "gallery" would be present, having regard to the abnormal number of Waterguard visitors in London. It was not so, however, but one or two were later to be seen studiously (*sic*) watching the proceedings.

Only one new face was to be seen so far as Councillors were concerned and it was that of Mr. Dinsdale's, who was officiating pro tem. by reason of the promotion of Mr. Grosart of Liverpool. A welcome was extended to him with the usual wishes.

When all were seated, but before the proceedings had really commenced, an enormous black cat was observed making a tour of inspection amongst the Councillors' legs and his perambulations were, at least, thought to forecast the tranquillity that proved subsequently to be the key-note of the discussions.

After the preliminaries were over and one or two minor items were disposed of, the question arose regarding hat-covers and it was considered at one time that the discussion would be protracted. But the interest displayed in the next item about mackintosh leggings did become prolonged, influenced, no doubt, by the inclement weather for it was pouring with rain at the time.

The general atmosphere, however, did not have that electrical effect so noticeable at the previous Conference. Nevertheless, it did not alter the fact that the luncheon hour appeared to arrive unexpectedly, actuated, no doubt, by reason of the interest devoted to matters on hand.

At the termination of the first day's discussion Councillors departed for here and there only to congregate later at 9 o'clock at the Holborn Empire. It was observed that the row in which we were ensconced was lettered "G." Whether it signified that the Councillors are G men or was a coincidence is debatable. Where the

Waterguard sat, although a row of gleaming fronts was not apparent, a row of beaming faces revealed the fact that our chaps thoroughly enjoyed the show.

At the opening of the second day's Conference a welcome was extended to Mr. H. G. Green as a visitor from Greenock.

Financial matters were entered into and the keenest interest was taken in even minute details. Most explicit information was required and satisfactorily given.

Our General Secretary is to be congratulated on the clear and concise manner in which he elucidated the many versatile questions that were asked him from time to time. On the question of Re-organisation, he said that it was now for the Official Side to make the next move and that he anticipated an early meeting on the subject. We must emphasise, too, that our Scottish Councillors were not backward in propounding their views on matters to everything relating to the interests of members in their districts and to the Service in general.

To sum up, we would like to impress upon readers that the Conference was carried out in an admirable way. The Chairman conducted the proceedings in a most able manner and to be present would certainly be a revelation to those who are under the erroneous impression that these Conferences are run after the manner of some District Meetings.

## O Wad the Power.

While listening-in to a short-wave set the other evening, I picked up Schenectady, N.Y., which was broadcasting a sketch depicting the English Customs "Inspectors" at work.

A gentleman was returning from a short visit to Paris and produced one small suitcase for examination. He explained that he had little baggage since his visit was merely to fetch the body of his old friend, who had died in France, home for burial. The coffin was apparently in the Baggage Hall and the "Inspector" requested that it should be opened for examination. The passenger became highly indignant and expostulated, "I shall report you to my old friend, the Prime Minister." The "Inspector" however, replied, "The Prime Minister instructed me to have the coffin opened, Sir."

We then heard the drawing of nails, and the passenger drew back the sheet and displayed the body of his friend. "Now," he said, "Perhaps you are satisfied." "On the contrary, Sir," replied the "Inspector," "I have seen many corpses, but never before one which had a detachable head."

He then removed the head of the corpse, and revealed that the body was stuffed with French lace.

All that we can reply to this, I think, is "Oh, Yeah."  
H.J.B.

## Examination for Promotion to Chief Preventive Officer.

26th October, 1937.

### FIRST PAPER.—REGULATIONS AND PRACTICE.

Time allowed—2½ hours. 10 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

**Not more than THREE** questions are to be answered. Each question carries an equal number of marks. In order to qualify, not less than 66 per cent. of the maximum total number of marks must be obtained.

In answering the questions you are in all cases to assume that you are a Chief Preventive Officer.

1. Outline the conditions governing Water-guard control of the shipment of Bonded Stores, and state what steps you would take to ensure that the Regulations are being carried out in your port.

