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PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

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C. AND E. ORPHANS', WIDOWS' AND WAR MEMORIAL FUND

The Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, London, E.C.2, on Monday, the 5th of July, 1943, at 4.30 p.m. Chairman: A. Edward Howells, Esq., Vice-President.

Minutes were approved, letters read, and the quarterly Financial Statement was adopted.

A discussion took place on the Secretary's report on arrears of subscriptions by the "Loaned Members," and the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"The Secretary be instructed to send another letter to transferred members who have not paid subscriptions, quoting Rule 7, and indicating that if subscriptions are not paid within one month from the date of the letter, entitlement to benefit must cease; and a cordial invitation should be given to remit subscriptions in view of the additional burdens upon the Fund."

Membership.

Fourteen new members were elected, comprising 6 officers, I.D.C.O., I.C.O., and 6 A.P.O.s.

Grants: Renewals.

Seven grants of £20 each, and four grants of £15 each. (R. 26).

New Applications.

One grant of £20; (R. 26). Two children elected to benefits, under Rule 23, at a cost of £36 per annum.

Election of Officers.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. G. May, re-elected.

Visiting Committee: Messrs. B. Wheeler, H. S. Pallant, G. A. Lewis, W. J. Ralph, J. Bush, J. Wells, S. H. Atkins, W. Pratt, C. R. Purser, re-elected.

Secretary Designate: Mr. F. Gloak elected. Mr. S. J. Thorne was requested to continue as Secretary for a further three months.

It was decided to elect a new Assistant Secretary at the quarterly meeting to be held in October.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO 9th AUGUST, 1943.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Denby, J., Whitehaven, Preston to Arbroath, Dundee.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER (ACTING):—

Edge, G., from Special Service at Longhope (Lyness), Inverness to Liverpool.

OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE.

DEATH—PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Adam, J., Macduff, Aberdeen.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Chester, G., Preventive Officer.

Fox, J., Preventive Officer.

Gotts, G. W., Preventive Officer.

Paul, J. L., Chief Preventive Officer.

OBITUARY

MR. J. ADAMS, P.O. i/c MACDUFF.

It is with regret that I have to announce the sudden death, on 21st July, 1943, of Mr. James Adam, Preventive Officer in Charge at Macduff. Jimmie, who joined the service in 1910, at London, spent most of his service on the North-East coast and was promoted P.O. i/c at Macduff, from Aberdeen, in 1924, and by his genial nature and great interest in public affairs, was frequently invited to stand for Civic honours. A veteran of the last war, he served with the Scottish Horse and Black Watch, being severely wounded and taken prisoner in Flanders, whilst with the latter regiment. A wreath was sent from the Waterguard Staff at Aberdeen, who were represented by Mr. A. P. Cumming, P.O., at the funeral. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

G. H. W.

Mr. G. CHESTER, P.O. (Retd.).

The death occurred last month of Mr. G. Chester, P.O. He commenced service in London, and after a considerable period in that port moved to Hull in 1904, where he remained until he retired in 1925. He died, aged 79 years, after several months of acute illness. Our sympathy is extended to the bereaved family. All grades of the Service were represented at his funeral.

N. S. M.

Mr. E. PEARCE, P.O.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death, whilst on duty, of Mr. Ted. Pearce, P.O.,

He had appeared for duty as usual on Friday, 6th August, and the following morning his body was found floating in a Liverpool dock. At the time of going to press insufficient details are to hand of the accident, but the news of his tragic passing came as a profound shock to all his London colleagues and to those in his detached duty port, Liverpool, where he had been for only four months.

Ted entered the Service in December, 1921, after serving in the Forces in the last war, and was promoted to Preventive Officer in 1932. He was aged 44, and leaves a widow and a very young child, to whom are extended our deepest sympathy. They have lost a husband and father and London a "character."

R. I. L.



CURRENT COMMENTS

The Board.

The Service has been informed of the appointment of Mr. E. S. Bertenshaw, C.B.E., as Secretary and Commissioner in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. W. Christian.

Mr. Bertenshaw is no stranger to the Waterguard, and we tender to him our sincerest congratulations.

Annual Conference.

The hope, expressed in the July issue, was realised, and we had the honour and pleasure of the attendance of the Inspector General at the Conference, there to perform the opening ceremony of handing the "Woodford Gavel" to the President, Mr. W. E. Standing.

Councillors will soon be called upon to give an account of their stewardship, and for this purpose it is hoped to place the Interim Report in their hands by the end of the month. Accurately and completely to report on the numerous items dealt with during a three-day Conference is a task which few would attempt without the aid of the Interim report, and the wise Councillors wait for it.

This reference to the report reminds us to mention the return to Conference of our verbatim reporter. Mrs. Facey, who has reported more Conferences than we care to remember, was last with us at the pre-war Conference, and since then she has been engaged on important war work. Her attendance on this present occasion was possible only at the expense of some of her annual leave. Our thanks, Mrs. Facey.

A Few Items.

The usual press report of the Conference will not be available until the next issue, but in the meantime we feel tempted to refer to a few of the items as they come to mind.

Reconstruction. The basic scheme which had been considered in the Districts, was adopted with one important amendment—the removal of the 1st and 2nd Class divisions in the proposed W. Surveyor Grade.

It was arranged that the members would have a further opportunity of discussing the detailed operation of the scheme before it was finally settled.

Another important decision was to authorise the closest possible co-operation with the Waterguard Superintendents' and Surveyors' Association in this matter. On this occasion, more than any other in the history of the Waterguard, all grades must stand four-square. We are pleased to note a definite desire among individual members of that Association to work with us in moulding the Branch of the future.

Trades Disputes Act. It was natural that this question of the repeal of Section V should arouse considerable interest, more particularly since the news-hungry press have given undue publicity to the matter. The position of this Association was clearly defined and provided no surprises. Briefly we reaffirm our intention to press for the restitution of full civil rights for Civil Servants, in particular, for the repeal of Section V, but that any question of affiliation must be decided by the free vote of the members.

V.E.S. Members will be pleased to learn that it has been decided to set moving again the machinery of the Vocational Education Section. Improvements there will be, of course, but taking it by and large the old system worked so well and produced such satisfying results that no fundamental change was found necessary.

Publicity Officer. Prompted, no doubt, by the success of the 1942/3 Membership Drive, the Council decided that there was work for a new Association Officer. The figures given by the Organising Secretary revealed the following percentages of membership: A.P.O.s 83 per cent., P.O.s 83 per cent., and

C.P.O.s 63 per cent. Not too bad, we admit, but there is room for improvement, and the creation of the new post of Publicity Officer should do the trick—especially as the first to be appointed to the rôle is Mr. C. F. Shaw, of Liverpool.

Election of Councillors. For some time now the Rule calling for the retirement and re-election of half the Council annually has been suspended. It has now been decided to re-introduce the Rule and during the current year the necessary elections will be arranged.

Unattached C.P.O.s.

At the July meeting of the Departmental Council an agreement was recorded, the terms of which are to be applied to unattached C.P.O.s and W. Surveyors. The effect of the agreement is that the terms of para. 167 of Est. Inst. Vol. 3 are amended from one night's subsistence for journeys occupying 24 hours, etc., on change of place of officiating, to five nights at a flat rate of 20s. per night—thereafter the appropriate officiating allowance is payable.

Travel.

Two points under this heading are receiving attention.

Firstly, the operation of para. 7 of O.W.O. 17/1943, part 1, which restricts travelling by Civil Servants during the Public Holiday periods. It is the Association's intention to press that detached officers who proceeded on *minuted* leave should not be deprived of their free travel voucher under the terms of this paragraph. Further, to see that steps are taken in drawing up next year's leave minute to avoid setting up periods of leave which start or finish within the restricted periods.

Secondly, public transport facilities available to our officers proceeding to and from official business. On this matter there is ample evidence of the need for Departmental action to secure some measure of priority for Civil Servants, at least equal to that granted to war workers. The Association decision to take Departmental action evidently squares up with the views of Emergency Committee "B" (N.S.S.) on a similar point.

The Autumn Recess.

During the month of August the parent body of Departmental Whitley holds no meeting and, although some of the Committees may have to meet during the month, it is generally assumed to be the "close" season.

In normal times the Secretaries would take advantage of this lull in activities to slip away, one by one, for a short break. The decision to hold an August Conference this year has, however, upset this arrangement and this month sees the Secretaries in the throes of the aftermath of the Council meeting.

Executive Committee (P.S.A.).

The newly elected Executive Committee will hold its first meeting on September 30th.

Boots! Boots!! Boots!!!

Have you an old pair of football boots somewhere at home? If so, would you care to pass them on to the boys of a Wing of the Air Training Corps? The size or condition does not matter one bit—old boots can be repaired, but new boots require coupons. There are 500 boys in this particular Wing, but there are boots sufficient only for three teams—just think, 33 out of 500. Will you help in the sport side of the training of these airmen of the future? If necessary, payment will be made for boots sent along and, in any case, the expense of forwarding will be refunded.

Please address your parcels to:—

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Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council

Items of Waterguard interest extracted from the Report of the two hundred and sixty-fourth meeting of the Council, held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, E.C.2, on Wednesday, July 28th, 1943, the Chair being taken by Sir Archibald Carter, K.C.B., K.C.J.E., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

Prior to the commencement of the business on the Agenda the Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Staff Side, offered congratulations to Mr. Bertenshaw on his being appointed a member of the Board. The Chairman associated the Official Side with Mr. Perkins' remarks, and Mr. Bertenshaw thanked the Staff Side for their congratulations.

MAN-POWER.

The Official Side said that after further careful consideration they were unable to depart from their earlier decision that it would be unwise to disturb the existing personnel of the Special Inquiry Branch. The Staff Side said they were disappointed at this pronouncement; these men were members of the Officer Grade and for deferment purposes had not previously been regarded as separate therefrom. They repeated their argument that there were Officers equally well fitted for the work of the Branch who were not yet within the groups for call-up to H.M. Forces, and that there was still sufficient time for such men to acquire any specialised technique necessary for the work.

The Official Side felt unable to modify their views in the matter, and the Staff Side said that as no formal proposal had been tabled they must accept the position for the present, but they reserved the right to raise the issue again, if necessary.

STAFF SIDE PROPOSAL THAT AN AUTONOMOUS INCOME TAX BRANCH BE SET UP IN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

The Official Side said that this matter was still under consideration, but that they were pressing for an early reply to their representations.

The Council re-adjourned the item.

STAFF SIDE PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF THE ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO MEMBERS OF CLERICAL GRADES HOLDING DEPUTATIONS TO ACT AS DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF MER- CANTILE MARINE.

One informal meeting had taken place on this subject and another would be required.

The Council re-adjourned the item.

STAFF SIDE PROPOSALS THAT BILLETING ARRANGE- MENTS SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO THE OUT- DOOR GRADES OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AT LIVERPOOL.

Re-adjourned at the request of the Staff Side.

RETIREMENT: EFFECT ON PROMOTION OF RE- EMPLOYMENT OR DEFERMENT.

This item was re-adjourned.

AMALGAMATION OF LEITH AND EDINBURGH COLLECTIONS.

This item was re-adjourned at request of the Staff Side.

WATERGUARD.

The adjourned disagreement on the Staff Side proposal "that the system of awarding automatic rewards to Preventive Officers be abolished" was again considered.

The Official Side said that after further consideration they were unable to modify the views they expressed at the last Council meeting. They saw no good reason for distinguishing between Preventive Officers and Assistant Preventive Officers in this respect. If there were some who felt unwilling to take their share of a reward they could decline or give it to charities, but while there might be different opinions as to the merits of the system, the Official Side could not agree to maintain it in the case of one grade and not of the other. They were of opinion that the proper time to discuss the abolition

of rewards would be on an occasion when salary scales were being examined, and there were some prospects of a general improvement in the terms of remuneration of the grades in question.

The Staff Side had little to add to their previous arguments in the matter; they said that for many years a number of Preventive Officers had not retained their share of rewards but had passed it on. That did not, however, dispose of the fact that the system provided for automatic payment to the Preventive Officers. In reply to a Staff Side question as to the mention of rewards in any case for salary revision presented to the Arbitration Court, the Official Side said that all relevant facts and information would require to be laid before the Court.

The Staff Side requested a further adjournment and the item was accordingly re-adjourned.

Two other adjourned disagreements on Staff Side proposals (a) that Senior Engineers be placed in Class C for subsistence purposes, and (b) that all Launch Service grades below that of Senior Engineer be placed in Class D (1) for subsistence purposes, were confirmed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A disagreement from Belfast on the Staff Side proposal for an increase in the cycling allowance paid to Land Preventive Men at Londonderry Land Boundary Posts was converted to an agreement on the Official Side's offer of £8 per annum.

An agreement from the Surveyor Grade Committee that an ad hoc allowance at the rate of 20s. 0d. per night for the first five nights of absence (to include travelling time) should be payable to Unattached Surveyors proceeding from one place of officiating to another (including travelling from and to headquarters), as a strictly war-time concession, the allowance of £185 being withheld for this period (Establishment Instructions, Volume 3, paragraph 167) was ratified.

It was also agreed that this concession should apply to Unattached Waterguard Surveyors and Unattached Chief Preventive Officers (Establishment Instructions, Volume 3, paragraph 175).

HULL MEETING

A meeting was held at Minerva Pier at 6.30 p.m., 6th August. The chief purpose of the meeting was the discussion of the 1943 Conference Agenda, and the very fine attendance, representing all grades, must have given our councillors confidence that the instructions issued were indeed the feelings of the port.

Mr. Read, P.O., presided, and in his opening remarks expressed the pleasure of the meeting at the return of Mr. Nightingale, P.O., after his accident, and complimented him on his fortunate escape from more serious injury and on his speedy recovery. The meeting endorsed his remarks.

Mr. Howard, C.P.O., expressed his thanks to the meeting for good wishes received whilst he was in hospital. The chairman, in replying, congratulated Mr. Howard on his speedy recovery and return to duty.

The report of the Suggestions Committee ought to have been next on the Agenda, but no resolutions were forthcoming and it transpired that the Committee had not even met!

The meeting moved on to discuss the 1943 Conference Agenda. Considerable time was spent on this, and the councillors were made fully aware of the attitude of the meeting to the various topics of discussion.

Mr. Abel, C.P.O., intervened at a relevant point and, on behalf of the grade he represented, expressed appreciation of the efforts which had led to the recent salary increase.

A resolution was formulated: "That having regard to the war-time disposition of staff, the last sentence of Rule 4, paragraph 2 b, be suspended for the period of the war and seats allocated in ratio to members, irrespective of grade, at present stationed in an electoral area."

Every confidence was placed by the meeting in our councillors, Mr. Abel, C.P.O., Mr. Nightingale, P.O., and Mr. Taylor, A.P.O., and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

N.S.M.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Manchester Branch of the Preventive Staff Association was held in the Watchhouse on Wednesday, July 28th, 1943, when Mr. B. I. Westerdale occupied the chair. Business was the keynote of the meeting, but the encouraging number of members present chose the informality of shirt sleeves to obtain relief from the intense heat. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted, and this was followed by the review of the Financial Statement. It was pointed out by the District Organiser that there had been a decided increase in receipts during the past year, and this could be attributed chiefly to the increase in subscriptions paid by the Holyhead Staff. It was unanimously agreed that the Local Organiser responsible for this improvement in Association interest in Holyhead be informed of the meeting's appreciation.

The election of officials for 1943-4 resulted as follows:—

Chairman: Mr. B. I. Westerdale, P.O.
 Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Crompton, A.P.O.
 District Secretary: Mr. N. Hadwen, A.P.O.
 District Organiser: Mr. N. Hadwen, A.P.O.
 Whitley Representative: Mr. B. I. Westerdale, P.O.
 Whitley Representative: Mr. E. J. Hulbert, A.P.O.
 Journal Correspondent: Mr. J. L. Marsh, A.P.O.
 Auditors: Mr. G. H. Garlick, P.O. and Mr. E. J. Hulbert, A.P.O.

The Executive Committee's Report for 1942-3 was then discussed and the Meeting wished to endorse the Introduction to the Report by placing on record their thanks and good wishes to all members in the Forces; their sympathies to the families and relatives of all officers who had made the supreme sacrifice and congratulations to all brother officers who had been honoured and decorated. Items from the Report which were dealt with in some detail were uniform, aerodromes and reconstruction; various decisions resulted on these subjects, but the meeting was unanimous in moving a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee for all the good work they had done in the past year. The Conference Resolutions were debated and agreement or otherwise recorded, this and other information being duly passed on to the District Councillors.

The appreciation to Mr. J. I. Sutton in the Executive Committee's Report was read by the Chairman, and he followed this by a sincere reference to Mr. Sutton's association with Manchester; how all in the port knew him not only as a supervising officer, but as a friend and a staunch P.S.A. colleague. The meeting wished to record their personal association with this reference to Mr. Sutton's valued activities in the past and that good fortune would be with him in the future in his new sphere of Waterguard Surveyor. In making this record of Mr. Sutton's departure, the Chairman took the opportunity of officially welcoming Mr. W. G. Burgess, C.P.O., and all present endorsed the hope that he would be very happy during his stay at Salford.

The last items on the Agenda were of a local nature. Manchester staffing was discussed in some detail and the Whitley Representatives were instructed to act accordingly on the resolutions passed. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman after 2 hours 40 minutes of "heated" discussions.

N. H.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT MEETING

The Plymouth District annual meeting was held in the Watchhouse on 22nd July, and the attendance created an all-time low. Just why, nobody seems to know. As a result, one important item—the election of a P.O. Councillor for the S.W. Area—had to be left in abeyance. In other respects, however, the meeting was carried through successfully.

Mr. Clarke gave an interesting report on a very full year of Whitleyism, officers for the forthcoming year were elected, and various points in the Conference Agenda were fully discussed and instructions were given to the A.P.O. Councillor. Finally, two resolutions, each concerning relief duties, were prepared for submission to the Conference.

BELFAST DISTRICT MEETING

The annual General Meeting of the Belfast Branch was held in the Free Goods Office, and practically a full attendance of members marked the local attention given to Association matters. Tribute was paid to the outgoing officers by the Chairman for the interest and attention displayed at all times, and for the healthy financial state existing; and the ensuing election made little change in the apportionment of the district's activities.

Chairman: Mr. Purdon, P.O.
 Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. L. Tohill, A.P.O.
 Dist. Secretary: Mr. N. E. McKenna, P.O.
 Dist. Organiser: Mr. W. A. L. Taylor, A.P.O.
 Whitley Reps.: Messrs. Purdon, P.O., J. Tohill, A.P.O.
 Journal Corr.: Mr. J. Tohill, A.P.O.
 Auditors: Messrs. Purdon and Leeburn.

The new District Organiser was assured by the Chairman of the continued support of members in the recent efforts to make N. Ireland a stable and assured bulwark of the Association's outposts, and voiced the sentiments of all in his tribute to the outlying districts for their loyalty in the matter of subscriptions, despite the lack of contact that necessarily existed between them and the major port.

The matter of detached duty in N. Ireland was soon raised, especially the interpretation of the clause of "nominal" attendance for the officers proceeding on leave. As Mr. Winsor, A.P.O., pointed out and instanced the several examples in its working, the concession, as such, had resulted in a most paradoxical situation, for, whereas the officer whose home was within a travelling distance of five or six hours could avail himself of the new arrangements, the individual wishing to travel a greater distance was precluded from doing so without sacrifice. Before a motion was suggested embracing an additional travelling allowance for detached officers, the Secretary pointed out that such was totally at variance with a previous suggestion from the port, and proposed that the General Secretary could be approached for the inclusion of N. Ireland in the "travelling concessions to remote places" covered by Executive minute No. 132. The matter ended with unanimous agreement on this point.

The recent amendment to O.38 had resulted in certain staffing changes in N. Ireland, and the Surveyor's planning on the matter had obviously been governed by strict attention to the new ruling and by the apportionment of officers to those places where their services were in most demand. It was submitted that Belfast and Lorne should revert to a pre-war basis, one A.P.O. only to be retained at Warrenpoint, and that in addition to the P.O., one A.P.O. should be stationed at Bangor. In the face of the present multifarious duties at Londonderry, no alteration of staff could be envisaged while the possibility of increase could not be lost sight of and would possibly have to be met, should the present volume of work continue.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that a record of attendance should be kept and included in the minutes. No further matters arising, the meeting concluded.

ABERDEEN DISTRICT MEETING

A meeting of the Aberdeen branch of the Preventive Staff Association was held in the Old Custom House, on Wednesday, 4th August, 1943, at 7.15 p.m., when despite a depleted staff, due to Relief Duty and Leave, a good turnout was experienced. The Chairman, Mr. G. H. Wales, expressed the pleasure of the meeting in having with them Mr. R. Murray, C.P.O. Councillor. A very heavy agenda was got through, in which the main item was a keen and lively interest of the Association's proposed scheme of post-war reorganisation of the Grades, and it was unanimously agreed that in the able hands of our Councillor, Mr. K. Sutherland, our views and interests would be kept well to the forefront at the Annual Conference. Once again the eternal bugbear of this Port—Relief Duty—occupied a prominent place in the discussions of local affairs, and whilst it was generally recognised that a watertight scheme of rotation of Relief Duties was not possible, appreciation was expressed of the sympathetic co-operation with which the Waterguard Superintendent had endeavoured to meet our problems. The meeting concluded at 10.15 p.m. with the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman.

G. H. WALES.

THE CONFERENCE, 1943

A REVIEW.

The phantasmagoria of events during the last twelve months, both from a National and Association point of view, have been of such a nature that *tempus* appears to have flown with more than its customary speed. Indeed, it seemed to have been but a few days ago that we sat at the last Conference.

At first we were under the impression that our I.G.W. would be unable to attend the opening ceremony, but we were more than pleased to learn that Mr. Woodford would be present in time-honoured fashion.

