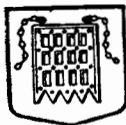


EST. 1904



The  
**Customs Journal**  
 Official Journal of the  
**CUSTOMS & EXCISE  
 PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION**

Vol. 41. No. 985.

NOVEMBER, 1944

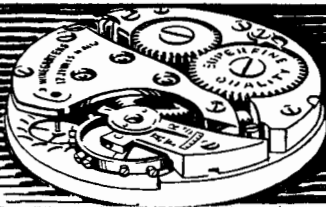
MONTHLY

*A Great name in Peace & War*

**WINEGARTENS**

*Half a  
 Century of  
 Service*

**I**T may be a truism to repeat that "There is a War on." But war or no war, the House of Winegartens have remained consistently true through many decades to their time-honoured traditions of "Quality, Value, Service." Winegartens' stocks even to-day remain notably comprehensive: **PRECISION WATCHES, ENGAGEMENT, WEDDING and SIGNET RINGS, JEWELLERY, SILVERWARE, CUTLERY CANTEENS, etc.** The Winegarten range is still astonishingly attractive. The 20 per cent. cash discount to Customs Officials and members now serving in H.M. Forces still applies to most goods with notably few exceptions. Apply for privilege stating official dept. Order by post if you cannot call. Write us your requirements as detailed as possible and we will answer with particulars and quotations. Hours of business: Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 4 p.m. Saturday closed all day.



**157 ★ BISHOPSGATE ★ LONDON ★ E.C.2.**

TELEPHONE · BISHOPSGATE 1786 (12 LINES)

*For Thinkers the World over*



*Share it with your Friends*



*Temporary Office :*  
6, BROOK LANE, BEXLEY, KENT.  
*Telephone :* BEXLEY HEATH 3613.

*Publicity Officer :* C. F. SHAW, 5, Nyland Road, Huyton, Nr. Liverpool.

*President :*  
W. E. STANDRING.  
*General Secretary :*  
W. H. POWELL.  
*Organising Secretary :*  
A. E. FARMER.  
*Assistant Secretary :*  
H. L. BOALCH.

**CORRESPONDENCE, LITERARY MATTER, ETC.**—*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," H.M. Customs and Excise, 5, Odessa Street, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.16. It is essential that all matter for insertion in the monthly should reach the Editor on or before the 25th of this month.*

*Articles submitted need not be typewritten, but the use of one side of the paper renders a great assistance.*

**ADVERTISEMENTS.**—*All enquiries relating to advertisement space should be addressed to the Advertisement Contractors, A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24 & 26, Blackfriars Lane, London, E.C.4. Telephone: City 6686 & 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Editor's approval.*

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

## CURRENT COMMENTS

### Annual Conference

**T**HE Annual Conference (P.S.A.) has been fixed for the 13th and 14th December and, all things being equal, it will be held in London, in which case we shall have the pleasure of the company of Mr. J. Kerr, I.G.W., who has consented to perform the opening ceremony.

Conference papers—Agenda, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts—will have been circulated by the time these notes appear. This should provide ample time for the fullest consideration of the important issues arising.

This is the stage at which we usually remind members of their obligations—of the need for their attendance at district meetings and thereby giving their Council representative a clear-cut mandate. On this occasion, however, we will do no more than direct attention to the latest P.S.A. Pamphlet.

### Waterguard Sectional Committee

The Annual Meeting of the Sectional Committee was held on the 30th October, under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. H. Garrett.

There were nine items on the Agenda. Five resulted in agreement and the remainder were adjourned for further consideration.

The five agreements related to:—  
First-Class Steamship Travel for A.P.O.s.  
War-time Staffing of Launches, Man-Power.  
Launch Service Seniority.  
Issue of Waterproof Leggings.

The question of the limitation of *Detached Duty* was re-adjourned. It was noted that Circ. 13623/43 was operating satisfactorily, one C.P.O., sixteen P.O.s. and thirteen A.P.O.s having been returned under its terms to date.