You visit a vessel O.B. to New York to supervise the shipment of 12 cases of B.P. Spirits from another port. The goods are on the quayside and the Master informs you that he has refused to accept them because the spirits are not of the brand he ordered. The local agent requests your permission to return the spirits to the original warehouse. What action would you take?

2. State how you would deal with each of the following points which might arise during the proceedings before a Magistrate in cases of smuggling:—

- (a) The Solicitor for the defence objects to your conducting the prosecution on the ground that you are not a barrister or solicitor.
- (b) The quantity of goods in respect of which the offender is charged under Section 186 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, is such that the Magistrate can deal with the case summarily but the offender elects to be tried before a jury.
- (c) The Solicitor for the defence informs the Bench that the offender, who is the Master of the ship, has already been fined by the Customs in respect of the offence.
- (d) Costs are awarded and you are asked to state what expenses you claim, if any.

3. State in the form of a report to the Water-guard Superintendent how you operated yesterday as C.P.O. in charge of a station staffed for the 8 a.m.-4 p.m. watch by two Boarding Crews and one Rummage Crew.

The position on the station was as follows:—  
S.S. "Alpha" @ Bremen with general cargo and 30 passengers.

S.S. "Beta" @ Marseilles with general cargo.

The above arrived at 9 a.m., both being regular traders.

Five vessels were in charge, one discharging grain in bulk @ Montreal, the others general cargo. There were also seven coasting vessels in port.

You found in the office newly lodged documents for 3 cases Scotch Whiskey ex bond as stores for the S.S. "Delta" which is sailing for Sydney at 3.0 p.m.

During the morning the Board of Trade Inspector calls to inspect the provisions of the S.S. "Delta" and rejects two cases of sweetened condensed milk as unfit for use.

Your report should show all the duties you performed, in the order in which you carried them out. No untoward incident occurred.

4. You receive from a Preventive Officer a report on Form 458 in respect of a seizure initiated by one of his Assistant Preventive Officers whose report is annexed to the 458. You have already investigated the case and offered the offender the option of proceedings by information and summons which he has accepted.

State in brief detail:—

- (a) What points and matters you would require to be embodied in each report before you proceed to submit the case; and
- (b) The ground you would cover and the points you would bring out in your report.

5. The Greek tramp steamer "Clio," 1,800 tons, left London on the 5th instant part loaded with cargo for the Mediterranean and with inward stores under seal. She calls at your port for additional cargo and bunkers on the 6th. At noon on that day Mr. J. Brown, P.O., on rummage, telephones you that John Jones, the local Foreman coal trimmer, has been stopped at the door of his hut carrying a bag containing 6 bottles of rum (25 u.p.) which he says the Mate of the "Clio" has given him as an inducement to secure quick despatch.

Having given suitable directions to the P.O. pending your arrival, you proceed to the spot and investigate the case. Although the seal appears to be intact there is a discrepancy of one gallon in the spirits in the locker. The Mate admits having abstracted the spirits during the Master's absence ashore at the Agent's office. After full investigation you decide to prosecute.

Assume that the case has been heard and that the Form 458 has been prepared by the P.O., and write your covering report, showing the action you took from noon onwards, the penalties incurred, and the charges preferred.

### SECOND PAPER—ADMINISTRATION,

Time allowed—2½ hours. 2 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

**Not more than THREE** questions are to be answered. Each question carries an equal number of marks. In order to qualify, not

less than 66 per cent. of the maximum total number of marks must be obtained. In answering the questions you are in all cases to assume that you are a Chief Preventive Officer.

1. What is the object of collecting particulars of Arrivals and Sailings? What are the duties of the Waterguard in this respect, and what steps would you take to ensure that those duties are properly carried out and that the returns sent in are accurate? Of what particular uses, if any, are the Arrival and Sailing sheets to a Chief Preventive Officer?

2. A body of persons of standing representing several recognised Yacht Clubs, request the Board to grant members the privilege of shipping Hydrocarbon Fuel Oil as duty free stores in yachts of less than 40 tons register when going foreign, stating that:—

- (i) the majority of modern motor yachts are less than 40 tons, are capable of extended cruises in foreign waters and are frequently so used, and
- (ii) that the duty is a hardship on the less well-to-do members of the yachting fraternity which those owning large craft escape under the Regulations.