He said in his opening phrases that he took it as a compliment that the Council had sufficient confidence in him to ask him to open the Council. He told those present that they could compliment themselves on a not unsuccessful year and there were one or two things for which the staff should be grateful to their E.C.—their efforts made on their behalf. Mr. Woodford went on to say that our lads continue to distinguish themselves in the Forces. Out of the 307 Waterguard officers released to the Forces—of whom 11 have come back—84 had commissions. He was sorry to say we had lost 23 of the gallant boys. He gave particulars of several men, and at this juncture the I.G.W. asked the Council to stand for a few moments as a tribute to their memory. After speaking on many other things Mr. Woodford concluded by wishing the Conference every success. He was sure that under the wise guidance of their Chairman and General Secretary they would have a very happy Conference, and he assured them that he would give his best attention to any matters that arise from it as long as his health remained.

At the termination of Mr. Woodford's remarks the Chairman set the ball rolling, so to speak, with the usual preliminary phraseology and observation.

To aid the impression that it was but yesterday we were at last Conference, Councillors mostly sat at their usual seats, and it was observed that when safely ensconced the bright and happy faces reflected the general feeling of well-being in National affairs. Indeed, it would tax the powers of the most keen physiognomist to detect any material alteration from last year of the countenances under review.

Whilst on the subject of seating we cannot let the occasion pass but by observing that our Scottish Councillors appear to have instituted the Squatter's Right by their seats opposite the top table. Whether this position is more advantageous we do not know, but it can be said that they were certainly not with their "backs to the wall," but rather with their backs to an antiquated safe. A significant position indeed!

Naturally there were some changes of Councillors, as changes there must be. We missed the presence of Messrs. Howard, Sutton, Clayton and Clerke, but welcomed their successors in the form of Messrs. Able, Dutton, Phillips and Hyland. We were more than pleased to see Mr. Nightingale present so shortly after his injury. Mr. Burgess was there too for the V.E.S. course discussion and was co-opted for the three areas not represented by the C.P.O. grade. We must not, of course, forget Mrs. Facey, with her shorthand book and pencils. Although the lady was not able to attend at our last Conference we were pleased to see her again, for the result of her work, without a doubt, assists the Secretaries to an appreciable extent in the compilation of the Journal report, which we trust will be available for our next issue.

During the three day's debate we had more visitors than in former years. On the first day was to be seen Mr. R. J. Lowe, one of the leading lights of Lads o' London. Subsequently we observed two ex-Waterguard Officers in the form of Messrs. T. J. Neil and R. Tindale. Both these gentlemen are now on the Special Inquiry Staff. The last "stranger" to arrive was our one-time General Secretary, Mr. J. Merron, Waterguard Inspector.

The general atmosphere was quieter than in former years, but nevertheless it does not suggest that due consideration and discussion was not given to the many items on the agenda.

The Chairman conducted the proceedings in his usual efficient manner and on no occasion did he have to resort to remind those present of the strict rules of debate. On the

subject of speaking we can say without fear of contradiction that Mr. Powell seems to improve from year to year, for his enunciation and clarity were commendable. The writer remembers reading in a review of the last Conference that Mr. Farmer appeared to be addressing an audience somewhere in the air. It is possible that he had taken this hypothesis to heart for this time he addressed Councillors more along the base rather than the hypotenuse. Last year Mr. Boalch did not have a great deal to say by reason of being engaged on secretarial work, but this year, being relieved considerably, he was able to enter more freely into discussion. He certainly has a clear voice and good intonation without the slightest accent.

The Editor, Mr. D. T. Sutherland, spoke to some length on the difficulties experienced in Journal affairs since the last Conference. He stressed the point that the decreased number of pages in our Journal was forced upon us not by reason of the paper shortage, but by rising printing costs. He went on to explain to those present that if any particular item intended for publication was left until the next issue of the Journal it was purely through force of circumstances by lack of space. There was no priority for ports and favouritism was not countenanced.

It should not be imagined, however, that the proceedings consisted of round after round of dull verbiage, for here and there the merry quip and subtle jest relieved the tension and smiles with their attendant laughter made the discussion go with all the more zest. Mr. Powell, at one time, created a smile by suggesting, in a lighter vein, that a special medal should be struck as compensation for lost leave. But the prize should certainly go to the perpetrator who, when Income Tax assessments came on the board said, "I move total abolition!" Unfortunately the movement was disallowed, or at least, we heard no more of this excellent suggestion.

The evening of the 10th provided relief from continuous discussion, for a party of no less than 25 attended the Princes' Theatre to see "Magic Carpet." Several Councillors were there with their good ladies and it is understood that the show was generally appreciated.

But to return to the Conference room for one or two personal observations. Far from it that the writer intends to convey an erroneous impression, but one Councillor was observed aiding the consumption of his cigarette with the assistance of a pin! It would appear that as a counter-move, very shortly afterwards, our Chairman permeated the atmosphere with the aroma of a big fat cigar. Truly we are a versatile body. Whilst on the subject of Nicotine, it was probably a sign of the times that one or two queer-looking pipes put in an appearance. Even our General Secretary sported a doubtful-looking "comforter" that had the appearance of a veritable museum piece. During the whole of the three day's discussion it was only on one occasion that one Councillor thought fit to ignore the decorum of being "dressed" and, for the sake of comfort in the smoke-laden and humid atmosphere, divested himself of his coat.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that year after year we have amongst the A.P.O. contingent a rising body of good and able speakers fully capable of handling the many problems that are entrusted to them. This year was no exception and amongst the outstanding speakers we would mention Messrs. Grant, Shaw, Grice and Ramsey. The C.P.O. problems, as well as many others, were ably dealt with by gentlemen of that rank and Messrs. Murrey and Titherley had their full share of comments on the many subjects. Therefore, we cannot help but say that the A.P.O.'s and C.P.O.'s were the predominating and outstanding speakers. The P.O.'s, apart from the Secretaries, came a poor third. However, all speakers spoke in a quiet modulated tenor and we can say that at no time did voices rise above the pitch requisite for serious debate. The result being a very successful Conference.

In conclusion, we feel that we must mention that one of our new Councillors expressed to the writer his appreciation of the business-like manner in which the whole of the Conference was conducted. He said that it was indeed a revelation to him and as such he would convey his impression to his constituents.

It will be observed that in order that no error may creep into this review we have deliberately refrained from comment upon any discussion that was made. The matter will be fully covered in the Official Report of which—more anon.

What's This New Bloke Going To Do ?

The appointment of a Publicity Secretary to our little Association, does not suggest that publicity has been neglected in the past. It does not even mean that the *volume* of existing publicity will increase to a great degree in the near future. (The Paper Controller would have something to say about that.) Here is simply an indication of a need for specialisation and co-ordination on this important job now, and a big increase in publicity as soon as possible.

The ground must be laid now.

The post-war period for which all plan may be nearer than we think.

When that time comes—and, of course, as far as possible, right now also—we must have a UNITED MEMBERSHIP behind a VIGOROUS EXECUTIVE (with, we hope, “new blood” infused by the boys returning from the Services). Immediately, therefore, we must seek to increase membership, adding to the 80 per cent, which the Battshaw Campaign produced quarter by quarter. Never slipping back. It can be done. At the same time the interest displayed by the paying members must be increased.

The Membership Drive, then, now becomes the function of the District Organisers and an Executive continuing to make successes. (“Tis not in mortals to *command* success” of course). It is succeeded by an Interest Drive which—as we publicity wallahs must be catchy, even vulgar—will be known as the Slap Apathy Campaign. It will, incidentally, tend to increase membership. We renew, therefore, permission to non-members to read the Journal!

This campaign is the foundation-laying for the bigger publicity moves of the future and will fall into three main parts:

1. THE WRITTEN. The writing, for the moment, will mainly be in the Journal (which we hope to improve greatly in other ways) and will be done by the Publicity Secretary and anyone else who'll join him. L.B. and H.E.P.B. and D.J.G. must unsheathe their pens. Many of the Journal writers of another day are still with us, though in a higher sphere. We cordially invite them back to the fold. Will Seagull not spread his wings again? Will Pepys not get out of bed? And—have we no mute inglorious Miltons?

The Editor will squeeze you in somehow.

In time we should have a Team of writers concentrating on making the Journal truly the organ of the Preventive Staff Association.

In time too we will be producing booklets and pamphlets on instructive subjects (e.g. Reorganisation) and entertaining ones, maybe even a Waterguard Year Book, a super Green Book, a History. More of this some other time. And of the Headquarters Library and the Customs Book Club. The Journal is the platform for the present and we must see that effort, as in the past, is not *diffused*. There'll be no muzzling, but we hope mere nagging, ignorance and showing off will be replaced by constructive schemes, advice and impersonal work for the good of all,

In addition, District Secretaries can augment the Journal by using every spare piece of paper which can carry typewriting, roneo work (well worth spending a bob or two on) or the work of a team of longhand-writers to spread ideas. No reasonable expense will be queried. Amateur sign-writers and artists could be enrolled to give attractive information in poster form. We don't want walls filled with slogans in red paint, but we want something better than the modest little notices of the past. Headquarters will have to do its bit, within the paper restrictions, in the matter of better dissemination of information.

2. THE ORGANISED ORAL. Districts should meet regularly or, at least, appoint a Management Committee to do so. *There should be occasional special meetings with special speakers on special subjects, if possible.* Where the object and the expenses seem justifiable to the Executive, the Publicity Secretary would willingly attend any such unless quite impossible from Service reasons.

3. THE CASUAL ORAL. Never miss a chance, you active members, of gingering up the passive ones. This is the best form of publicity of all and most difficult to organise. But if I can help those who wish to make themselves little publicity secretaries in their own circles—shutting up the watch-house snarler, helping the hazy ones, downing the crazy ones, praising the active ones—they've only to let me know. My private address for this or any other matter is: 5, Nyland Road, Huyton, Near Liverpool (so you'll see, we have a provincial officer as well as an A.P.O. now on the Secretariat!) A study of the back numbers of the Journal I've always found a great aid in discussions.

While we are doing these things we will be performing another function. That is Defence. Civil Servants generally and the Customs in particular are natural cockshies for the public, especially for irresponsible journalists. Then we are subject (as the Council debate on THE WHIP revealed) to attack within the Civil Service itself. Further, attack may not be by printed word. It might be on the air or in private talk or at a meeting. The Official Secrets Act and other restrictions hinder greatly our reply. I can say that, within my power, I shall not allow any blows to be given which are not returned. But for this I must have knowledge. Hence I shall call on the Department for helpers. Send me any information, newspaper cuttings, etc., which I might overlook. Be a Customs Mass Observer!

This defensive work will take other forms, also, the best form of defence being attack, etc.

In the next twelve months each point above will be expanded.

Meanwhile if anyone has any ideas—send 'em along. It is a compliment to have your brains picked in such a cause.

So, you see, it is not so much a matter of what I'm going to do. It is WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

C. F. SHAW.

Greenock News

Association Meeting.

On 5th August a P.S.A. meeting was held at Cardwell Bay to discuss the coming Annual Conference. The meeting was well attended and showed that members had devoted no little thought to post-war policy. Several interesting and, at times, revolutionary proposals were made and argued upon. Such, in fact, was the flood of ideas that it is a pity really that it was not found possible to hold earlier meetings on this far-reaching subject so that we might have pursued it more thoroughly, and armed our councillor with more detail than it was possible to include in the bare citation of motions carried which, at the last moment, were (I hope) posted to him.

One of the more revolutionary proposals was, nevertheless, based on pure logic and sound common sense—neither of which, unfortunately, being qualities which necessarily commend a scheme to either side. It was to the effect that, in lieu of the Association's proposal of an efficiency barrier after ten year's service, new entrants should be given thorough training during two year's probation, at the end of which time they should be required to pass a vocational examination to prove that they had the necessary qualities that would make them efficient Waterguard Officers.

Successful candidates would then become members of an executive grade and be allowed to perform all such preventive duties. Presumably, junior officers would work under the friendly guidance of their seniors until such time as they found their feet, in a similar manner to the Landing or Immigration staffs. There would be no further examinations until the time came for promotion to a supervisory grade. Unsuccessful candidates would automatically terminate their employment but, I presume, might be given the opportunity of accepting some other and more suitable post in the Civil Service. There would thus be no more "failed A.P.O.'s." Also there would be no more A.P.O.'s spending a large part of their lives being no more than a "P.O.'s little dog." Probably this is one reason why the scheme may never be put into practice—"05" would have no one to walk three paces behind him.

In favour of the scheme the main arguments were; firstly, that anyone who could not show sufficient aptitude after two years' training and study was unlikely ever to do so in the future, was wasting the Crown's time and his own, and might just as well get out at once. Secondly, it was argued that it would be ludicrous, outside the Civil Service, to expect an employer to keep a man for ten or fifteen years before bothering to find out if he was any good, and then, having found that he was not, to continue to employ him for a further thirty years or so!

Another proposal carried was that "Sunday overtime" should be abolished and that instead, time off should be given within the month at the rate of one day per week of 44 hours, and any excess after this to incur "weekly overtime." I have not the minutes at hand, but that is what I understand the proposal to mean. It was argued that, as it has been officially stated that our salary is low owing to our splendid opportunities of putting in far more excessive hours per year than most people, the consequent reduction in overtime should qualify us for an increase in salary—and anyway, why should officers in some ports have to live a life comparable only to a term of penal servitude, while at the same time the country might have some millions of unemployed.

Forces' News.

I understand that G. H. Pearson, A.P.O., Liverpool, now in the navy, is doing an electrical course ashore here. We shall be pleased to welcome him any time he cares to drop in for a yarn.

A Chance for the "Unselect."

A report some time ago in these notes may be remembered of a controversy as to whether it was better to have a rummage crew selected by the Official Side operating on a permanent basis, or to have the rummage duties rotate in the normal manner. Since then the staff have obtained permission to include rummage in the rotation scheme, and, at the time of writing, the first three-monthly period is not long over.

Since it fell to my lot to be included in this first crew, modesty forbids me to say by just how much the record of the "selected" crew was eclipsed, but the figures show that the staff were amply justified in their contention that a rummage crew created by rota would be as efficient as any specially selected.

Rescue Awards.

Readers may remember a description some months ago of how Messrs. Stewart and Eddowes were instrumental in saving six shipwrecked men from drowning. Described respectively as "the senior Customs Officer of Gourock" and "a boy," local papers reported recently that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution have presented Mr. Stewart P.O. with a vellum, and Mr. Eddowes, A.P.O., with thirty shillings. We have not yet had an opportunity of inspecting the vellum, but, when liquidated, the thirty bob tasted all right!

B. A. BENNING.

SUNDERLAND CALLING

Hello, Forces!

Charlie Scarfe again reports all's well. He is once more back with his regiment, eager for the start of round 2. I understand they have some old scores to settle with the Japs, and they will be paid with interest. He sends regards to the blokes.

O.K., Charles. I have no news for you. Journals are on the way. Our nights are peaceful. The blokes send best wishes. Good luck.

The Big Boy dropped in on a visit. He looked very fit and well, and reports having a few nice cruises amidst some lovely views. He is once more back at his base, and was expecting another visit before you returned, Eddie, but as usual leave soon flies. Good luck, Big Boy. When you drop across Bill Barlow remind him that I still await a few lines.

