

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.



THE Waterguard Sectional Committee met on the 22nd April under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. W. Hardisty, and although only one item in a lengthy agenda reached finality, progress was made on most of the others.

Disagreement was recorded on the Staff Side claim for an increase in the commuted subsistence allowance paid to unattached Chief Preventive Officers.

A lengthy reply was given to the Official Side counter-proposals for Reorganisation of the Launch Service; the Staff Side rejecting the proposed salary scales, contending against the creation of another unestablished grade (Engineer Mechanic, 2nd Class), but welcoming certain aspects of the reorganisation.

The Staff Side were more than a little surprised at the Official Side attitude in refusing to adopt the agreed Report of the Sub-Committee on Work and Waiting Rule (Out-stations). This matter has been under discussion for five years, and it will take more than

mere arguments to justify a belated statement that there is nothing doing.

An offer of increased leave for Assistant Preventive Officers was made by the Official Side.

It will be recollected that we claim 18 days (first five years) and 21 days thereafter. The offer was 14 days (first five years) and 21 days thereafter, provided the additional leave due did not increase the amount of minuted summer leave. This is being considered.

At the end of the meeting the Staff Side referred to the retirement of Mr. McLaren and placed on record their sincere appreciation of his sympathetic handling of staff matters.

* * *

May 12  1937.

All Members of the
Preventive Service
join issue in sending
Loyal Greetings to
Their Majesties

The Promotion Board gives notice that at its meeting on 14th May, 1937, it will consider the filling of the vacancy of Deputy Inspector-General of Waterguard and any consequential vacancies.

Whatever doubts existed as to the fate of the much discussed Reorganisation Scheme, those doubts are now settled by the unanimous decision of the Council after a discussion which lasted for nearly a half of the two-day session of the Half-Yearly Conference. There were amendments, of course—one expected them—but the main theme of the original scheme stands, and there will be no hesitation now in preparing the case for presentation over the Whitley table.

A full report of the proceedings at the Conference will appear in the next issue.

* * *

It might well be said that the future of the C.S. Confederation depends on the decisions made at the Annual Conference to be held on 28th May next. There is no doubt that the Confederation is faced with a difficult situation. The issue as between "wise spending" and "economy" (either of which would cause secessions) has been complicated by the recent publicity given to an old ideal—a Clerical Federation. Clearly Associations in such a Federation would have no use for Confederation and the position of Associations representing grades other than Clerical would need serious consideration. The Customs and Excise Group of the C.S.C. met on the 4th May and it was decided to hold the next meeting early in June in order to review the situation in the light of developments.

* * *

The usual representative gathering of members of the C. & E. Department was seen at St. Dunstan-in-the-East on the occasion of the annual Ascension Day service held on 6th May. The sermon was preached by the Venerable E. N. Sharpe, Archdeacon of London, and the Lesson was read by Sir Evelyn Murray, K.C.B., the Chairman of the Board.

* * *

No success has, so far, been achieved in the attempt to get the Government to withdraw that part of the new Pensions Bill which repeals Section 121 of the old Act. The Bill passed through the Committee stage on the 27th April and unless something, at present unforeseen, happens valuable concessions will be lost to Civil Servants.

An article giving an outline of the position is published in this issue, and those who are still eligible to secure voluntary insurance for Old Age Pensions would be well advised to do as the writer suggests.

* * *

It was announced in the "London Gazette" and in "The Times" (Saturday, 1st May) that the celebration of the King's Birthday will be observed in the Customs and Excise Department on Saturday, 12th June. The rest of the Civil

Service will, of course, take the 15th May, in accordance with Treasury Circular 5/1937.

* * *

With the Spring Flower Show the Horticultural Society comes into the news again and, judging by the number of entries and the extremely high standard, it has made a start that augurs well for the Summer and Autumn Shows.

The reference to the high standard is not lightly made. Actually, the Judge in his report said that the quality of blooms was equal to that seen at professional shows, and one particular entry in the narcissus group was as near perfection as any he had ever seen. Praise indeed!

Excerpts from "The Customs Journal," April 23rd, 1904.

THE CUSTOMS VOTE, 1904-5. *

The total provided for Waterguard and Preventive duties is 1,361, against 1,390 in 1903-4. This gives 18 superior positions above the grade of Preventive Officer, 390 Preventive Officers, and 953 Boatmen. The reduction effected during the past year of 29 Boatmen shows a saving of over £3,000; the exact figures are £73,003 against £76,123. On the other hand, we find that the vote provides for an increased cost for the Preventive Officers from £50,542 in 1903-4 to £76,123. On the other hand, we find that the uniform clothing is increased from £6,300 to £7,900. This is probably due to the provision of uniform for the Preventive Officers, although in part. Seeing that the annual cost of an Assistant's uniform is £2 16s. 0d., and a Boatman's average cost £2 12s. 8d., having regard to the quality and cut of a Preventive Officer's uniform it cannot, it is thought, exceed the average cost of the suit provided for an Assistant. The sum of £3,300 is provided for rewards for the capture of smugglers, etc., rewards on account of goods seized, and fines and penalties recovered. Turning to allowances, we find one Inspector occupies an official residence and has a personal allowance of £50.

"Star" allowances to Boatmen absorb £1,535. Seven Boatmen employed on Detective Service receive allowances in lieu of uniform clothing. There are allowances to 16 Examining Officers and 16 Preventive Officers acting as second officers. Allowances to 53 Preventive Officers-in-Charge, 42 Assistant and Boatmen acting as second officers, 36 of £10 and 6 of £5, and seven Boatmen for Detective Duty in receipt of £5 each per annum. There is also an allowance of 4½d. a day in lieu of the ration of rum paid to each member of the crew of the "Vigilant."

During the year 18 Preventive Officers, with an average age of 59.2 years, and nine Boatmen averaging 56.8 years of age, have been superannuated. There is an estimated saving by retirements of £3,000 during the year.

Civil Service Confederation.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT,

March 25th to May 1st.

House of Commons,

April 30th, 1937.

The Statutory Salaries Bill (Second Reading, April 7th), indirectly affected the Civil Service in relation to County Court work.

The Parliamentary British Legion Committee have sent their Memorandum to the Treasury on the case of the "S" Class men, but have not yet received an official answer (May 1st). It is understood they have also forwarded statements which have recently appeared in the papers on the position of the unestablished men in general.

There was an interesting debate on Class VII Estimates (Revenue Buildings) on certain Government Building Schemes (April 12) and on April 12th Colonel Wedgwood was at his best in suggesting that the Ministers of the Crown Bill would change the character of the House and "convert it into a branch of the Civil Service."

The new Pensions Bill has greatly affected the Service in respect of certain "excepted" workers. Those now insured will not suffer, but all future entrants into the few affected Approved Societies—Civil Service, Railway Clerks and the N.A.L.G.O.—will be affected by the loss of Health Insurance and the State Old Age Pension. The Labour Party put up a good fight in Parliament against the vital Clause 13, but unsuccessfully. The Bill soon passed the Committee more or less unchanged, and will become law in the near future.

April 6th.

The 10,000 Ex-Service Men.—There have been several questions directed to ascertaining what is the exact meaning of the War Office policy of absorbing 10,000 ex-Service men in the next two years.

Mr. Creech-Jones asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the policy of the Government in regard to the absorption of ex-Service men in the Civil Service in the next few years; whether special attention has been given to the matter recently; and whether any report will be made available to the House?

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Lt.-Col. Colville: For many years a large number of posts in the Civil Service have been reserved to ex-Service men. Thus in the Post Office 50 per cent. of the appointments as postmen and porter are so reserved, and in the case of cer-

tain other appointments the reservation is 100 per cent. So far as Government Departments generally are concerned, in filling posts for messengers, porters, etc., and posts in industrial establishments for which ex-regulars possess suitable qualifications, first preference is given to duly qualified ex-regular sailors, soldiers and airmen. The whole question has been under recent review, both generally and with particular reference to the anticipated requirements over the next year or two in the matter of civilian personnel, arising out of the rearmament programme, and it is hoped that a substantial number of extra posts will be made available for ex-Service men during that period. The answer to the last part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. Creech Jones: In the development of this policy will there be consultations with the organisations of the men concerned?

Lt.-Col. Colville: I think my answer to another question on the paper will throw some light on that matter.

Mr. Kelly asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of his announcement that the Government hope to place 10,000 ex-Service men in the Civil Service during the next two years, he can state the types of posts which will be available for such ex-Service men and the method by which they will be filled?

Lt.-Col. Colville: The posts which it is hoped to make available for ex-Service men during the next two years will, in the main, be similar in character to those which are at present reserved to ex-regulars, or for which a preference is given to ex-Service men. They will include, for example, appointments in various grades in the Post Office, appointments as messenger, porter, etc., and posts in industrial and other establishments under the Defence Departments for which ex-Service men possess suitable qualifications. The normal method by which vacancies will be filled will be through the machinery of the Employment Exchanges acting in conjunction with the National Association for the Employment of ex-Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen.

Mr. Bellenger: Will any of these posts be clerical posts?

Lt.-Col. Colville: There are certain clerical posts which are occupied by ex-Service men, but, in the main, the posts are of the type I have indicated in my answer.

April 8th.

Mr. Banfield asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether the announcement that the Government hopes to place 10,000 ex-Service men in the Civil Service during the next two years indicates that any avenues of entry to the Civil Service will be closed to those for whom

they have been hitherto available; and whether this announcement will in any way prejudice the tenure of posts now held by non-ex-Service men?

Lt.-Col. Colville: I would refer the hon. Member to my replies to the hon. Members for Rochdale (Mr. Kelly) and Shipley (Mr. A. C. Jones) on 6th April. If the hon. Member has any particular grade in mind, perhaps he will communicate with me. The answer to the last part of the question is in the negative.

April 15th.

Ex-Service Men.—Mr. Kelly asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether any or all of the 10,000 posts in the Civil Service to be filled by ex-Service men are to be new posts, or whether they will be posts already existing and at present occupied; and if the former, what will be the anticipated percentage of new posts?

Lt.-Col. Colville: I would refer the hon. Member to the answers which I gave on April 6th to the hon. Member for Shipley (Mr. A. C. Jones) and on 8th April to the hon. Member for Wednesbury (Mr. Banfield).

Mr. Kelly: Did that reply indicate whether there are new posts or whether these men are going to take up positions now occupied by others?

Lt.-Col. Colville: The answer which I gave indicated that it would not in any way prejudice the tenure of the posts now held. It was expected that there would be a certain expansion. I cannot give the exact percentage.

Mr. G. Griffiths: Will the men who were enlisted under the Derby scheme and who were not allowed to go out to the front, be included in those 10,000?

Lt.-Col. Colville: I think that is another question.

Pensions Acts.

THE "OLD" AND THE "NEW" COMPARED.

While the new Pensions Bill now before Parliament confers undoubted benefits on the general public it would appear that its effect on the Civil Servant is to deprive him of his existing rights under the old Act and allow him little in return. This situation has been reviewed by the National Staff Side and appropriate action taken in the House of Commons. In order that the position will be appreciated the following is a brief summary of both Acts in so far as they concern this Service.

Compulsory insurance falls under three heads:

1. Health.
2. Widows' and Orphans' Pensions.
3. Old Age Pensions.

All established Civil Servants are considered to be in "excepted" employment and as such are only **compelled** to contribute towards WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' pensions when their income does not exceed £250 per annum. This contribution is 3½d. per week and a further 3½d. is added by the State.

Under the old Act the Civil Servant earning less than £250 per annum has an opportunity to insure **voluntarily** in respect of HEALTH and OLD AGE PENSION. With regard to Health Insurance he is entitled to full medical benefit, the additional benefits allowed by the approved society and sick pay. The Old Age Pension insurance makes provision for the payment of 10/- per week to himself and wife on attaining the age of 65. The contribution payable to secure these benefits is 1/8 per week, including the 3½d. paid by the State. This voluntary insurance can only be taken up within twelve months of entering "excepted" employment, or, if the applicant has been previously insured, at the expiration of that insurance or twelve months, whichever is the longer.

Voluntary insurance can also be taken up within 21 months of passing the £250 per annum mark for all benefits under the three forms of insurance, except medical attendance, for a contribution of 1/5 per week payable in full by the individual concerned. If voluntary insurance is not applied for within this period of 21 months the Civil Servant loses all rights under the payments previously made in respect of W.O.P. and has no further opportunity of insuring voluntarily.

This is the general position to date.

Under the NEW ACT, though the position of Civil Servants who are already voluntarily insured is not prejudiced, it is proposed that Civil Servants shall not retain the right to take up voluntary insurance for HEALTH and OLD AGE PENSIONS. He may, however, on passing the £250 limit for compulsory WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' insurance, keep his existing



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The Conference.

The long anticipated Conference of the P.S.A. was held at Anderton's Hotel on 27th and 28th April. Mr. C. M. Woodford, our Inspector-General, kindly consented to be present and open the proceedings, and his continued presence at these Conferences is symbolical of the interest that he takes in our affairs.

In his opening remarks he said: "I can only express the very sincere hope that your deliberations here will be governed by wise counsel and matured judgment, and lead you to happiness and practical conclusions. As I have said before, and I think those who heard me before won't mind me saying it again to the five or six new-comers. To those new-comers I would like to say that upon you who come here from all parts of the country there does rest a very grave and serious responsibility, and I feel sure you will appreciate that responsibility and carry it out properly, wisely and sincerely."

To the Chairman, he said: "I feel sure you will carry out your office with wisdom, judgment and forbearance, and at the same time firmness, and I trust this Conference will bring forth beneficial and happy results to everyone concerned."

An observer could not help being impressed by the seriousness that all Councillors devoted to the reason and purpose of their attendance. Quite a number of new faces were to be seen, but contrary to the usual reticence of giving a maiden speech, our 'new chaps' are to be congratulated on the able manner in which they voiced the opinion of members of their districts.

The morning session, although devoted to items of minor importance in comparison with the main issue, the same quiet devotion to duty was apparent. At some hour or other the Chairman announced, "We now come to the question of Reorganisation," and it was particularly noticeable the sudden hush that fell upon the assembly. Somewhere in the distance an electric fan could be heard. One could compare this with a lull before a storm. The rustling of leaves, that usually follows this phenomenon, was only audible in those of the various documents that the Councillors had before them. They were stilled, very shortly afterwards, by the Chairman announcing that it was well past the lunch hour. The afternoon session saw the Reorganisation well under way, and it is to be again impressed upon our readers the

earnestness and sincerity with which our Councillors expounded their views, and we feel sure that had you been present you could not have been disappointed in your representative. Each and all gave their views in a clear and concise manner which proves them worthy of the position they hold.

The afternoon debate terminated eventually, and the strenuousness of the day was relieved by the Councillors and several members of the London staff attending the performance of "Swing is in the Air" at the Palladium. Judging from the laughs that came from our provincial colleagues, coupled with those of our own, it seemed to suggest that the show was appreciated. 'En passant,' we hasten to assure our visitors that the first scene, 'The Docks at Southampton,' was not staged for the special benefit or with the view of giving our Southampton colleagues a busman's holiday. The bevy of dancing beauty that appeared on the stage alongside the 'Queen Mary' drew forth the comment from one of our fellows at the back, "You don't see that at Southampton." During a subsequent scene we can be safely assured that 66 Waterguard eyes were centred wholly on a huge case of binoculars that one of the artistes was carrying.

The following day our Scottish Councillors must have imagined that the London weather was very much akin to their own, but nevertheless it saw the Councillors well at work again, and all credit to them in the manner of discussion and debate on the all-important subject of Reorganisation.

From an observer's point of view, however, it could not be helped but to notice that Spring was in the air, for the horticultural aspect made itself manifest on several occasions by the inter-location of such 'hardy annual' or 'common or garden' phrases such as 'a rose by another name,' 'lopping off the top,' and 'pruning at the roots.' We even had the 'olive branch' mixed up with an 'orange branch,' but the term 'poppycock' seems to have struck a hybrid note.

We trust that our readers will appreciate the position that it has been impossible to give, at this stage, a report of the Conference by reason of the vast amount of work entailed in the transcribing and typing of the verbatim report. This, however, will be published in our next issue.

Boost from the States.

The following observations are condensed from an article in "Harper's Magazine," and may be of interest to our readers. The author is an American citizen who evidently has not a very high opinion of Customs officials in his own country, preferring the gentler methods practised on this side of the Atlantic. He writes:—

"On a great many occasions during the past ten years, it has been my lot to come home from foreign lands. And almost invariably, once arrived on good American soil, I have been subjected to one of the most irritating and degrading experiences which can befall a reasonably honest man. I speak of the Customs examination. Why it should be presumed that every homecoming American citizen is a combination bootlegger, smuggler and ordinary liar is beyond my understanding of a democratic government. I have crossed the various frontiers of Europe many times. But never have I, a foreigner abroad, been under any such inspection as my own countrymen bestow upon me.

A few years ago I returned to New York with my wife and our daughter, aged five. We had not been in Europe very long. Our purchases there fell far below the hundred dollars worth of duty-free stuff allowed each person. It was a bitter December day when we landed, but the man in uniform spent two hours and 35 minutes prowling among our seven pieces of baggage. He asked minute questions about virtually everything it contained. He made the child take off her coat and hat, so that he could examine their labels to be certain of their American manufacture. When he was done, it took us a good half-hour to stuff our property somehow into the bags again. We got home at last and put the child to bed, where she stayed for a week."

The author proceeds to disparage the American system of Revenue protection, and drily remarks:—"Half the injustice of the world comes out of somebody going doggedly about his duty." Not a very cheerful thought that when you're under the engine-room floor. We then read of his more humane encounters with Customs officers in Europe. It is all very flattering:—

"Officials of European governments do not share our own low opinion of the honesty of American citizens. When you arrive in France, for example, the fellow at the douane merely says, 'Have you any tobacco or firearms or matches?' You say, 'No.' So he puts an odd little chalk mark on your bags and France is yours.

"I have never arrived in England save by air, and it may well be that things are managed differently at Southampton and Plymouth. But at Croydon a well-mannered young man says, 'May I look into your bags, please?' A porter

flips them up to the table and opens one of them. The young man stares into it for an instant and nods for the porter to close it. He says, 'I hope you enjoy your stay in England.' And the porter takes your things off to the waiting bus.

"I have not been over the Italian border since the war trouble, but when I did cross it last, the only delay was for a quick stamp on my passport—no questions and no looking at baggage. The same was true of Poland and Switzerland. In Russia they spent 15 minutes over my three bags. They found nothing to disturb them. It was dull, of course, to have them list my money, but nobody fumbled about my person, nobody rumbled the effects in my luggage."

I have refrained from giving the author's name in case anyone wishes to disillusion him on his next visit to this country. H.L.F.

Presentation

MR. F. P. SMITH, P.O.

A large gathering was present at the "Criterion," Dover, on Thursday, 29th April, to witness a presentation to Mr. F. P. Smith, P.O., on his transfer to Folkestone. Mr. Knights, P.O., took the chair and the proceedings were opened with two songs by Mr. Goldsmith, followed by a humorous recitation by Mr. Chapman, making his debut as an entertainer.

Tribute to Mr. Smith's sterling qualities was then paid by Messrs. H. Jones, C.P.O., Mr. Heaver, P.O., and Mr. Fitzgerald, A.P.O., and the presentation (an electric clock, suitably inscribed) was made by Mr. Elliott, P.O. Mr. Smith amused the gathering by his witty reply. Community singing and musical items by Messrs. Goldsmith, Heaver, Knights and Lacey followed, and proceedings closed with "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King."

Merseyside District Meeting.

A General District Meeting was held at the Bradford Hotel on Thursday, April 22nd, 1937. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. F. Shaw was elected to the chair.

The main item on the agenda was, of course, Reorganisation, and this subject was discussed for the greater part of the evening, and eventually the Scheme, as amended by resolutions from various ports, was agreed to, and the Councillors instructed accordingly. More was accomplished at this meeting than has been done for a long time past, and we have to thank our able Assistant Secretary and the Chairman for the quick despatch of a lengthy agenda. The attendance at the meeting was better than has been usual recently, although much is still to be desired in this respect,

Spare Us.

I have just received a letter from a colleague who has for some years been doing yeoman service in Association circles. He tells me of a meeting which was recently held, and comments on some of the speakers—"Mr. A. was in his usual brilliant form, well supported in his nonsense by Messrs. X, Y and Z . . . I'm beginning to get fed-up with the petty bickering that goes on here."

He is not alone in his misery. Every port is cursed with one or more talkers, people who propound preposterous theories in a most hopelessly illogical way, and persist in blundering blindly on, with monotonous repetition, long after they should have realised their own density.

Unfortunately, the cause is not always mere density. At least one person of my acquaintance is convinced that his diction, enunciation and the timbre of his voice are perfection, and that everyone is revelling in the ecstasy of beautifully modulated sound which comes forth. Others attend meetings with the idea of creating a little excitement, until the 9.45 adjournment happens along. Still more are merely "agin the Government," and people who have inherited that quality are not usually blessed with a still tongue.

If we want to hear idle chatter, we can repair to the monkey-house. If we desire excitement, we can knock off a policeman's helmet, and if we are "agin the Government," with a solid grievance, we will find others with the same grievance, and depose the Government. If we are "agin the Government" merely because it is a Government, we will, in one of our brief flashes of sanity, sew our mouths up.

The point which I am endeavouring to make is that all these tub-thumpers could find vastly broader avenues for exercising their talents, and could leave meeting-times to those who sincerely wish to transact Association business efficiently and expeditiously. There is little enough time, goodness knows, for that which is worth saying to be said, without having the time monopolised by windy blather. Why these people have no more ambition than to dominate a meeting of their colleagues, who labour under no delusions about them, is a problem.

The eradication of the nuisance is not so simple as it appears. The solution is obviously rigid control from the chair, and the ejection of anyone who disregards the authority of the chair. Quite simple, perhaps, at a political meeting, but not so simple when the ejection of one may leave the meeting without a quorum, and would certainly lose the Association a member. In any case, meetings would lose their dignity (if any) if a "chucker-out" were in attendance. In my opinion, however, there is far too much

laxity allowed. The Chairman, anxious to give full scope for discussion, often allows repetition, failing to realise when the moment arrives where everything which is pertinent to the subject has been said, and perhaps scared of an accusation that he is bottling the subject up. He need only look towards sporting bodies to realise that those bodies which enforce rules most rigidly are the most successful. If he would keep in his mind the fact that the business must be transacted, and that items must not be held over, he would be more successful. He has a ticklish job, requiring infinite tact, but, if he allows a little iron to enter his soul his tact is not liable to be misconstrued as weakness of the knees. Furthermore, my correspondent will not have to describe the meeting as "three wearying hours."

Any fear that a rigid chairman will result in a drop in the attendances is a fallacy. Admittedly, the talkers may cease to attend, but, on the other hand, those members who refrain from attending meetings because of the unbearable dragging of the proceedings would come. What a relief, then, to hear a meeting, controlled, concise and well debated, and—blessing of blessings—a meeting where every thought was only expressed once.

H.G.R.

Belfast Presentation.

A large number of officers attended at the Free Goods Office, Dufferin Dock, where an enjoyable function took place on April 19th. It was the occasion of the transfer of Mr. A. F. Arnott, A.P.O., to Leith, and the staff took advantage of the general appreciation in which he was held to present him with a handsome smoking cabinet and a thoughtful gift for his infant son. It is to be reported that the wife of Mr. Arnott died a short time ago, leaving him with a baby son, now about three years of age, and the thoughtful gift took the form of a silver serviette ring with the youngster's initials engraved on it.

Mr. Wilson, Waterguard Surveyor, presided while Mr. Parish, C.P.O., made the actual presentation. Mr. Arnott's popularity was stressed by every member present and his great work during his seven years as District Organiser was emphasised and extolled. "Jock," as he is known to all, suitably replied in an appreciative speech and the meeting ended with very sincere expressions of regret at his departure and wishes for his future happiness.

J.G.

Do You Know?—

When a thermometer is a saccharometer compared with a hydrometer thermometer? No? Well look up Revenue Stores and Instruments, page 12, para. 39, sub-para. 2 with its amendment 3/36.

Leith District Meetings.

The Annual General Meeting of the Leith branch of the Association was held in the Liberal Rooms, Leith, at the beginning of last month. Mr. Collins presided, and the office-bearers were elected as follows:—

President—Mr. J. Stewart.
 Vice-President—Mr. Burns.
 District Organiser—Mr. Collins.
 District Secretary—Mr. R. Mould.
 Local Whitley Representatives—
 Messrs. Burns, Reid and Stewart.
 Local Joint Whitley Representatives—
 Messrs. Henderson and Jefferson.

There was an excellent attendance of both P.O.s and A.P.O.s, and the discussion arising from the request for suggestions as to improving the rummage gear was very interesting. The main theme was bigger tucksticks and stronger jemmies.

The last subject discussed was Reorganisation and the Chairman said he could not tell the meeting anything they did not know in this connection, and it was suggested that Mr. Murray, of Glasgow, and Mr. Macfarlane, of Aberdeen, the Scottish Councillors, be asked to attend a special meeting at Leith to give their views. This suggestion met with unanimous approval and the meeting then adjourned.

SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 7th, 1937.

This meeting was held in the Watch House, Victoria Dock, and, in addition to almost the entire Leith staff and Messrs. Macfarlane and Murray, there were present several Association members from the other Forth ports.

Mr. Murray was asked to speak at a very early stage in the proceedings, and he explained the history of this Reorganisation Scheme from its inception in 1932 to the present time.

Mr. Macfarlane said that he was in agreement with Mr. Murray and wished to abandon the idea of a straight salary claim previously entertained by the Aberdeen members.

The meeting passed two resolutions for the Half-Yearly Conference, as follows:—

(1) That the Councillors be empowered to support the present scheme.

(2) That a straight salary claim be made in the event of the failure of the first proposal.

Mr. Murray and Mr. Macfarlane were cordially thanked for their attendance, and the meeting then terminated.

How we are getting on.

"Arrangements have been made to have the whole of the coast, from the mouth of the Thames to Hastings, patrolled day and night by specially trained men stationed every 500 yards. These patrols will maintain contact and will be visited by a senior officer at varying periods during the 24 hours."

Daily Sketch, 28th April.

Hull District Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Hull Branch of the P.S.A. was held at the Metropole Hall on the 20th April last, under the chairmanship of Mr. Beswick. Resolutions for the forthcoming Conference were fully discussed and instructions were given to the Council, the Reorganisation Scheme being again examined from all angles. Several items of local interest were also disposed of during the evening.

Local officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—

Chairman—Mr. Beswick, A.P.O.
 Vice-Chairman—Mr. Crooks, P.O.
 Secretary—Mr. Brewster, P.O.
 Organising Secretary—Mr. Sweeney, A.P.O.
 Journal Correspondent—Mr. Booth, P.O.
 Local Whitley Council Representatives—
 P.O.s: Messrs. Nightingale and Booth.
 A.P.O.s: Messrs. Taylor, Whittaker and
 Walton. R.W.B.

Southampton District Meeting.

A District Meeting of the Association was held on April 20th, and it was gratifying to see that the number of members present was in keeping with the importance of the occasion.