You are asked by the Waterguard Superintendent to give, in the form of a report, your views as to the advisability or otherwise from the Waterguard point of view of granting the request. It may be assumed that the Board have power to do so if they think fit.

3. State briefly the various periods of possession and use abroad laid down by the Regulations for the admission duty free as personal effects in baggage of:—

McKenna and K.I.D. goods,  
Silk goods,  
General ad valorem goods.

and discuss them from the Waterguard point of view indicating whether in your opinion any modification or extension is desirable, giving your reasons.

4. A new dock, the nearest point of which is about 2 miles from the existing Watch House, is under construction at your port and the Dock Company have asked what accommodation we shall require. They state that at the outset the trade will consist of one or two overseas passenger liners and three general cargo ships a week, and that further development is anticipated.

The Waterguard Superintendent asks for your observations as to staffing and accommodation, and suggests that as a start two additional Boarding Crews (6-2 and 2-10), augmented as occasion requires by drawing staff from the existing docks, should meet requirements.

Write a report giving your views as to the staff required and setting out particulars of the

office accommodation you consider should be provided.

5. (a) Discuss the principal changes of practice in dealing with smuggling offences brought about by General Order 19/36 (other than those relating to deposits on ships) and state whether you consider any further modification is desirable or necessary, giving your reasons.

(b) State briefly what you would do if a Magistrate before whom you were conducting proceedings addressed the defendant as follows:—

“The Bench consider that this case was properly brought by the Customs, but have decided to give you the benefit of the doubt. You may go and take your goods with you.”

(continued from page 264).

with 22 Sundays by a Boatman at P—? Such an anomaly should be impossible in the same department and requires re-adjusting.

The Preventive Officers gain nothing by their promotion, in fact, are losers regarding the Sunday payment.

It must be unwelcome news to them to learn from Mr. Victor Cavendish that the commencing salary of £95 per annum includes payment for Sunday labour. They will not be slow in making the most of this argument for an increased salary at the proper time and place. Here is a common platform for federationists.

By the recent re-organisation of the hours throughout the Waterguard departments we are practically performing 48 hours per week.

The growing danger is that in pressing for pay, in addition to our fixed salaries for Sunday labour, the authorities may grant a 48-hour week of seven days.

As compensation for Sunday labour I would suggest that each grade, irrespective of the number of hours duty performed on the working days (or week-days) be paid at the rate of overtime applicable to each grade.

By such a scheme the Boatmen in receipt of £5 per annum would do 150 hours during the year. The '95 Boatmen would do the same, and the Preventive Officers would be agreeable to do duty every other Sunday at 1/6 an hour (and not compensation leave).

In short, we demand adequate payment for Sunday labour.

### Gravesend Annual Dinner.

The Gravesend Staff are holding their Annual Dinner on Tuesday, November 30th, this year, at the Masonic Hall, Wrotham Road, Gravesend.

Mr. Woodford will once more be in the Chair.

A good attendance of officers, past and present, is hoped for, and we shall be pleased to welcome our friends from other ports.

Tickets are 7/6 each and can be obtained from the Secretary, Custom House Sports Club, Custom House, Gravesend.

## Glasgow Notes.

"Why don't you put something in about —"; you're the Journal wallah, aren't you?" I don't know what particular phrase causes other C.J. correspondents to turn pale, clench their fists, and gibber inarticulate obscenities to the world at large, but personally I would award the palm to the foregoing, when uttered, as it usually is, in a loud disparaging voice.

Only a stern sense of duty, and the knowledge that no more capable aspirant is available for the job, has prevented me from chucking up the sponge and devoting my leisure hours to the pursuit of the Arts.

The highlights of a dreary news-empty period in Glasgow have been in order of importance:—

The P.S.A. meeting held in Mavisbank on Wednesday, 21st October, at 7.30 p.m., when

- (a) The Chairman slept in;
- (b) His deputy astounded everyone by doing the job as to the manner born;
- (c) Local business produced no acrimonious discussion;
- (d) The loyal opposition were unable to give vent to their strictures of the E.C., post-1925 P.O.s and post-1928 A.P.O.s; or raise peals of mocking laughter at the idea of Mobile Crews being recruited from those members of the staff who own cars, because the Re-organisation proposals are beyond the pale of discussion now, and have become, for good or ill, a matter of history.