Jack Crosby dropped in on a spot of leave. He is very fit and well, and I do believe he has put on flesh. Is it plenty of rations, Jack, or the Home Guard? He reports all well and enjoying a quiet time, to say nothing of his game of golf. Don't forget those breezy letters of yours.

George Simmons and Bill Sutton are defaulters once more, and are for the O.C. In fact, both of you can't do better than report.

An old pal dropped in to the office recently, Corpl. Rabbits. We were very pleased to welcome him, and to renew old friendships. Cliff looked very fit, still as lanky as ever. He says he is enjoying life with the J.C., and speaks of running across one, Jimmy Rough. Come again, Cliff, and not forgetting you, James.

It is with regret that I have to report that Stan Gill is once more in hospital. His good lady gave me the information. She was expecting him on leave from the Middle East; instead she received word that he was in hospital. I have no details. Hard luck, Stanley. We all wish you a speedy recovery and a quick return home.

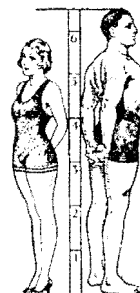
Bert Shortland is once more "Home Guarding." He is attached to the Post Office Company here. He likes it, says it is interesting, especially the new methods. This is Bert's second spell with the Home Guard.

The old shack still stands, and our flag is mast-high.

Cheerio, good luck, and a speedy and safe return to you all.

Over to you, Forces—over.

O. H. L.



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Southampton Notes

A handful of welcome airgraphs is all we have had this month, but their contents are cheering. Our congratulations go speeding along to John Sykes, 2nd Lieut. M.E.F., upon his recent promotion . . . and from an active theatre of war operations we are relieved to hear from L/Telegraphist Jimmy James, who is well and sends greetings to the boys. From Canada we have maritime and air mail from Jack Welsh, who had a quick and pleasant crossing. Jack met Peter Ryan, also U/T Observer, in the Dominion. The latter had just left an American hospital after a spell of high temperatures. We look forward to the return of these boys when their training is completed. Also in the Dominion, and keeping well, is L.A.C. Pearce (Penzance), who sent an airgraph to the lads at Manchester late July.

Tom Carnell writes in from East Africa, acknowledging receipt of the C.J. and taking us to task for our optimistic interpretation of his breezy airgraphs. We repent and conservatively report that our young Pompey friend is quite well, but hopes for a home trip before long. Joe comes in again, with all he has, to assure us of his pleasure at the good July bag of home mail, and to express his cheery opinion of the war's progress. Step on it, Joe; meanwhile, all the best from the lot of us here!

Have you written to Davy Youdell yet? Remember that your "sender's address" must not be your Service address, and in case you are not conversant with P.O. war mail regulations, I am asked to remind you that letters can only be sent once per fortnight; ordinary mail goes free, air mail goes for fivepence, and as an alternative you can buy specially printed and stamped air mail letter cards from any Post Office for threepence.

From Holyhead we have continued good news of Jack Langford, who sends his greetings to you all, and while we have that port in mind I hasten to draw your attention to the report of a local P.S.A. meeting which may appear in this issue. The meeting was that of the Manchester Staff, and mention will probably be made of the improvement of the P.S.A. interests and membership at Holyhead, it being in the Manchester District for Association purposes. We take particular interest in that report, because the local organiser during the period under review was one of our exiles, Bill Parsons (now at Swansea), and whose enthusiasm resulted in the transformation of the local balance sheet, from an annual income from subscriptions of £2 19s. 6d. to a matter of £30 16s. 7d. in fifteen months! That is what Bob Farmer would like to hear from the four corners, and its a literal example of the meaning of "personal example." Bill Parsons will moan when he sees this, but I'm on safe ground, temporarily, at least! as I record with regret that our worthy Bill lies in convalescence at the time of writing, following a cycling mishap which resulted in a collar-bone fracture and concussion. Happily, he is making good progress and his witty style remains undaunted. To Bill we send the very best of wishes for a satisfactory recovery and an early return to duty.

Of the other exiles we have little news, but we note with interest the move to Glasgow of Jimmy Agnew (patience rewarded!) and the well-being of another Swanseaite in Bob Greenman, who still thinks a lot of Soton and the boys there, which latter will shortly be joined by the writer. Future mail to 29 Berth, please.

His friends at home and on detached duty send a message of well wishes to Mr. J. A. B. Barrett, P.O., recently in hospital under operation; we hope that he may enjoy better health in future and soon be back with us. Closing on a personal note, I acknowledge gratefully the friendship extended by all concerned in the North-West during my detached spell since 1940; post-war reunions and inter-port contests will be the more personal for the experiences shared over the past three years. All the best, Liverpool and Manchester.

Cheerio! Forces!

L. B.

HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The annual District Meeting of above was held at West Dock, West Hartlepool, on Wednesday, 28th July, 1943, with Mr. L. G. G. Staniland, A.P.O., in the chair. Considering the scattered nature of the district (Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Seaham Harbour and Sunderland) the attendance was satisfactory, and also considering restricted travel and reduced staffs and the fact of Hartlepool being a "prohibited" area, there is nothing to grumble at. Perhaps the attendance of a few more of the P.O. grade would be very welcome.

Election of Officers.

Chairman: Mr. L. G. G. Staniland, A.P.O.
 Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. A. Groat, P.O.
 Dist. Sec. and Journal Corr.: Mr. J. Burke, P.O.
 Dist. Organiser: Mr. W. V. Reed, A.P.O.
 Dist. Auditors: Messrs. J. A. Groat, P.O. (H'pool).
 J. Burnett, A.P.O. (M'bro').

The Conference (1943) Agenda was discussed page by page. Resolutions formulated, and members' wishes forwarded to the Tyne Area Councillor (Mr. Cumberledge) for suitable action. Members were *emphatic* in their support of rank distinctions for A.P.O.s, supply of Service respirators, reduction in clothing coupons for uniforms, officers on detached duty being returned to home port after two years' A.D. That full seizure award being paid only to the officer making the seizure; purchase of clothing from naval stores of items listed in the Tyne resolution and taking privilege leave on days other than Saturdays. Post-war reconstruction also provided much discussion, and the main items were agreed upon, other than title and the merging of Surveyor classes into one class only.

Altogether a progressive evening, which terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman at 9.15 p.m.

J. BURKE, P.O.

Cardiff News

A meeting of the above was held on the 14th July. There were 13 members present, including the two Cardiff C.P.O.s. There is still too much apathy apparent in the P.O. grade in this district.

The vacancies of Vice-Chairman and Journal Correspondent were filled by Messrs S. H. Matthews and F. S. Lewis.

Unfortunately an enforced closure, at 9 p.m., curtailed discussion on the conference agenda, but serious and considered discussion was given to the item "Post War Reconstruction."

A sub-committee of the district Whitley representatives had met three weeks earlier to draw up a scheme for Reconstruction and to the skeleton scheme drawn up then Mr. Jackson, Barry, added, at the district meeting, a very considered and detailed plan. He was deservedly complimented for this thoughtful effort.

This district considers that reconstruction, in which all Customs work is handled by one Department, is the ideal at which to aim.

The A.P.O. Councillor, Mr. Grice, was given a definite line of action to take and the sub-committee, meeting again on 21st, have promised to supply him with greater detail. These powers were vested in the sub-committee by the District meeting and a vote of appreciation at their efforts was recorded.

Though long considered, no previous effort has been made at keeping Journal contact with South Wales members serving in the Forces. With the co-operation of other S.W. ports and of the members in H.M. Forces an effort will be made to remedy this.

We are in touch with the following members:—Stan Couchman and Albert Harrison, completing flying training in South Africa. We believe that Ossie Jones is doing the same in Canada, and J. K. K. (the poet) is on the same job in England. Thrilled at being "up" we can wait for some verse. Sandy Powell is on the South Coast with a cox's job in view and an eye on the rum-ration—he doles it out. Jack Adams is L.S. instructor, he loves it like h—, Jack Collier in the R.A.F., in Kent. Batt, we believe, is a sailor! in London. We would welcome news of H. I. Jones, Bunce and Arthur Hazzard, and of Cecil French, believed to be a prisoner of war in Singapore. These are all Newport and ex-Dover officers, so let's hear from others from South Wales ports. F. S. L. (Newport).

ARBROATH PRESENTATION

MR. J. A. HOUSTON, LATE P.O.

A presentation was made to Mr. J. A. Houston, P.O. at Arbroath Custom House, on 5th August, to mark his retirement from the Service.

Mr. Sheehan, Waterguard Surveyor, who presided at the meeting, which was informal, said he had known Mr. Houston over a number of years and could speak with some confidence of the able manner Mr. Houston had performed his duties. As Preventive Officer at Arbroath he had shown a high degree of efficiency.

Mr. McKenna, officiating P.O., on behalf of the Preventive Officers, Leith, thanked Mr. Houston for his kindness to them.

Mr. Bain, Chief Preventive Officer, who presented Mr. Houston with a wallet of Treasury notes on behalf of his colleagues and friends in Leith, Aberdeen and Glasgow districts, spoke of his long acquaintance with Mr. Houston and the efficient manner he had performed his duties. He was pleased to say Mr. Houston was one of the faithful Association members who always "paid up"—his last subscription was made just on the eve of his retirement.

All present wished Mr. Houston good health and many years to enjoy his pension.

LONDON PRESENTATION

MR. S. J. THORNE, OFFICER.

Representatives of all grades of the Service assembled in Room 6, Custom House, E.C.3, on Friday, 30th ultimo, to do honour to Mr. S. J. Thorne, who retired on the 30th June.

Mr. D. J. G. Moffatt, who occupied the chair, first called upon Mr. Strong to read the many letters of appreciation that had been received from friends who were unable to attend.

The Chairman, in eloquent and moving terms, paid a high tribute to the sterling qualities of one whom he described as a life-long friend and colleague. Then followed complimentary speeches from Messrs. A. G. May, W. S. Jenkins, J. G. Allan, W. Littler, A. E. Howell, J. G. Beatty, A. H. Ross, C. W. Geaves, C. R. Purser, W. H. Powell and F. Gloak. The prevailing note was one of admiration for an independent and forceful character. Mention was made of good work performed in various Service organisations, particularly the Customs and Excise Orphanage where, as an energetic Secretary, Mr. Thorne had successfully exercised his special gifts.

Mr. T. M. Jarvis, Surveyor, Harpy, made the presentation, which comprised a bicycle, a roll-top desk, a travelling bag, an umbrella and a pipe. Mrs. Thorne was the recipient of a music-stool. In making the presentation Mr. Jarvis spoke in terms of appreciation of Mr. Thorne's work as an Officer, and, amid laughter, referred to the many talks, mostly "monologues," which they had shared on the river. Musical honours were accorded and Mr. Thorne, in responding, said that whilst he felt that much of the praise was undeserved, he was grateful that his friends had read between the lines the things he had aimed to do. He carried into retirement rich memories of Service personalities, and possessed a private portrait gallery which no bomb could destroy. Finally, toasting the Customs and Excise Department, Mr. Thorne expressed the view that, whatever changes were in store, he was sure that abundant work would always fall to it, and that the staff would never fail to answer the calls made upon them.

Waterguard Spotlight

"Out of the 307 Waterguard officers released to the Forces—of whom 11 have come back—84 had Commissions."—*The Conference*, p. 66.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

What a reflection on the type of individual forming our department is Battshaw's remark, if you, a junior D.O. or L.O. do not feel like tackling a senior member (C.P.O. or P.O.) for his subs. get a senior paying member to approach him. Membership of the P.S.A. should be an obligation on all our staff and, having regard to increases in salary obtained for all three grades, there should be no hesitation by anyone in meeting their obligations in the fullest sense of the term. From bitter experience have I had subscriptions refused or thrown at me with a homily on the shortcomings of the P.S.A.

Is it to be deduced that the increase in membership and subscriptions shows "a change of heart," an appreciation of the work of the P.S.A., or an appreciation of what is due to colleagues?

In a Utopian civil service one could visualise an Association in being to shepherd the straying sheep alone. Until then Associations are essential and Unity (and numbers) makes strength.

Yours, etc.,

V. R.

The Editor, "The Customs Journal," London.

Sir,

Whilst I recognise that the "Customs Journal" is not the appropriate medium for expounding on "Politics Pure," may I be allowed to correct Mr. A. C. Booth's erroneous assumption that affiliation with the Trades Union Congress would involve the obligation to strike if called upon by the T.U.C. and is on a par with the suggestion that the T.U.C. would call out the workers of the country in sympathy with the grievances of the Civil Service. Such ideas, together with the fearsome implication that Affiliation may lead to such hectic scenes as hordes of Civil Servants and Trade Unionists rampaging around slitting the throats and scattering the brains of the Governing Classes, died an ignominious death on September 3rd, 1939. Mr. Booth may find consolation in the astounding fact, that never in the history of Britain has her Civil Servants struck, and what is more, T.U.C. or no T.U.C. are never likely to. What I am sure is uppermost in the thoughts of the countless Civil Servants, and Trade Unionists who are fighting and dying for that same Democracy which Mr. Booth mentions, is not strikes, or striking, but ideals, which at the end of the day's march will bring to us all the realisation of such things as the Atlantic Charter, the Beveridge Report, freedom from want, etc. To achieve such ideals will not be easy. Affiliation with the T.U.C. will certainly not, as has so often happened in the past, leave us "a lone voice in the wilderness." It is an unfortunate fact that the Civil Service, despite its Whitleyism, Federations, Guilds and Associations—"a rose by any other name"—as at present constituted, have no voice or remedy for their grievances on the floor of the House. I believe I am correct in saying that there is only one member sitting who actually represents the interests of a small section of the Civil Service; further, Mr. Booth should know from past experiences, that one of the main reasons why the Civil Servant is invariably the butt of Press and Public is due to the fact that we can number our friends in the House of Commons on one hand. Contrary to Mr. Booth's belief, the Ballot Box has never proved a blessing to the Civil Servant, his vote neither makes nor breaks Governments. In conclusion, I note Mr. Booth is a retired Waterguard Official, I therefore assume he has time on his hands and would suggest that he get in touch with the Local Secretary of the U.P.W., who doubtless would be pleased to enlighten him of the "sordid" reasons for "the firm stand taken by the Union of Post Office Workers," then I'm sure he will agree with me, Democracy's wonderful, but gee—"it makes yer think."

Yours faithfully,

G. H. WALES, A.P.O.

CONFERENCE 1943 ; OR ALL GOD'S CHILLUN GOT RINGS

A NEW SPIRIT-UEL by WALTER HOUSEMAN.