The main business of the evening concerned, of course, the Conference agenda, and after it had been read through the meeting registered its confidence in the Southampton amendments to the Reorganisation Scheme and also in the Councillors, who were instructed to make every endeavour in support of them.

After several local matters had been discussed, the following officers were elected for the year 1937-38:—

Auditors—Mr. McNeill, A.P.O., Mr. Platten, P.O.
 District Organiser—Mr. Hubbard, P.O.
 District Secretary—Mr. Battersby, A.P.O.
 Social Sub-Committee—Mr. Timby, P.O.,
 Mr. Benham, A.P.O., Mr. Russell, A.P.O.,
 Mr. Stevens, A.P.O.
 Chairman—Two nominations—Mr. Timby, P.O., and Mr. Croxford, P.O.—necessitated a ballot.

The meeting closed at 10.40 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The vacancy of Councillor caused by the transfer of Mr. C. F. Shaw, A.P.O., to Liverpool, has been filled by Mr. G. T. Clarke, A.P.O., of Poole. Although elected practically on the eve of the Conference he was well acquainted with the views of the Southampton staff, and his enthusiasm and determination should be of great use to him in his new post. We wish him every success.

SOUTHAMPTON FOOTNOTE.

Revised definition of an optimist—The Southampton officer who applied for a day's leave on the 10th May, 1937.

Correspondence

Poole,
April, 1937.

To the A.P.O. Members of the South Coast.
Gentlemen,

The sudden transfer of Mr. C. F. Shaw to Liverpool deprived him of a further opportunity of attending the Half-Yearly Conference, and required the immediate appointment of his successor. My hurried nomination and subsequent election as your representative allowed me little time to appeal to you for support or to thank you for your confidence in me.

That I now hasten to do and to assure you all of my continual regard for, and activity on behalf of, our interests. And I thank you for the opportunity of attending this Conference.

Sincerely yours,
G. T. CLARKE.

Sir,

BHEDIES.

With reference to the note in the last issue of the "Journal" that 1,000 bhedies weigh 1½ozs., it may interest readers to know that a recent test of a package of bhedies, in which the tobacco filling was weighed after removal of the outer leaf (presumably a bay leaf), showed that the net weight of the tobacco contained in 300 bhedies was 4ozs. The result of this test caused considerable surprise among several experienced officers.

Equally surprising was the uncertain opinion as to the appropriate rate of duty. Opinion ranged from the rating for cigarettes on the gross weight of the bhedies down to the rate for unmanufactured tobacco, stripped and stemmed, on the net weight of the tobacco content! Incidentally, no one could recall any instance of duty having been paid on bhedies other than D.O.D. for transit goods.

Yours, etc.,
"MERSEY."

P.S.—A bundle of 50 bhedies costs 2d. in India.

Changes in the Staff.

TO 3rd MAY, 1937.
APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—
Abblett, H. S. Jenkinson, R.
Douglas, J. F. Saunby, W.
Hayes, R. W. S. Thompson, A. P.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—
Heaver, P. H., Port Talbot, Swansea to Newcastle.

Ledson, F., Leith to Liverpool.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—
Belsham, H. J., Gravesend, London to Ipswich.
Butcher, T., Barrow, Preston to Liverpool.
Gregory, J., Newcastle to Harwich, Ipswich.
Neesham, H., West Hartlepool, Sunderland to Fowey, Plymouth.

Simpson, F. A., Newport, Mon. to Liverpool.
Sloane, P. J., Liverpool to London.

Turk, J. A., Barry Dock, Cardiff to London.

PROMOTIONS.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO PREVENTIVE OFFICERS :—
Alexander, J. M., Leith to Lossiemouth, Inverness.

Beavers, R., Barry Dock, Cardiff to Methil, Dundee.

Lindsay, J., Cardiff to London.

Purdie, D. E., Methil, Dundee to Leith.

OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT—WATERGUARD SUPERINTENDENT,
2ND CLASS.

Burkey, J. C., Hull.

DEATH—PREVENTIVE OFFICER :—

Beirne, F., Blyth, Newcastle.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Gowan, E. H., Preventive Man.

Howard, C., Assistant Preventive Officer.

Middlesbrough Prosecution.

At Middlesbrough Police Court on the 13th April, Charles Marsh, Wharf Labourer, was summoned for knowingly carrying 4¼ lbs. of cigars, ½ lb. of cigarettes, ½ lb. of tobacco, Cavendish, and 20/100 of brandy, and was fined £5.

James McGinty, Second Engineer on the S.S. Whiteloft from Ghent, was charged with knowingly importing 12¾ lbs. of cigars, ½ lb. of cigarettes, 2½ lbs. of tobacco and 20/100 of brandy, and was fined S.V.D. amounting to £24 19s. 8d.