The Staff Side proposal for the reduction of life of the *Mackintosh Coats* to two years, and the claim for the issue of Navy-style gabardine raincoats to the Waterguard, stands adjourned. Both sides are, in the meantime, examining a suggestion of alternative issues of raincoat or overcoat, in an agreed proportion.

The first exchange of ideas on the problem of safeguarding the interests and position of *members in the Forces* eligible to sit at exams, took place. Examination of the situation proves that if the War ended within a reasonable time, a very small number of members would be involved. It is anticipated that firm proposals will be available for consideration at the Annual Conference.

#### Uniform Values and Pensions

The Executive Committee have had under consideration a suggestion from the Official Side that "standard values for uniforms for pension purposes" should be agreed and thus stabilise the figure for the next two or three years. In this connection it was proposed to take the 1944 figure, rounded up or down to the nearest shilling. The Association has raised no objection to the proposal.

The effect is seen in the following:—

	1938.			1944.			Stabilised.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
C.P.O.	4	8	4	6	17	9	6 18 0
P.O. ....	4	0	1	6	10	5	6 10 0
A.P.O.	3	11	0	6	2	11	6 3 0

Writing of uniforms reminds us of the good news contained in the last para. in the reprinted G.O. 50/41, under which the surrender of coupons in February next for the uniform year 1944/5 (ending 31st August, 1945) is waived as far as present serving members are concerned.

#### Pension Increases

We have had a number of letters from old colleagues on the retired list complaining that they had received neither the increases due under the new Act nor any intimation of action by the A. & C.G.

We have looked into this matter, and we have been assured that everything possible is being done to speed up the adjustments. The main difficulty appears to be one of man-power, and we understood that it is the intention of the A. & C.G. to issue a note to pensioners explaining the situation. The situation is being closely watched by the Departmental Staff Side and, if the delay is protracted, we hope suitable action will be taken, especially on behalf of those "enjoying" small pensions.

#### P. A. Y. E.

The following extract from the "Civil Service Opinion" will be of interest to members, especially as it comes from the pen of A. J. T. Day, the Chairman of the National Staff Side.

In strict law, Income Tax should be assessed on what is *earned* during the fiscal year, which runs from 6th April to 5th April. But the monthly deductions under P.A.Y.E. are necessarily made on what is *received* during that year, i.e., on what is earned from 1st April to 31st March. In strictness, therefore, there should be an adjustment at the end of each fiscal year so as to exclude the earnings for the five days 1st to 5th April belonging to the previous year and to include in their place the earnings for the next period 1st to 5th April. This would be an exceedingly troublesome business, and as, generally speaking, there will be little difference between the earnings for the two five-day periods, the Inland Revenue intend, wherever they can get agreement, to waive the adjustment and adhere to the basis of what is *received* during the fiscal year, i.e., what is *earned* during the period 1st April to 31st March. The arrangement will, however, be subject to the provisos: (i) that it will be open to the individual at any time to insist that his assessment shall be on the strict basis of his *earnings* during the fiscal year: (ii) that it will correspondingly be open to the Revenue to insist similarly on the earnings basis in any individual case where it considers the point to be sufficiently material: and (iii) that as the earnings for the five days 1st to 5th April, 1944, have already been taxed, the assessment in the last fiscal year of employment will be on the earnings basis, so that the earnings for the five days 1st to 5th April immediately preceding it will escape taxation.

The Inland Revenue put it to the National Staff Side that this arrangement should apply to civil servants, pointing out, amongst other things, that the proposed receipts basis is, if anything, in favour of the taxpayer so far as basic pay is concerned, because this normally increases as he grows older, that it also favours him as regards the rate of income tax so long as this is declining, and that it may, or may not, favour him in respect of overtime earnings, according to whether

they rise or fall. In any event, the difference either way from year to year would not usually be of much significance.

The Staff Side felt that there was common sense in these arrangements, that little money was involved either way, that if anything they would advantage the staff and that the strict legal rights of the individual were safeguarded anyhow. They accordingly agreed to them.

### Civil Service War Distress Fund

The many contributors to this Fund may be interested to learn a few particulars of recent work, on their behalf, in London Port.

When in June this year a new form of enemy attack was launched on the London area, arrangements were at once made to have a London Port agent available to act immediately for sufferers from air raid damage.

During a period of sustained attack thirty-six applications were dealt with, and the sum of £358 disbursed in grants to colleagues who unfortunately suffered considerable or total loss. Many of the applicants were contacted on the day following the damage, and financial assistance was immediately obtained for them with the ready co-operation of the H.Q. of the Fund.

It is too early yet to hope that the need for this kind of assistance has entirely passed, but it was thought an interim statement will be of interest to subscribers of the Fund.

In addition to these air raid damage grants, the Fund is, of course, continuing its wider field of activities with "Continuing" allowances to a number of the staff and their dependants, who are sufferers as a direct result of the War.

### Examination Result

As we go to press (actually we kept open for it) we receive the result of the September, 1944. Examination for promotion of A.P.O.s to P.O.

Time does not permit of lengthy comment, so we must be content merely to congratulate the candidates on achieving the highest percentage of passes, and with stating that from now on nothing less than the 100% pass-mark will satisfy us.

Perhaps in all modesty we may mention that of the candidates who sat at this examination, *sixty-one* were coached under the Association's V.E.S. Courses.

1. Bailey, George W. W., London.
2. Hussey, Edwin G., Liverpool.
3. Pollard, Arthur G., London.
4. Stewart, James, Clydebank.
5. Williams, John P., Weymouth, on detached duty Cardiff.
6. Lacey, Henry F., Dover.
7. Patterson, Leonard P., Cardiff.
8. Chuck, Ernest A., Gravesend.
9. Harding, William J., Portsmouth, on detached duty Stornoway.
10. Lindley, Edwin, Cardiff.
11. Winter, Rowland W., Liverpool.
12. Hogg, Leonard G., Gravesend.
13. Martin, William R., Southampton, on detached duty at Maryport.
14. Lee, John A., Milford Haven.
15. Spence, Joseph, North Shields.
16. Clarke, George T., Plymouth.
17. Grantham, Edwin L., Nth. Shields.
18. Saunderson, Charles H. G. T., Plymouth.
19. Jackson, Francis, Barry Dock.
20. Gray, William, Fishguard, on detached duty at Newport.
21. Peers, Joseph, Point of Ayr.
22. Bowen, Wilfred D., Milford Haven.
23. Head, George W., Hull.
24. Middleton, Francis E., Swansea.
25. Kelly, Robert H., Grimsby.
26. Urwin, John, Gravesend.
27. Hall, Robert D., Blyth, on detached duty Holyhead.
28. Berry, Wilfred B., Rochester, on detached duty at Fleetwood.
29. Haskayne, Richard W., Liverpool.
30. Smith, William E., Eastham.
31. Baker, Harry R., Sharpness.
32. Hope, Franklin, Liverpool.
33. Dinsdale, John W., Liverpool.
34. Lee, Wilfred J., Liverpool.
35. Hughes, William C., Liverpool.
36. Ellis, Edward, North Shields.
37. Burnett, William R., Hull.
38. Crane, Richard E. W., Grange-mouth.
39. Shaw, Charles F., Liverpool.
40. Donald, David, Glasgow.
41. Hearne, Edmund B., Hull.
42. Gillespie, Malcolm A., Glasgow.
43. Milligan, William A., Dover, on detached duty at Holyhead.
44. Lewis, Frederick S., Newport.
45. Taylor, William H., Hull.
46. Kieran, Laurence E., Liverpool.
47. Burden, George H., Liverpool.
48. Naylor, John, Preston.
49. Rutter, Wilfred E., North Shields, on detached duty at Greenock.
50. Humphries, Sydney B., Belfast.
51. Carter, Henry W., Brixham, on detached duty at Barrow.

52. Ash, Frederick L., Hayle.
53. Lowry, Joseph A., Belfast.
54. Rigby, Thomas J., Ellesmere Port.
55. Lewis, Arnold, Liverpool.
56. McCarthy, Anthony F., Liverpool.
57. Enderby, Jack, Hull.
58. Street, Charles W., Dover.
59. Hale, Edward T., Gravesend.
60. Hall, Thomas, North Shields.
61. Trimblett, Gerald E., Liverpool.
62. Sloane, Robert, Londonderry.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

to 23rd October, 1944.

### TRANSFERS.

#### Chief Preventive Officers:

- Chapman, H. W., Grenock to Falmouth, Plymouth.  
 Perkins, J. W., Gravesend, London, to London. (Exchange.)  
 Westcott, R., London to Gravesend, London. (Exchange.)

#### Chief Preventive Officer (Acting):

- Turvey, C. A., unattached, to Greenock.

### PROMOTIONS.

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

- Brown, J. F., Swansea.  
 Hope, G., Liverpool.  
 Lindell, G. F., Southampton.

## OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

### Retirements.

#### Preventive Officer:

- Carter, A. S., Plymouth.

#### Assistant Preventive Officer:

- Stout, B. E., Methil, Dundee.

## OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICER.

- Atkins, T. W., Preventive Officer.

## OBITUARY

The Greenock staff were shocked on the morning of October 5th, 1944, to hear that the wife of Mr. R. G. Salmon, P.O., had died suddenly during the night.

All his London colleagues will join with us in extending the deepest sympathy to Mr. Salmon and his family in their tragic and unexpected loss.

The funeral took place at Larkfield Cemetery, Gourack, from St. Ninian's Church on October 6th. A floral tribute was sent and representatives of all grades were present.

B.A.B.

## Liverpool District

### SPECIAL AREA MEETING.

Friday, October 20th, 1944, will be a date long to be remembered in Association acivity, for on that evening there was held at the Common Hall, Rickins Hay, Liverpool, a Special Area Meeting, which was addressed by the General Secretary, Mr. W. H. Powell, and attended by members of every grade, with representatives from practically every port in Liverpool and Manchester Association Districts present.

The Chairman, Mr. L. W. Hyland, P.O., in a brief introductory speech, welcomed the principal speaker, and outlined the object of the meeting, which he said had been arranged with a view to enabling members to receive first-hand information from the General Secretary regarding the progress of negotiations on the subject of post-war planning and the proposed reconstruction of the Waterguard Service. Mr. Hyland went on to say that he thought the event was the biggest thing of its kind in Association history, apart from the Annual Conference, and he drew attention to the fact that there were present, in addition to the General Secretary, the Publicity Secretary, Mr. C. F. Shaw (to whom should go much of the credit for organising the meeting), and some half-dozen Councillors, past and present.

At the Annual Conference, said the Chairman, it was customary for the Inspector-General to attend and formally open the proceedings; in the present instance this was not possible, but we had a most capable substitute in attendance, and it was with great pleasure that he called upon Mr. B. J. Herrington, Waterguard Superintendent, Liverpool, to start the ball rolling, or, in football parlance, to kick off.

Mr. Herrington ably carried out this duty with a characteristically concise, yet substantial speech. He said that he felt highly conscious of the honour in being invited, and he was sure that had it been possible for the Inspector-General to be present, he would have welcomed the opportunity as much as he, the speaker, did. It was a happy augury and reminder of the completeness of the federation between the Preventive Staff Association and the Waterguard Superintendents and Surveyors' Association, that he, a member of the latter body, had been

invited to address a meeting of his friends and colleagues under the auspices of the Preventive Staff Association.

By a unique coincidence, the date of the meeting happened to be the twenty-first anniversary of the appointment of the General Secretary to office within the Preventive Staff Association. (Loud applause.)

Proceeding, Mr. