

The Customs Journal

Official Journal of the

CUSTOMS & EXCISE PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

Vol. 41 No. 981

JUNE, 1944

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BACK NUMBERS.—*May be obtained by applying to the Association Offices, 2d. per copy (post free).*

CURRENT COMMENTS

A Farewell Message.

THE following letter has been received by the General Secretary from Mr. Woodford:—

"My dear Powell,

"I thank you and the Executive Committee for the kindly expressions of sympathy, and regret for my retirement from the post I have held with great pride for so long. It is difficult even yet for me to realise that no more shall we meet around the conference table and, less formally, in my room to discuss the many matters of interest and importance to both sides. I do indeed regret that I shall not be able to participate in the discussions on the shape of things to come, but it was fated not to be.

"Although my condition is not so serious as my somewhat alarming experience the other day seemed to indicate, I have undoubtedly 'been warned' that I am not equal to the strain and I had reluctantly to come to the conclusion that it was unfair to the Board, to the Staff, and to my wife and myself to continue the effort.

"I leave you in the hands of men of your own upbringing and traditions, and also (with sincere confidence) of higher authorities who know and appreciate the value and the loyal efficiency of the Preventive Service. If nothing more, the wonderful way in which the whole service have thrown themselves wholeheartedly, cheerfully and effectively into the arduous and, for many, the most trying tasks of the war, is proof of their great worth to the Dept. and to the Crown, and I feel confident that that worth will be recognised in the better times in store.

"For the Staff Side, and I am sure your immediate colleagues will understand me when I say, particularly for yourself, I shall always retain the happiest of memories and a sincere admiration for the firm, honest, convincing and temperate way in which you have voiced the causes you have at heart. Even when we could not entirely agree, I always felt, as I know did most of my colleagues on the Official Side, that together we had an abiding common interest in the advancement of the efficiency of our Service and of the

welfare of the personnel which makes for both contentment and efficiency.

"During my long term as I.G.W. I have seen a great advance in pride of place in all ranks, and also of genuine respect and, indeed, admiration for the Waterguard in other branches of the Service, which I feel sure are due to the high standard of its leaders. Especially have the younger men coming in found themselves members of a body worth living up to.

"As for the social side to which you refer, I do believe that it has played no small part. Keenly supported on all sides, it has done much to promote and cement happier relations between all ranks, and, what is equally to the good, between colleagues with common interests, who, scattered all round the coast, would otherwise have seen and known less of one another. I sincerely hope that the return of normal conditions will see a speedy resumption of those happy days and nights we spent renewing old friendships and making new ones in the field and, shall I say, elsewhere.

"And so, my dear Powell, officially, farewell.

"I came to you as an outsider. You received me as a friend, and I have had many happy years and learned to know many splendid chaps. I hope I leave the Service a little better and happier than I found it.

"To all my Waterguard friends I wish every happiness and prosperity, but, above all, good health and contentment, without which there can be no happiness. I look forward to meeting you all again in happier times.

"Au revoir and God-speed.

"Yours very sincerely,

"C. M. WOODFORD."

In the Honours List.

We are pleased to note that among the honours awarded in the King's Birthday List are:—

A. J. Dedman ... C.B.E.

A. E. Howell ... M.B.E.

In offering our congratulations we should like to add a special note of pleasure regarding the honour bestowed on our erstwhile colleague and past General Secretary.

Another P.O. Examination.

By the time these notes appear in print members will have learned by O.W.O. of the Board's intention, war circumstances at the time permitting, to hold an

examination for P.O.-ships early in 1945, and that the general conditions governing the August Examination will operate. No information is, as yet, available as to the probable number to be called.

The V.E. Section is making speedy preparation to cope with this new batch of students. The position regarding tutors is easing gradually and an early announcement will be made. The procedure will be something like this. When ready, the V.E.S. will enrol members within the probable range of the new call-up; students will be supplied with a set of Lesson (or Reading) Papers and, as and when tutors become available, they will be allocated.

C.P.O. Courses—V.E.S.

In response to the many enquiries regarding tuition for the C.P.O. Examination, it can now be stated that these courses are again open to members. As previously, there are two courses. The first dealing with Regulations and Practice and the second with Administration. Intending students should make early application for full particulars to the Organising Secretary, Room 11, Custom House, London, E.C.3.

But just a note of warning. For the time being it may be necessary to restrict enrolment to those in the probable field of call-up.

Waterguard Federation.

Up to recent times the activities of the Waterguard Federation had been restricted to central meetings between representatives of the Waterguard Superintendents' and Surveyors Association and the P.S.A. on the question of Post-war Planning.

We were very pleased to learn that the first provincial meeting of members of the Associations in Federation has taken place this month. To Plymouth goes the signal honour, but we shall learn with equal pleasure of similar meetings in other areas. The items "Man-power" and "P.-W. Planning" are particularly suited to this type of meeting and much useful work can be done by all-grade discussions.

Training of Civil Servants.

The Report of the Committee on the Training of Civil Servants, which has been presented to Parliament, has now been published. In the main the Report is confined to the three main classes of Civil Servants—Clerical, Executive and Administrative—but the recommendations put forward will, if adopted, be applicable to other grades.