Marsh was intercepted coming ashore with a suitcase by Mr. H. Lonsdale, P.O., and Mr. W. Walton, A.P.O. The goods were found in his case and he admitted receiving them from McGinty.

A search of McGinty's cabin produced a further amount of uncustomed goods concealed behind the wood lining down behind his bunk.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. C. A. Rowe, C.P.O.

Customs Waterguard Associations

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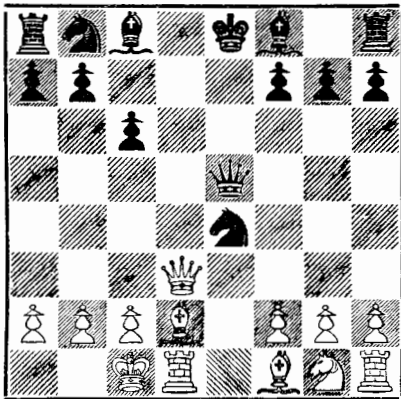
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his Coupon can be posted in an envelope under ½d. stamp

Preventive Staff Chess Club.

PROBLEM NO. 153.
BLACK



WHITE

Mate in three.

Solution to No. 152.

1. R×P ch.
2. K×R. Q—Kt7 ch.
3. Q—Kt.3. P—R4 mate.

Extract from "Chess," published on 14th of each month and recommended by this club:—

"In the course of his recent tour, Georges Koltanowski, the Belgian champion and world's best blindfold player, fulfilled no fewer than forty-three engagements in the British Isles. Of 197 games he played blindfold he lost only 10, and drew 43, whilst out of 243 over-the-board games he lost only five.

Without doubt his "high-spot" of the tour was his breaking of the British Blindfold Chess record in the old Pump Room at Bath. He took on twenty-one opponents, winning 14, and drawing 7. Here is a copy of one of his games played at Bath, blindfold:—

Koltanowski.	Dr. R. H. McKeag.
1. P—K4.	P—K4.
2. Kt—KB3.	Kt—KB3.
3. Kt×P.	P—Q3.
4. Kt—KB3.	Kt×P.
5. P—Q4.	P—Q4.
6. B—Q3.	P—KB4.
7. 0—0.	B—Q3.
8. P—B4.	P—B3.
9. Kt—B3.	B—B2.
10. Q—K2.	B—K3.
11. P×P.	P×P.
12. Kt—KKt5.	Q—Q3.
13. P—KKt.3.	Kt×Kt (on Kt5).
14. B×Kt.	0—0.
15. Kt—Kt5.	Resigns.

Merseyside Football.

The season petered out somewhat tamely so far as the P.S.A. F.C. was concerned. Our penultimate match with Bootle Shop Assistants' F.C. was lost by 3 goals to 1. This match could have been won easily, save that, being the end of the season, and the Hambledon Cup safely ours, six reserves were given a game, having turned up regularly throughout the season without much opportunity to play, and all credit is due to them that the match might easily have ended in a draw, as we had had luck on several occasions during the game. The last match of the season was cancelled and the points awarded to us, owing to our opponents being unable to field a full side. A very successful season will be wound up by the presentation of the Cup and miniatures, at a social evening which will be held at an early date. Details are not yet to hand, but this should be one of the nights—definitely! Look out for it. J.W.D.

Preventive Service Sports Club.

CRICKET SECTION.

FIXTURE LIST, 1937.

- Thur., 6th May.—A.P.O.s v. Other Ranks. Catford.
- *Tues., 11th „ Valuation Branch. Catford.
- *Wed., 19th „ Secretaries' Office. Away.
- *Wed., 26th „ Long Room. Away.
- Tues., 1st June—Gravesend (3 p.m.). Catford.
- *Thur., 3rd „ Valuation Branch. Away.
- *Tues., 8th „ Relief Pool. Away.
- *Tues., 15th „ Long Room. Catford.
- *Tues., 22nd „ A. & C.G.s. Away.
- Tues., 29th „ Cardiff Waterguard. Cardiff.
- *Thur., 1st July—Statistical Office. Away.
- *Tues., 6th „ Secretaries' Office. Catford.
- *Tues., 13th „ A. & C.G.s. Catford.
- Sat., 17th „ Maurice C.C. Edgware.
- *Tues., 20th „ Statistical Office. Catford.
- *Tues., 27th „ Relief Pool. Catford.
- *Tues., 17th Aug.—London Central. Catford.
- Tues., 24th „ Gravesend. Gravesend.
- *Tues., 31st „ London Central. Away.
- *League Games.

We have heard that negotiations are in hand for a match versus the Hull Waterguard Staff in London. Let us hope that these will materialise.