1. The Councillors to the war have come
In the Strand Palace Lounge you'll find 'em
Full of ideas and notes and spam,
And the ports they've left behind them.
 2. "Dost read and write?" one asked a lad,
Outside th' station, midst th'ructions:
"Our class does post-war reconstructions."
 3. All o'er this green and pleasant land
Men chant, in hostelries, 'midst suction
Of how people will rejoice
In post-war reconstruction.
 4. And, though the hope that we'll get "lit up"
Does not quite meet the dreams of Priestley,
There's hopes that a Utopian fit-up
Will come, when we've stopped being beastly.
 5. Small wonder, then, if these great men
Should plan for us a future fair,
And Grant present in terms most glib,
With Clarke's gruff aid a future where
 6. All rummagers shall be B.A.s
And C.P.O.s whate'er degree
Be called Surveyors, Supers soar
And all have stripes—cept Titherley.
- * * * *
7. In Chambers Federation got rent free
Details have been thrashed out (they always are)
Throughout the year. And now there is drawn up
The Customs Magna Charta which, so far,
 8. Is not a mass of verbiage like one
A certain high-up body did succeed
In pushing through the Secretaries' box
With little sign, as yet, of Runnymede.
 9. ('Tis rumoured, too, *un trahison des clerics*,
There's coming an unnatural marriage bond
Between Surveyors and the inky lads;
If so, the P.S.A. won't co-respond.)
 10. This is the song of the Hylands then,
Of Nightingale, near Leicester Square,
That bearded men assistants be
'Sa waste of manpower, and unfair.
 11. Reilly and Ramsay, Richards and
Roper, and canny Murray, who
Will see our plans don't gang agley,
And these—and Bevan, too!
 12. And there are others—Cumberlidge
And Sutherland: Shaw makes no schism.
Bill Powell ushers in this year of Grice
Though some, not Sharrock, think it Boalch-ivism.
- * * * *
13. Pending the dawn, of course, there meanwhile are
Complaints on uniform and such, to wit,
If Dalton listened-in to Customs wives
He'd get what we don't get, a blinkin' fit.
 14. Says Plymouth's Phillips, Surely it ain't fair
Our wives should be divested, surely not
Our kids unbooted go, our coupons gone
While yet the uniform we haven't got?

15. Others there be, domestic to a fault,
Who think synonymous their homes and beauty,
Who loudly show resentment, display spleen,
And view with no Detachment such a Duty.
 16. On P.S.A. Benevolence an Abel Taylor
Pressed the suit;
While on the new V.E.S. Scheme
We had a Moore and Burgess duet.
 17. The Members' Drive has done quite well,
We're better off financially.
When Farmers say they're satisfied,
What must the harvest be?
Also we're going to press
That A.P.O.s should be first-class
On steamships—when their journey's nec.
 19. For many years at Council we've
Had schemes long sighted from Jack Sutton.
He's gone to higher spheres, but yet
We're not "shorthanded, we've got Dutton.
 20. Those serving Customs men who've died
Or won themselves—and us—renown,
Gained special note. We're mindful of
"The evil things" they're knocking down.
 21. The JOURNAL had some criticism.
On policy it's lacked a grip;
Some correspondents blinkers wear—
But surely we don't need a WHIP?
 22. And so with Standring Orders very staid
For three long days they gave attention due
To all your needs—even if you've not paid.
To-morrow to airfields and Customs new.
- * * * *

In the erudite fashion of T. S. Eliot and others, the brilliant author of the above when presenting it to the new Publicity Secretary as the first smack in the slap apathy campaign, appended a number of footnotes:—

V. 1, 1, 3.—"Rum" might have rhymed better, but might have caused misunderstanding in the districts.

V. 5, 1, 3.—Grant a duodecimo Demosthenes, advocate of a motto for the P.S.A. "Stand fast Craigellachie."

V. 6, 1, 4.—Actually many C.P.O.s don't want uniform, but Titherley eloquently shows that he wants it least.

V. 7, 1, 1.—A pleasing echo of Tennyson.

V. 9, 1, 1.—The Councillors all know French of the Sydney Howard brand, but in case any of their constituents are ignorant, this means "a clerky treason." Really, we're only joking. The clerks are all right with us.

V. 10, 1, 1.—Hyland: known as Tontine Larry. It was actually he who sang in Leicester Square (and everywhere else) the gay stave "Hello tharr."

V. 11, 1, 2.—Murray: one "Blether" from him is worth an hour of denunciation. Possesses two of everything, including O Circulars.

V. 12, 1, 2.—A Scot who, like the C.P.O.s of Ireland (vide Mr. J.M.), was not born but quarried.

V. 16, 1, 2.—Taylor: He was the first that ever burst into the home of Dan in the Final.

V. 16, 1, 4.—Burgess was not co-opted to this Council purely to get this joke in. Had he not come, the Executive would have considered persuading Cumberlidge to change his name by deed-poll.

V. 16, 1, 4.—Moore: Pony, of course, no tinhorn gambler.

V. 19, 1, 4.—There were reasons other than the rhyme for Dutton's presence!

V. 21, 1, 4.—"The whip" is another Service periodical.

I don't see how all this can help the slap apathy campaign.
However—
C. F. S.

CIVIL SERVICE WAR DISTRESS FUND

The Second Annual Report of the Fund has now been published. This gives full details of the many ways in which it has alleviated war distress during the past year, and a detailed statement of the financial position.

Between the 1st April, 1942, and the 31st March, 1943, 339 fatalities were reported and in 103 cases continuing allowances were made to 171 dependants of civil servants—60 widows, 54 children and 57 other dependants, chiefly parents. Approximately two-thirds were permanent civil servants, although most of the permanent and temporary grades in the service are represented in the total. At the end of the year 190 allowances were in operation ranging from 5/- to £2 a week.

During the year, the Committee decided to extend their aid to the dependants of civil servants reported missing while on active service where this resulted in financial distress, and have made 12 allowances to dependants in these circumstances.

Twelve disabled civil servants were granted allowances during the year and 20 children were given educational assistance at a cost of £234.

68 special grants of amounts up to £35 were made, chiefly to civil servants whose sick pay was exhausted (where the sickness was the result of enemy action), and a further £414 was paid out in Christmas grants to dependants of deceased civil servants.

361 air raid damage grants were made at a total cost of £2,199—an average of just over £6 each. Half of this number were in respect of the two air raids in April, 1942, and the others were chiefly as the result of the raids on Exeter, Canterbury and Norwich.

During the year the Committee decided on a further increase in the scales of continuing allowances, and it is interesting to note that whilst under the first scale the average allowance was 6/0½d. a week, it has now risen to 15/11¼d. a week.

Many allowances were not made, and some were discontinued because dependants are able to find employment in war time. After the war, the Fund may be called upon to help in a large proportion of these cases.

The chief liability of the Fund will be in connection with continuing allowances to dependants of civil servants killed in the war. Up to the present we have been fortunate in suffering many less casualties than might have been expected. While, therefore, the present resources of the Fund are probably sufficient to cover existing commitments, the coming increased tempo of the war accompanied inevitably by increased casualties, is sure to bring in its train heavy demands on the Fund. If the benefits from the Fund are to continue on the present generous scales, it will be necessary for every civil servant to be a contributor. Please obtain from your office agent a form authorising deductions of contributions from salary or wages and send it to your paying officer.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND

At their meeting at the Meyerstein Hall, in the Westminster Hospital Medical School, on the 10th inst., at which Mr. Philip Inman presided, the Board of the Hospital Saturday Fund decided to extend the Fund's benefits by granting vouchers for maternity cases in Voluntary Hospitals. This benefit will take effect forthwith for present members and their dependants, but for members joining after August 10th there will be a waiting period of 12 months before they become eligible for this particular benefit.

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—Daily Herald, August 12th, 1943.

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