Full consideration will be given to this document at the next meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.), to be held on 20th July, but in the meantime it is interesting to note that the outline of the scheme for training of new entrants to the Waterguard, presented recently to the Board, is well within the scope of the recommendations.

Sir Wilfred Eady.

Our attention was drawn early in the month to the "Stocks and Shares" feature of the "News Chronicle." The article referred to the Conference on the International Monetary Fund which is to be held in the U.S.A. next month, and stated that the British delegation, headed by Lord Keynes, should not be regarded merely as a team of experts.

The particular point of interest for us, however, is the announcement that Sir Wilfred Eady, of the Treasury, would be a member of the delegation.

The "Orphanage"

It is gratifying to read in the Annual Report of the grand work done by the C. & E. Widows' and Orphans' Fund, but it is even more gratifying to learn that at the Annual General Meeting amendments to Rules 23, 25 and 26, designed to give scope for wider and better administration of the funds, was adopted unanimously.

No one likes to think that circumstances in which his dependants would have to seek assistance from the Fund could ever arise, but it is nice to have the knowledge that you are helping the less fortunate of your colleagues, whilst at the same time guarding against the unexpected.

Waterguard membership is, by comparison, fairly good, but until it attains the 100 per cent. it can never be good enough. Of course, you are a member, but is your colleague? Ask him—now.

U.P.W.

Mr. C. J. Geddes has been appointed by the Union of Post Office Workers to be their General Secretary in succession to Mr. Tom Hodgson, who was recently forced to resign owing to ill-health.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The marriage between Lieut. N. A. Scarlett, R.A.O.C., formerly A.P.O. and now Officer, and Subaltern P. E. Rogers, A.T.S., took place on Sunday, 11th June, at the Parish Church of West Felton, Salop.

Hull News

During the past month the Hull staff has been supplemented by the return from detached duty of Messrs. L. E. Hellen and W. S. Outram, P.O.'s. We welcome them and hope that their wanderings are at an end.

Congratulations to Mr. L. Walton. He had been for many months on detached duty at Ayr, as an A.P.O. He is now P.O. at that port.

Five Hull A.P.O.'s expect to attend the examination for promotion to P.O.'s., which is to be held in August. We confidently wish Messrs. Head, Burnett, Hearne, Taylor and Enderby success in that all-important test.

Here is some brief news of A.P.O.'s. in the Forces:—

F/O. F. H. Bromley, R.A.F., has recently been on leave and is expecting to undergo further training as an instructor.

Telegraphist J. N. White, R.N., is in Far Eastern waters, and during spells ashore is managing to keep in his usual good cricketing form.

Sub-Lieutenant J. Lazenby, R.N., is at present in Canada enjoying the generous hospitality of the people there.

Second-Lieut. F. E. Yoxall is with the C.M.F. Forces and is no doubt making the best of whatever fortune brings him.
N. S. M.

BY NIAGARA

These were my thoughts when, deep
entranced,

I watched the mighty flow
Of torrents pouring endlessly
Into the mists below.

In England soon the days will warm,
And catkin tails will swing,
And daffodils and narcissi
Will curtsey to the spring.

There is a brook, come Easter-tide,
Where primrose tufts will peep;
And blackbird song at morning time
Will wake the woods from sleep.

Oh! often now does beauty stir
My half-sad heart to tell.
Such is my fate—in loving still
My homeland over well.

JOHN KENNEDY.

GREAT GUNS

"I have resolved," announced John Bilkin, A.P.O., Chief Cuckoo, Tea Maker Extraordinary, Order of Chastity (Second Class), Commander of the Baggage Exit, Tuckstick in Waiting, "to take a Greater Interest in the P.S.A."

"Why," asked his P.O., "are you in trouble?"

"No," said J.B., "but I think all this Reorganisation stuff may mean something after all, now the Supers and Surveyors are with us, and it's worth supporting."

"You are prepared then to forgive and forget, eh?"

"Yes, I'd like to be in on this New Deal."

"So you're going to pay your arrears?"

"Arrears? Certainly not. I don't mind paying six-and-six if I'm asked. I won't chase after 'em—but a D.O. once frightened my sister and—"

"So you want a cut-price Association?"

"Why not?"

* * *

My publicity review in October, 1943, said: "We've got the men. I hold that we also have the guns, using "guns" in the sense of good ideas, and good ideals with justice as their firing-pin and an efficient public service as their target. But have we got the money, too?"

Arguments used in the membership campaign are not appropriate to the slap apathy campaign, but it must be said that the banishing of apathy without at least the maintenance of last year's income would be to leave the guns without ammunition. The Organising Secretary tells us that interest without capital is no use and we will not have adequate capital until every member of the Preventive Service has principle.

What a shame if shortage of money prevented our firing the guns!