Secondly, the announcement in a national newspaper (was it inspired?), that additional Customs Staff would be drafted to Glasgow to deal with the influx of visitors for the SCOTTISH and Empire Exhibition in 1938.

Thirdly, a display of golf in the Jubilee Shield replay, that only a man who has to be humorous for a living would have the callousness to describe.

And fourthly, the successes of the local black squads, which seem to indicate that smuggling on Yankee vessels is assuming "boom" proportions.

Among slanders current in the port are

- (i) that your impenitent and far from humble scribe obtained a new hat from filthy lucre, earned as a gutter-press, I beg pardon, water-front journalist.
- (ii) that V.E.S. tutors hope to pay the instalments on new winter overcoats from the increase in tuition fees.

Finally, almost at the moment of going to press, I obtained an exclusive story which, besides being real NEWS, is an unanswerable refutation to the charges that I am a member of the Left Book Club, and a direct descendant of the Marquis de Sade.

In the early hours of this morning, while I was wrestling with the intricacies of a timber file, a mouse with the sure instinct of the lower

animals for discerning the kind-of-heart, climbed up my trouser leg, and made itself comfortable on my knee. If further proof of my benevolence is required, I can call witnesses to testify that "Mickey" enjoyed a painless demise.

Am I telepathic or did I hear the Editor saying "Rats"?

J.C.G.

## Southampton District Meeting.

A District Meeting of the Association was held at Quilter's Hotel on October 20th, when Mr. Turvey, P.O., presided over a poor attendance.

The main item of importance concerning members was the announcement by the Whitley representatives of the Official Side proposals for the increase of staff at this port, which is for an addition of nine A.P.O.s, five P.O.s and one Watcher. After discussion, the meeting registered satisfaction at the Official Side proposals.

Discussion also took place regarding the Agenda for the Half-yearly Conference and Councillors were informed of the Southampton opinion on the resolutions from Plymouth and Liverpool.

Whitley Representatives for 1937-38 were then elected, Messrs. Clarke and Mitchell, P.O.s, and Lindell and Steven, A.P.O.s, being successful.

The meeting closed with a vote of appreciation and confidence in our Councillors and a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

## West Hartlepool District Meeting.

A District meeting was held at West Hartlepool on Friday, October 15th, 1937. A splendid attendance of members from Sunderland, Seaham, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough included representatives of all the grades, including C.P.O., under the chairmanship of Mr. Roy, P.O., Sunderland. After a report by Messrs. Davies and Moore (Tyne area Councillors) on the last Conference, a vote of confidence was passed on their good work. The new Re-organisation proposals were carefully discussed and, after a lengthy and lively discussion on the proposed salary scales, the new proposals were adopted by a majority vote. The proposals were so closely akin to those promulgated at the last Hartlepool meeting that harmony exists once more and another "rebel" fortress is silenced for the moment.

After leaving all other Conference matter in the capable hands of our E.C.s, another memorable meeting ended in a hearty vote of thanks to the Area Councillors and the Chairman. Sincere thanks is also tendered to the loyal Association members for their support in the past and, we hope, in the future. J.B.

## Plymouth District Meeting.

A Plymouth District Meeting was held at the Mikado Café on Friday, 15th October, 1937, under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. G. Johns, A.P.O. A goodly company foregathered to discuss the Agenda for the forthcoming Annual Conference and to formulate resolutions for the guidance of our Councillors thereat.

**Work and wait rule.**—The E.C. having decided that reports to the Gen. Secy. of individual cases is the best way to make progress in this item, it was decided that a local case be reported accordingly.

**Area Presentation.**—Progress made in sub-committee on this subject was noted and it was resolved that this District support the Org. Sec.'s proposals for future arrangement of Council Seats for the South Coast Area.

**Accidents on duty.**—A resolution was formulated under this head, which it is hoped will find plenty of support at the Conference:—"That opinion be sought as to whether there is contributory negligence, when officers, in the ordinary course of their duty, meet with an accident when boarding a ship in motion."

**Overtime period.**—As far as this District is concerned the meeting decided that our Councillor should not support the motion for alteration of "period-ending" dates.

The meeting then proceeded to local business and decisions were taken in connection with Office Accommodation and part of the schemed Plymouth Attendance. In connection with local finance, a motion was passed which, given the sanction of the Org. Secy., and the whole-hearted co-operation of the members concerned, should put the District in a much stronger financial position: and incidentally unify us in our interests again.

After local business, a resolution concerning cap-covers was framed for inclusion in the agenda of the next Half-yearly Conference.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Mr. G. T. Clarke, A.P.O., Councillor for the South Coast.

In concluding this report, mention must be made of the good attendance and the good spirit prevailing which made this the most fruitful meeting held in Plymouth for some time. And one wonders to what extent this revival of interest is due to the fact that our complement now includes a Councillor who can directly represent our views. If the good attendance was attributable to this cause then that is the strongest argument in favour of the proposed re-organisation of the South Coast representation.

C.H.S.

## Merseyside News.

**Football.**—On Wednesday, October 20th, the F.C. ran up against a tough proposition in Wallasey Grocers F.C. and after a hard game were defeated by 4 goals to 2. The ball ran for Wallasey all the afternoon, two seemingly good goals being disallowed for Customs who merited a draw at least.

On the following Wednesday, 27th inst., fielding three reserves we met the league leaders, Windsor United, and were beaten by a very fast side by 3 goals to 1. Our scorer was N. S. Billington, who has not yet failed to score in a match. These two defeats seem to indicate that we are not so good as we imagined, but it must be remembered that the opposition was exceedingly strong in the last two matches and that the side though beaten was by no means disgraced. At a meeting of the Football Club it was decided to accept the invitation of Hull Waterguard Sports Club and to play off the first round of the Lupton Cup there. Further details later.

**Social Side.**—Tickets for the Annual Dinner are selling like the proverbial hot cakes—if you are too late to obtain one—you have only yourself to blame. See C. F. Shaw or W. B. Clayton at the Stage.

J.W.D.

## Bristol News.

An event of rather rare occurrence happened here last week when the s.s. Etrib brought into port a Spanish trawler with 13 refugees, having picked up same stranded in the Bay of Biscay. Since arriving in the port the trawler has been placed under arrest by the Admiralty Marshal.

B.J.B.

## Hull Prosecution.

Whilst keeping observation on the s.s. Harrogate, from Antwerp on the 21st of October last, Mr. T. J. Drury, A.P.O., noticed W. B. Gibson, 3rd Engineer of the vessel, acting in a suspicious manner. On going on board the vessel, Gibson made a dash down the Engine-room and through to the stokehold, where he threw a bottle of gin into the furnace. Mr. Drury managed to secure part of the broken bottle and, as a sequel, Gibson was charged and convicted at the Hull Police Court with carrying and destroying the gin, being fined £2 1s. 6d. on the first charge and £2 2s. 0d. on the second. Mr. Drury was in a rummage crew directed by Mr. R. A. Crooks, P.O., and the prosecution was conducted by Mr. R. J. Girling, C.P.O. For those interested, it may be stated that the charge of destroying was preferred under Section 12 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1881.

R.W.B.

### Small Port Short.

The P.O. in charge opened his cash book, commenced to add, "twenty-four, thirty, thirty-two—Ah! Good morning, madam."

An elderly lady croaked, "He says he don't want no more."

"No more what,"

"Eh?"

"I said, 'No more what?'"

"No."

"No what?"

"Eh?"

"Who is 'he', and what is it that he doesn't want any more of?"

"Eh? My Jim says he doesn't want no more of them coupons, because yer odds are too small, and yer lists too short. 'E ses Bigtrees paid two 'undred ter one for eight results and you're only givin' twenties. Support local industries, indeed! It doesn't pay a feller—"

"Excuse me, madam, but this is the Custom House."