That we have good guns and men fit to fire them I am not satisfied. At present, apart from Journal articles by myself and others whom I ask to write on special subjects, my work falls into three classes: (1) Preparing of pamphlets for publication by the E.C. These do a job the Journal cannot do so well; and No. 2, Man-Power, proved quite effective. No. 3 will possibly be a review of Reorganisation to date. No. 1 was

misunderstood; perhaps the wording (never the purpose) was ill-considered in places, and one or two felt that some cozening knave, to get some office, hath done this. 'Twas not so. A fourth pamphlet is projected this year, possibly on the subject of Training the New Entrant. The supply of No. 2 having been inadequate this will not occur again. You chaps who correspond with the Forces pass yours on to them when read.

2. Studying the whole subject of P.S.A. publicity for future use. I've made "copious" notes which should form a report for the next Conference. (Meanwhile, if publicity in the P.S.A. is still lacking and the keeping the member fully informed on policy incompletely achieved, it's because this preliminary work is so necessary.) The greatest help in this direction comes from correspondents, notably District Organisers, to whom I have sent two circulars.

Thus a London Councillor gives me an idea for an article on Small Ports. A Scottish Councillor gives me a cure for any incipient swelled head, as does a Service correspondent from Holyhead. H.E.P.B. is as sound as ever. We'll be having his help with more ambitious publications than pamphlets very shortly. L.B. is a constant aid. B.J.B. represents the old guard as a tower of interest. The chromatic enclosures to his letters are a treat. District Organisers at Cardiff, Hull, West Hartlepool, Aberdeen, Gravesend, Belfast, Manchester, Bristol and Leith, and four very active Councillors write and give some good ideas, e.g., that a file of local agreements be kept at the Headquarters Library, when we have one.

What does all this correspondence boil down to? It first of all reassures me that, as Mr. Harris Deans (to whom I wrote about unkind references to the Customs in a "Sunday Despatch" film critique) says, "Our Customs officers are easily the best." (Mr. Deans has travelled in all parts of the world.)

It satisfies me, too, that, despite the Bilkins and critics who put cash before good name, there are men worth striving for (Forces correspondence alone would produce this conviction) and who are themselves willing to strive but feel they have lacked a lead. Rightly or wrongly they complain of poor contact with Headquarters and will not accept shortage of paper as full excuse for the lack. Locally much good work is being done

in penny numbers. But it lacks co-ordination and planning. (Two words, perhaps, over-used these days, but we'll get nowhere without the idea they represent.) For instance, the frequency and the conduct of meetings varies appallingly from place to place. You get little ports like the Cumberland group where meetings are about 100 per cent., and a place like Hull, keen enough in many ways, with good workers like Shooter and Taylor, but meetings poorly attended. We have Tyneside active about its own problems, but knowing little of South Wales. We're a series of units, almost of individuals, a lot of little goose clubs, not a directed unity. This is no time for flattery. Each of us who professes to be interested in the P.S.A. must in some degree be responsible for the lacks.

We have officials in the districts who have only zeal as a qualification for office. Thank heaven for them! But lack of knowledge of the conduct of meetings and of record keeping must be remedied, and the Journal Editor and Slippery Sam are now helping us to do so. Please note, you local leaders. Other interests may be neglected, leisure further cut into, if you are to be proper leaders, but it's well worth it. I've always thought so.

One also sees, from correspondence, the fluctuating fashions in "grievances." It is quite natural that uniform in wartime should become a topic and the type of electric torch slip out of discussion pro tem. But it is necessary that all our needs and disabilities should be kept in one parcel, and that someone should keep his eye on the parcel. That's the Secretaries' job. The other P.S.A. officers and the membership generally must keep them up to date about the contents of that package. Because, say, Work and Wait and subsistence seem to be dropped and domestic disturbance and abolition of seizure rewards seem to be getting a new emphasis, does not mean that the undiscussed subjects are closed. A subject like poor office accommodation naturally has to ride in times like this, but it will come up again. Are you preparing the dope on this question now for your representatives when the time is ripe? I think it might be soon.

But we can't list all the grievances, nor, at the moment, our more positive aspirations. What we must do, each of us, is to realise that all these subjects—

not those which may happen to concern our own grade or our own port or private interest—are proper for study. To say "Oh, never mind about all that; we want the money," is to say "Never mind about the frying pan and all the cooking; give me a nice fried steak and some chips."

Write to me; send me any newspaper cuttings. Excuse me if I don't answer. You see it does some good just the same.

We've got the guns and we'll get the butter—for our at present dry bread.

* * *

Then, having struck that optimistic note, I think of no other obstacle to our achieving all we are out for. I refer to Peter Geekie. Those of you who listen to the lowbrow stuff on the radio will know who Peter Geekie is. In the Greek tragedies the greatest characters sometimes never appeared and all the drama took place off stage. This classic device, used, too, by Shakespeare, has been used in modern times in books like Calder Marshall's "About Levy," Clemence Dane's "Legend," Houghton's "I Am Jonathan Scrivener" (where it is extremely effective), and in the successful play "George and Margaret." The character you never see influences all the other characters. Now we know John Bilkin and we know O. Five (who was not such a bad chap in any case), representing young fellows who won't pay from meanness and old fellows who won't pay from ancient motives, summed up in the whole bad tradition of the job now gone, practically, which led a certain P.S.A. worker now on top sides to use the word "Waterguardy" as if it were synonymous with "lousy," "suspicious," "self-centred," and other unpleasant adjectives. But there is someone else who influences all our councils, some poltergeist, some gremlin. I call him Peter Geekie. He is the cause of apathy. He is the real inspirer of the watch-house moan, of the false charges against representatives. But, friends, there is no Peter Geekie really. There are sufficient uninvited guests, and guests invited but unpopular, sitting in on all C.S. discussions. In our little association, in our districts and areas, let us ignore Peter Geekie and turn our guns on the real dangers. Only a disinterested membership, a badly informed membership or a misled membership can lose us the New Deal for the Waterguard which I firmly believe is now in sight.

C. F. S.

Plymouth Notes

Our congratulations go to Mr. W. H. Carter, ex-A.P.O. of London and Brixham, who is now a Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

The best attended district meeting for many years was held in Plymouth on the 10th June. The chair was taken by Mr. Stanford, Waterguard Superintendent. Present were Messrs. Mathers and Finley, Waterguard Surveyors; Messrs. Sinnott and Winder, C.P.O.'s., and almost the entire Plymouth staff. Also, Mr. Goldfinch, P.O., Teignmouth; Mr. Pick, P.O., Fowey; Mr. Jenkins, A.P.O., Dartmouth. The meeting had been called to consider the Board's letter on Waterguard reconstruction, and after a very full discussion agreement was recorded on all points of principle.

A resolution was also adopted that Watchers, specially selected by the Waterguard Superintendent, should be employed on watch-keeping or any other duties now considered improper to the A.P.O. grade.

The discussion was preceded by a very interesting account, given by Mr. Clarke, A.P.O., of the history of the Association's efforts for Waterguard reconstruction and a very brief outline of the Association's present proposals in that sphere.

The meeting also thanked those members who had travelled from out-ports in order to be present, and hoped that at any future district meetings an even larger number of out-port officers would endeavour to attend.

Presentation to Mr. W. L. Bayley.

On the 10th May, 1944, at Genoni's Cafe, Plymouth, a presentation was made to Mr. W. L. Bayley, retiring Collector, of an inscribed silver salver, a pair of pipes, and a tobacco jar.

When Mr. Bayley was informed that the staff wished to make him a presentation to mark his retirement, he expressed a desire to entertain his staff to a buffet tea. Thus the presentation was made while the staff was enjoying Mr. Bayley's hospitality. Mr. Bayley had completed forty-five years' service in the Department, twelve years of which were spent in Plymouth. Officers, both active and retired, from every grade of the Customs and Excise were present. Speeches expressing the staff's admiration and respect for Mr. Bayley were made by Mr. Stanford, Waterguard Superintendent, Mr. Finley,

Waterguard Surveyor, Mr. Merritt, Landing Surveyor, Mr. Pratt, Officer, Mr. Rowe, D.C.O., Mr. Cross, Chief Clerk, Mr. Clarke, A.P.O. The presentation was made by Mr. Bishop, Assistant Collector. Telegrams were received from Sir R. Leatham, Commander-in-Chief Plymouth; Mr. Wingfield, the in-coming Collector, and a large number of Officers of all grades, in outlying parts of the Collection, who were unable to be present.

In his speech of thanks Mr. Bayley gave much very interesting information concerning the history of the Department and also said that he had found his staff of every grade to be thoroughly efficient and reliable, and he felt sure they would be able to handle whatever fresh work or difficulties arose in the future.

Prosecution.

At 11 a.m., 19th May, 1944, at Plymouth City Police Court, Mr. Sinnott, C.P.O., conducted the Crown's case against two American seamen who had attempted to conceal 2,800 cigarettes under a coil of rope in the forepeak of a Liberty ship. The cigarettes were found by Mr. Clarke, A.P.O. Conviction was granted and the men were fined £6 16s. 6d. each.

Mr. Trevithick, A.P.O.

My previous report that Fred Trevithick is now a P.O.W. in Germany hands, may be remembered by the staff. Mrs. Trevithick has now received several letters from him and we have learned that he is in good health and as comfortable as is to be expected in the circumstances. In one letter he expressed great gratitude to the Red Cross. Life, apparently, would not be worth living without their work and help. Fred mentioned, too, that to get a shave he has to join the queue. They have one shaving brush per twenty men. It's a safe bet they hope a stock of brushes reaches camp before any more prisoners do.

J. McALPINE.

HONORARY COMMISSION, R.N.R.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been pleased to promote Mr. D. MacLean, Preventive Officer-in-Charge, H.M. Customs and Excise, Dumfries, to the rank of Paymaster Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Naval Reserve. This distinction has been conferred on Mr. MacLean for services rendered in connection with the Royal Naval Reserve.

Southampton Notes

Despite the pressing circumstances of late May and early June, the Forces mail has been good, and only a few days before the memorable 6th of June we had the pleasure of a visit to 29 Berth of Lieut. Arthur Cheney, very fit and anticipating plenty of action. He, together with many other of the lads, will be hard at it on the coasts of France as we write this, and we are with them in thought. We assume that Lieut. Jack Berry, Lieut. Arthur Burnham, Lieut. John Sykes and C.S.M. B. J. Lundsten, R.E. (from Immingham, and with whom two of our colleagues had the pleasure of a yarn during May, when he was hard at it preparing for the day of the invasion), are in company with Arthur Cheney.

From overseas we welcome Flight-Sergt. Les Twentyman, home for a leave spell, before going on with the job for which he is well trained and enjoying it at an appropriate time, namely, Whitsun, in his native Lancashire, especially when he had the grand surprise of a reunion with Pilot-Officer Dudley Heal, who dropped in quite casually on the Bank Holiday; this was their first meeting since 1941, so you can bet the "Twins" enjoyed themselves.

Staff-Sergt. Jock Strachan had a narrow escape when the aircraft in which he was flying became troublesome. Jock was afloat in his rubber dinghy for five hours before he was rescued by his R.A.F. Sea Rescue colleagues. None the worse for his experience, Jock sends a letter of thanks to Flight-Sergt. Phil Pettit (on behalf of the rescued ones), as representing the Sea Rescue boys in general: a charming gesture, you will agree, and one which will be appreciated by the recipient, who, at this moment, is sweating his way along in the heat of British West Africa, and from where we had a letter in May, sending greetings from Phil to you all at home and overseas. He is keeping well despite the climatic conditions, likewise Sergt. Charlie (Roller) Cardall, who airgraphs us with pleasing frequency from Ceylon. Still with the R.A.F., we have the news from Sergt. Jack Welsh that all goes well for him, and for Pilot Officer George Haywood, now on his second tour of Ops from this country.

Other news, in brief, is excellent in regard to the personal well-being of such

lads as Cliff Pearson, now in Scotland, and able to see old friends regularly; Joe, still doing his duties overseas (by the way, have you read the well-earned tribute to these often forgotten lads in the current issue of "Neptune"? If not, get a copy and read it; it makes you think, very much so); Steve, still operating in London, at the War Office; and Jimmy Rough and Freddie Hanson (Heysham and Manchester), seen recently in Dorset.

The latest D.D. moves are those of Messrs. G. T. Bugler, P.O., and Len Bassett; the former has gone from Poole to Neyland, and the latter has returned to Soton from Heysham, to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Arthur Sweet. We hear that Jack Daly likes his billet at Barrow very much, and has an eye on that port for post-war times.

There is nothing to report from the home port just now, but all the lads are well, and any Forces visitors will get a warm welcome should they have the opportunity to call at 29 Berth. Cheerio, Forces!

L. B.

P.S.A. LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the following additions to the above:—

- "The British Tariff," 1860-1.
- "Quarantine and Customs Waterguard Practice," 1888.
Presented by Mr. H. G. Roberts, A.P.O., Runcorn.
- "The British Tariff," 1847-8.
Presented by Mr. E. Haigh, P.O., King's Lynn.
- Customs Pocket Journal, 1905.
Presented by Mr. J. H. Stewart, W. Sur., London.
- "Establishment of the Great Farm of the English Customs," 1919.
Presented by Mr. C. F. Shaw, A.P.O., Liverpool.
- "Modern Smuggling and its Detection," 1888.
Presented by Mr. G. T. Clarke, A.P.O., Plymouth.
- A silver and enamel Badge inscribed H.M. Customs, worn by Preventive Men engaged on baggage duty, 1900-1.
Presented by Mr. J. H. Newman, A.P.O., London.

Greenock News

Presentation.

There was a pleasant little ceremony at Carwell Bay on May 8th to bid farewell to the Collector, Mr. Winfield, upon his transfer to Plymouth.

The office was crammed tight with nearly the whole Waterguard staff, including many of the Launch Service. Speeches were made by representatives of every grade, expressing appreciation of the cordial relations which had always been maintained with the Waterguard during Mr. Winfield's tenure of office, the desire that success and good fortune attend him, and the wish that the pleasant memories which it was hoped he would take with him of Greenock would be matched by the friendly contacts it was anticipated he would soon establish with our colleagues in Plymouth.

Mr. Walters, C.P.O., presenting a cheque on behalf of the staff, regretted that time and circumstance had made it impossible to obtain a more concrete token, and hoped that soon more peaceful conditions would enable the cheque to be resolved into some tangible memento worthy of expressing our good will and esteem.

In reply Mr. Winfield thanked one and all for the kind thoughts and hopes expressed, and also for the sympathy which had been extended to him in the recent loss of his son. He went on to say that he appreciated what a very difficult job of work there was to be done in the port, and expressed admiration for the way in which the Waterguard had got to grips with it. Saying how touched he was by the spirit which inspired this handsome gift, Mr. Winfield assured us that, at the first opportunity, he would obtain some suitable object which, through the ceremony it would recall and by its association with his contact with the Greenock Waterguard, would become a life-long treasure.

Promotion.

News of impending exams. has induced a sudden zeal for study, and watch-house conversations, instead of starting with "Have you heard this one?" commence disconcertingly with "A passenger produces to you . . ."! Under the guidance of Mr. Murray, C.P.O., and Mr. Sutton, P.O., weekly classes have already started, and reveal a thirst for knowledge which, contrary to the avowals of the advocates

of temperance, does not appear to have been engendered by any over-indulgence in the past! Meanwhile, further news of the promised V.E.S courses are anxiously awaited.

We have been pleased to welcome two Forces members to the class: Mr. Pearson, A.P.O., of Liverpool, now a P.O. (R.N.V.R.), and also Cliff Pearson, whom we had not seen since his busman's holiday described in the Journal of 1943.

As this goes to post we have just enjoyed a visit from Sub-Lieut. (A) F. W. ("Chippy") Smallwood (A.P.O., London). He was in cheerful spirits and thoroughly enjoys his war-time occupation. After experience flying various types of flying boats he now wields a set of "ping-pong bats" on a "flat-top."

Procession.

There has been a kind of General Post in the last few weeks. Our latest arrival is Mr. Gotts, P.O., promoted from Ipswich. Anyone who was in London more than ten years ago will undoubtedly remember his genial and popular father. I have renewed acquaintance after several years with my old colleague, "Bob" Jaques (now P.O.), from Gravesend, George Bain and Mr. Griggs, P.O., from London. Charlie Douglas, recently promoted to Glasgow, is back with us again, having exchanged with Mr. Whittaker, P.O., who only recently joined us on promotion from Hull. "Mac" (Macbeth) has gone back to Dover for a week or two before promotion to relieve the other Dover "Mac" (McGrath), who, likewise, was recalled from Swansea for a very brief period before promotion. We have also lost Mr. Murray, P.O., on his return to London. As the fifth year of our Detached Duty dawns with the opening of the Second Front, hope springs anew that ere long we also may return to recreate our long-neglected homes.

B. A. BENNING.

The Lads o' London

The most important item of news this month is the return home, after some time spent in a German prisoner-of-war camp, of Ken Buttenshaw. Four years ago to the day on which he was captured at Dunkirk, he arrived in Liverpool. Leaving the camp—which is situated in Posen, Poland—on 12th May, he passed through Stettin, Berlin, Karlsruhe, Strasbourg

and Lyons, finally arriving at Barcelona, where he embarked on the "Gripsholm," the Swedish liner, which brought him to England. He said that it was great to see what the boys of the R.A.F. had done—practically all of Berlin that he saw was flat. Looking remarkably well after such an ordeal, he is now enjoying 28 days' leave prior to reporting for duty. Ted Waters is still in the same camp, and he (Ted) sent his best wishes to all old friends via Ken. Welcome home!

Bill Williams, who was formerly in this department but left it for the Inland Revenue, has been promoted to the rank of Major, and is now "having a go" at the Japs in Burma.

Jimmy Sutton went to India recently, and travelling on the same ship with him was yet another former colleague in the person of Colin Carthew.

A hopeful letter has been received from Mrs. Colan stating that three of the crew of the plane in which Tony was shot down have been reported safe, and she is impatiently awaiting news of his well-being. We, too, await good news concerning him.

I mentioned in last month's Journal that there was no class in London for promotion students; but there has in fact been such a class in existence for some time. It is usually attended by upwards of a dozen keen students and is admirably conducted by Messrs. Burt and Cozens, who aim at 100 per cent. passes. In this connection may I add that there is another aspirant for P.O.'ship at the forthcoming exam.—Bob Foakes, and it is hoped that success will crown his endeavours.

The best wishes of the London staff go to Mr. Woodford in his retirement, coupled with the hope that his health may improve.

There have been more arrivals and departures: George Bain, Freddy Griggs, Charlie Mallett and Bill Williamson have left for other spheres; whilst we welcome home Alf Burt and Jock Murray.

Great sympathy is shown by the staff to Charlie Harrold and his family in the sad loss of a wife and mother.

The thoughts of everybody at home are with the lads who are actively engaged in the invasion of France, and we trust that all of them will emerge from the struggle safe and sound.

Let's hear from you, then.

Till the lights o' London shine again.

R. J. L.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

to 12th June, 1944.

TRANSFERS.

Preventive Officers:

Davies, R., Aberystwyth, Swansea to Liverpool.

Gatherpole, S. T., Port Talbot, Swansea to Cardiff.

Preventive Officer (Acting):

Manning, J. C., from special service at Glasgow to Goragwood Land Boundary, Belfast.

Assistant Preventive Officer:

Morris, E., Manchester to Newport, Mon.

PROMOTIONS.

Assistant Preventive Officer to Preventive Officer (Acting):

Mathews, A. F., Dover.

Assistant Preventive Officers to Preventive Officers (Acting) (on detached duty):

Gotts, F., Harwich, Ipswich.

Linford, R., Fleetwood, Preston.

McGrath, G. E., Dover.

Morrison, D. C., Sharpness, Newport.

Walton, L., Hull.

RETIREMENT.

Preventive Officer:

Kirwan, J., Liverpool.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Soulsby, J. R., Preventive Officer.

Mathews, H., Assistant Preventive Officer.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

May I express, through your columns, my appreciation and thanks to the members of all grades of the Tyne District who contributed towards the really magnificent wrist watch I received recently.

It will be greatly treasured by me and will always remind me of the many happy "watches" which I put in at that district.

Although separated by many miles, I hope to keep in touch with them, and my best wishes are extended to all, especially those who are "getting down to their marks" for August.

Cheerio, chaps, and again, many thanks.

J. R. S. MOORE.

HOW TO RUN YOUR MEETINGS, ETC.

By SLIPPERY SAM

(Continued from page 60)

Between meetings, the Secretary is the man responsible (he may or may not have help in consultation, where necessary, with the Chairman, who is permanent head of the body) for the conduct of all business. He shall see that the wishes of the meeting are carried out, he will keep all records where matters arise needing immediate decision: where he has no instructions, acts as he thinks best for the membership; he shall see that all members are kept informed of what is going on; he shall inform Headquarters of the decisions of meetings and any other activity (even if of only apparent local application); he shall convene meetings and deal with all correspondence.

Whew! poor fellow. But these are by no means all his functions. He may, of course, be helped out. Carrying out the wishes of the meeting will often be the work of other people, Whitley representatives, probably. He may be helped in convening meetings, correspondence and keeping of records by an Assistant Secretary. The Organising Secretary, in the conduct of his work as Treasurer (see below) should help him further. But in practice, under the Chairman (who should never be a figurehead), he is the Association, Union, or whatever it is. At any rate, between meetings.

At meetings he should guide the discussion where his special knowledge is a guide, but he is there to obtain the will of the members, not to impose his will on them. Many secretaries take too much upon themselves. Except for informing the meeting, he should play no greater part in discussions than anyone else. He should keep a record, for subsequent writing up, of all that is done at the meeting, but this may be done by an Assistant, or Minute, Secretary. He must be particularly careful to get the wording of motions correct. He should, too, record what members are present. He should see that a copy of the Constitution, of local Standing Orders (if any) and of any other item (including old minutes books) which may be needed for reference are on the table and attend to the "lay out" (chairs, etc.) of the meeting. He should see that

the chairman has his Agenda and should attend before the other members to acquaint the chairman with any matter upon which he asks information. He should, when correspondence is being dealt with, give a summary of the longer letters, to avoid tedium, but the actual letter must be before the chairman. He must seek approval of any action, not a specific instruction from a meeting, which he has taken.

He should—but there are no ends to the imperatives which this office involves. Rather, we should first see if we have the right man. What are the qualities of a good secretary

He need be no orator, but should be able to put matters briefly. If he has to take action unassisted, he should be a man with the abilities, as a negotiator and advocate, for that role. He should be able to write a lucid report or letter. He should have knowledge, an ability for hard work, as much experience as possible, and unbreakable enthusiasm. Electors, don't re-elect a secretary just because he's always been secretary (or chairman, for that matter), if there is a man better qualified willing to stand. If you can't get a man with all the qualities above, make sure of one of them: enthusiasm. He can learn the rest.

I will also say more of the duties of a secretary later.

* * *

The officers of an association should be: The Chairman, the Secretary and the Organising Secretary or Treasurer. They are the officers. Others should be elected and may be regarded as officers: A Vice-Chairman (duties obvious), an Assistant Secretary (ditto, but he may have a special job or jobs), and two Auditors. A Journal Correspondent may also be elected.

Local Whitley Councillors or Councillors are not *ipso facto* officers of the association. The former should, of course, be at all meetings, the latter whenever possible. When the Councillor cannot attend he should be given a report of the proceedings. Other rights

and duties of a councillor will be dealt with later. So will the job of Auditor and the job of Local Whitley representatives.

Now we are dealing with the Organising Secretary. The Organising part of the title indicates his function as an assistant to the Secretary. Though his main task be to collect subscriptions and dispose of them, he is to parallel this with recruitment of members and the keeping up of the members' interests. Where he has to delegate duties to local and office collectors, he should choose well, and these should be the men he will use for the work of recruiting and maintaining interest. He should, too, be the link with Headquarters on all points of organising or finance.

The qualities of a treasurer are obvious, but it is for the work of organising which is his that the members must be careful to choose a good man. The qualities of a good organiser are intangible but unmistakable. As, however, the Secretary can, at a pinch, attend to all this, the electors must first be quite sure that he is able to handle cash properly and keep a proper record of it. He must know where expenditure is justified. He must not, however, ever incur any major expenditure without the consent of the members. Most of the cash collected, of course, goes to Headquarters, and he must see it gets there regularly. He must note rises or falls in subscriptions and decide on the reasons for these. He must, at all times, if not necessarily able at a moment's notice to give a complete statement, have a fair idea of the exact state of the finances of the body he represents.

He is undoubtedly the key man of the Association, and the Association is lucky to find so many men ready to take on the onerous and unrewarded task. But one or two fall down on the job, and, for the good of all, the elector here must be ruthless.

The trouble is, the best men for jobs cannot always be prevailed upon to take them. Further, the old stand-by who's been doing the job for twenty years does not always have the tact to retire gracefully. The members must see that they have before them at least once a year a detailed account of income and expenditure.

The auditors chosen to vet these

accounts can either be veterans or novices. It is pleasant to recognise long fidelity to the body by this important office, and it is a good idea also to get the bright beginner inured to office with this post. Their function is not merely to check the Organising Secretary's arithmetic, seeing if the left side equates with the right, but closely to study each item of expenditure, on behalf of the members, and, if it be excessive, to tell the members so. It rarely is. Indeed, Organising Secretaries could be a bit more enterprising with the income and not send it *all* to Headquarters. Money spent in, say, duplicating Head Office circulars for outlying parts of the district would be well spent. Every account and receipt must be checked. No danger of loss of confidence of the membership in the efficient control of their subs. must exist. Such checking needs patience, time and knowledge, and it is customary, therefore, for this job only, in local association affairs, to award a small honorarium. Those who don't wish to accept this should have no difficulty in finding a good cause to absorb it.

Where a District Organising Secretary is in doubt as to an expenditure or wants advice in any other matter of finance, he should immediately contact the Organising Secretary of the whole Association.

Probably he will most often seek advice in the matter of recognition of membership. Naturally the rights of membership should only be afforded to the fully paid-up member. We cannot prevent the "cuckoo" getting advantage of the large undertakings of the union for the whole membership, such as salary increases. But minor things, such as the receipt of publications, facilities such as Messrs. Boots Library provides, tradesmen's reduced rates and such, and, above all, assistance in personal cases, must be open only to the paying member. This member may be in arrears through no fault of his own or through carelessness. He may have ceased paying for some reason and now have changed his mind. Whatever the cause of his being in arrears, he may be allowed to start paying again so long as he acknowledges his arrears. The best way of acknowledging them naturally is to start paying them, and, where the member is considerably in arrears, Head Office will tell you what is a reasonable sum to

bring him up to date. I can whisper that they are never hard on anyone. On the other hand, the "now and again" payer must not be put into a more favourable position than the person who never fails to pay.

Only the Executive can declare a man a non-member.

A persistent non-payer, however, is virtually a non-member, and to cease to be in that ignoble position is not always a hardship. The main thing is that you should recognise your arrears. You can pay 'em in penny numbers. For the rest, display what the theologians call "a firm purpose of amendment."

It is a poor excuse for being in arrears to say "I haven't been asked." You should, of course, pay your subs. whatever happens—you can pay by post direct to Headquarters if you so desire—but human nature is weak, and sometimes six and six (or whatever the sub. may be) seems a lot. The D.O. must reconcile himself to the position of having to ask some people or appointing someone to do the asking or writing, and he must be persistent and choose an appropriate time—overtime day, for instance.

Another of his jobs, in which he should be *ex officio* a member of all transfer of a member to the D.O. at the new port, with particulars as to any arrears.

If arrangements can be made locally, by the courtesy of the officer who hands out the salaries or some such means, to have the deduction of subs. made at source, so much the better. For years the Southampton Branch of the P.S.A. was 100 per cent. as to membership because the A.P.O. who paid out the O.T. was willing to act as subs. collector, with the consent of his supervisors. This halved the D.O.'s work.

Last word, for now, to D.O.s: Never forget the little ports.

* * *

The JOURNAL correspondent should not only attend every meeting, but he should be *ex officio* a member of all sub-committees, and Whitley Committee members should keep him in touch with activities there. He may also take on the job of communicating with absent members in the Armed Forces, etc. (Someone should do this—and see they get their JOURNAL regularly). After his term of office, the JOURNAL cor-

respondent should have, *in petto*, a little history, augmenting the Minutes Book, which must be bald and formal, of the local Association. He should endeavour to make his JOURNAL report short but complete and be something more than an account of meetings and of seizures. There are all sorts of items of local news he can send up, which will interest, more than he realises, officers no longer in the port, particularly those keen JOURNAL readers, the retired officers.

On the other hand, he must not be surprised if, on space needs grounds, the Editor, sole arbiter, mind you, cuts his stuff or omits it. He won't if he can help it. See he gets it in good time for the issue you want your item to appear in, and see your name and address is on it, and, if possible, that it is ready for the printer.

A whispered tip: People love to see their names in print.

The District Secretary should send a report of each meeting to Head Office. He may be too busy to send more than a note on resolutions passed—that is a *must*—and the J.C. might, perhaps, take on the job of the Headquarters report himself.

* * *

At your annual meeting you will appoint grade representatives to the local Whitley Committee, and these, with probably others, will also be elected to the Local Joint Committee. Representation is usually proportionately greater on this than on the first body. On the Whitley Committee representatives of each Customs and Excise section in the Collector's Division meet the Collector and others representing, in more or less equal numbers to the Staff Side, the Official Side, and agree or disagree to items connected with the job brought forward by either side. What type of things, we will presently see. But first, as there seems, despite the existence of an Establishment Instruction (*a copy of which should be in every office*) and articles such as "This Whitley" in old Journals, to be a great deal of ignorance about the constitution of Whitleyism, I will describe its set-up locally and then how it branches out into wider fields and, theoretically at least, governs in precisely the manner of the Joint Production Boards of outside industry the whole conduct of our work, apart from discipline.

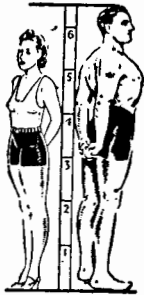
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