"Eh,"

"This is the Custom House."

"I don't care whether it's the custom or not, my Jim don't want yer coupons. Good morning to you."

"Good morning. Now—twenty-four, thirty—Good morning, madam."

A not-so-elderly lady this time. "I've just had a baby."

"Madam!"

"My Bill says I've to come and see you about it."

"Madam, I can assure you that I know nothing whatsoever about you and your baby."

"But my Bill told me to come and get two pounds maternity benefit. Can I have it now, please, as I want a new costume for summer, and the paper says clothes are going up, and if I don't get it before then, I won't be able to get it at all. You know, the last time I had a costume was when I first met Bill, and he told me that he said to Sam Green—that's his pal, y'know, works on the railway—he says, "Sam," he says, "If I don't take that girl in the two-piece out inside a week, you can have a pint on me." That's why I want another, you see."

"I think," said the P.O. wearily, when the flood of words had abated, "I think you want to see your Insurance Society."

"Well, I never! And I thought this was the Puritanic Office! I'm sure my Bill said this was it. Are you quite sure it isn't?"

"Madam, this is the Custom House."

"Well, if you're sure—but my Bill doesn't often make mistakes like that. I'll go and ask him again, Good morning!"

"Good morning! Now—twenty-four, thirty—Hello, sonny. What do you want, Signing on?"

An extremely small and grubby boy handed up a dirty ball of paper. The P.O. unrolled it

and read, "1 pd. shin-beef, sum bits for the dog. Pay you dole-day, Yrs. fraternally, E. Huggins." A smile of dreadful sweetness appeared on the P.O.'s face. "I think you want the butcher's shop, sonny, Run along, now."

"Twenty-four, thirty—Yes, sir, what can I do for you?"

A man with a bag this time. He deposited his bag on the counter. "I have some wonderful lines in office stationery here, sir, I may say that the products of our firm are unbeatable at the prices. Look at this, sir—a perfect pencil for office use; and the price? Sixpence, you say? No, sir, not half that—"

The P.O. broke in, "I'm sorry, but we do not buy anything direct from this office."

"Well, sir, what about something for the house, A rubber, or a box of crayons for the nippers—"

"I don't want anything."

"How about a fountain-pen clip, sir?"

The P.O.'s collar became tight. He leaned over the counter, and with a superhuman effort spoke quietly, but with a world of menace in his tones. "Please go," he said, and before the insane glow in his eyes the salesman slunk out.

The P.O. looked wildly round. He sat down, and appeared to be brooding. Then he rose with an air of decision. He took out his seal, and put it in the fire. Next a cigarette, which he lighted with his commission. Finally, putting on his private jacket, inside out, he made a dunce's cap with the centre page of the cash-book, and with it perched on his head, walked into the street singing "The Soldiers' Chorus."

### Port Talbot Prosecution.

At the Port Talbot Police Court on 23rd October last, Artemi Willo, Cook, of the Estonian ship "Taara" was charged with concealing 65 bottles of brandy (5.71 pf. gls.). He was convicted and fined £54 (D.V.D.) or one month.

The goods were concealed in a tank beneath the winches between Nos. 3 and 4 holds. The tank extended the width of the hatches, the length between the two holds and a depth of about 3 feet. Access was gained by means of a small man-hole which was bolted down. The fact that the ship had a full deck cargo of pitwood made access more difficult. Discovery was made by Mr. N. J. Taylor, A.P.O., in the rummage crew supervised by Mr. J. G. Flynn, P.O.

The case for the Crown was ably conducted by Mr. J. H. Atwill, C.P.O. T.W.

### Lupton Cup Next Round.

The London team travels to Dover on Tuesday, November 23rd. Further information can be obtained from the Football Section Secretary, Mr. G. B. Dover, "Harpy," Waterguard.

## Nearly Nebulous, by "Nod."

These last few weeks the conversation at our port has been on nothing else but examinations and last week it reached a climax. All one could hear was all sorts of queer statements about in-charge ports, revenue evasion, how answers were made and how the examiners were enlightened on some points. The repetition of this phantasmagoria of these interesting subjects eventually got my mind in such a melee that, honestly, I dreamt about the blessed things.

As is usual with these disordered functions of the brain's figments, everything became disjointed, reversed and out of place. I dreamt that the Re-organisation had come into being and that I was "up" to satisfy the Board that I should be an Assistant Preventive Officer.

As I entered the examination room a voice from under the table bid me good evening, and on replying that I had no idea, another voice requested me to take two chairs. Up jumped one inquisitor and asked:—

"Are you happy?"

"Oh, quite," I replied, "I'm charmed to be here."

"Now, I want you to imagine that you are a real A.P.O. and your P.O. tells you, during the lunch hour, that he is going to have a pint. Please give me your observation on this matter."

"I am of opinion," I answered, "that I should accompany my P.O. on his mission, for what is sauce for one is H.P. by me. The valuable vitamins constituting both food and drink at the extremely low price of 6d. a jugful should be taken on every possible occasion, whereby the efficiency of the Service is enhanced."

"Um!" said the examiner, taking a gulp at the water bottle, "Suppose you are on a busy station and you are instructed to go on board a barge from Bichester with bricks bound for Boulogne. What would you do?"

"Easy," I replied, "I would interview the barge skipper and inquire of him if he was aware that the calcareo-argillaceous composition may contain certain chemicals contrary to the clause covering—" Here my examiner took on a threatening look and produced a brick, so I finished by simply saying, "Codes."

Then up spake one brave inquisitor and said, "Oh, Mr. Nod, do you think that seizure awards should be abolished?"

"Most emphatically no," said I, "on the contrary they should be trebled and not only P.O.s but C.P.O.s should participate in the spoil."

"Why?" I was asked, to which I replied,

"You're asking me?"

## The Lupton Cup.

### GRAVESEND v. SOUTHAMPTON.

The first round of the "Lupton" Cup Competition was played at the Central Avenue Ground on Tuesday, October 26th, between Gravesend and Southampton Waterguard teams.

After a very wet morning, the weather cleared and the game started at 3 p.m. in good football weather. Southampton had brought along a vociferous band of supporters, who awaited the whistle as keenly as the players.

From the start, Gravesend went into the fray, and pressed strongly for a time. The Southampton side took a little time to get into their stride, but eventually they got going, and gave as good as they got. Towards the end of the first half, success came to Southampton. A cleverly conceived move put the Gravesend defence awry, and Langford finished off by giving Hale no chance.

This put heart into the visitors, and they went all out again, Bayliss making a fine effort to score; but Hale made a miraculous save which brought the house down.

Then disaster overtook Gravesend again. There was a scrimmage in the goalmouth, and Bayliss rushed in and placed the ball into the net. The interval followed soon after this.

The stand was inspected, to see if the cheering of the Southampton supporters had dislodged anything. Everything was well, so the battle recommenced.

The game was decidedly going in the favour of the visitors, and only sterling work by Smith, Cooper, Urwin, and Hale kept the score within reasonable limits. The home forwards were well held by a good all-round defence, and could only make an odd sortie from their own half.

A third goal came to Southampton through some cool play by Bayliss. He drew the defence, and placed a perfect pass to Langford, who made no mistake with his shot.

Gravesend still fought back courageously, but could not get a concerted attack together, and the game ended with no further score.

Southampton fully deserved their win, and played well as a team. Outstanding were McNeill, who kept the opposing forwards well in hand, and the full-backs, Andrews and Pedley, whilst Bayliss played a superb part as schemer for the attack.

The game was keenly fought, knocks being given and taken in good spirit. Brennan and Plowright were both put out of action for a time, but managed to recover and continue playing.

**Teams**—Gravesend:—Hale, Forro, Smith, Urwin, Cooper, Thomas, Ellingham, Ramsay, Jones, Brennan, Aylen.

Southampton:—Plowright, Andrews, Pedley, Hayward, McNeill, McDougall, Barratt, Fry, Langford, Bayliss, Hornsby.

## Impossible Sayings (11).

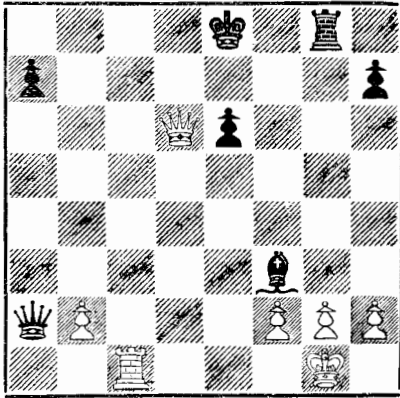
"We'll have to arrange an overflow meeting," said the District Secretary.

## Preventive Service Sports Club.

### CHESS SECTION.

Problem No. 166.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White play and win (3 variations).

Solution to No. 165—

1. Kt—K7, double ch. K—R1.
2. Kt × P mate.

## London Annual Dinner.

Have you secured your ticket yet for the 8th Annual Dinner and Dance at the 1st Avenue Restaurant, High Holborn, on Thursday, November 18th, at 6.30 p.m? Music by Billy Bell and his New Rialto Orchestra. Dress optional. Tickets 7/6. Spot prizes, etc.

## C. and E. Dramatic Society.

Those whose ideas are biased on the matter of amateur theatricals would have found their conclusions shattered had they attended the C. & E. Dramatic Society's show, "A Damsel in Distress," held at the Cripple Gate Theatre on 26th and 27th October. To mention that the joint authors are Ian Hay and P. G. Wodehouse is sufficient to warrant that good comedy was not lacking. The writer can say, without exaggeration, that the rendering of the play was excellent in every respect and it behoves all of us to watch out for the Society's next show in order not to miss a real good evening's entertainment.

(continued from col. 2).

Victory gave further impetus to the evening's jollifications and, after saying farewell to all at Gravesend, the majority spent it celebrating in town. A reserved coach was waiting for us on the 10.30 at Waterloo and even when London was far behind community singing was still going strong, to put the finishing touches to an extremely enjoyable day. H.L.F.

## The Lupton Cup-Tie.

Before the Gravesend match there was a considerable amount of speculation at Southampton as to how we would fare in the first round of the Lupton Cup. The Gravesend team was an unknown quantity to us and when we read in the last issue of the Journal of their close game with London, it was realised that we had no easy task in front of us. However, Southampton supporters took heart in the fact that our team had won their last six matches off the reel and was a definitely better side than the one that lost twice to London last year.

An enthusiastic party of nearly forty, including the Waterguard Superintendent, left on the 11.20 on Tuesday morning. Snacks were had at Waterloo and Gravesend was reached unfortunately just after closing-time. The journey from London to Gravesend was over new ground to a lot of us, but knowing ones in the party obligingly pointed out the various beauty spots on the way down such as Deptford Creek and Beckton Gas Works.

In spite of the fact that our captain had been so preoccupied thinking over tactics that he left his gear at the bus-stop, the match started punctually and the weather was almost ideal at the kick-off.

The match itself is dealt with in more detail by the Gravesend correspondent, but these impressions of the game remain.

The ding-dong struggle of the first twenty minutes or so, followed by Langford's beautiful goal, quite worthy of being the first goal ever scored in the Lupton Cup Competition. How he steered the ball in from an angle with a back on top of him is a mystery, but it certainly roused Southampton, who settled down to play more their normal game.

The magnificent displays given by both goalkeepers who, although different in styles, both excelled. One save by Hale from Bayliss was brilliant.

Gravesend's untiring efforts to pull the game out of the fire, especially Cooper, who was here, there, and everywhere.

The excellent covering of the Southampton backs under pressure and the continuous vocal efforts of the Southampton supporters.

Right to the final whistle the game was keenly fought but the winners' teamwork earned them their victory.

After the match tea was very welcome, during which many old acquaintanceships were renewed. We endorsed the remarks of our captain who said he hoped Gravesend would eventually find consolation in the fact that they had been defeated by the first winners of the Lupton Cup in spite of Mr. Purser's humorous warning that "Old Father Thames" still had a second string to his bow.

(continued at foot of col. 1).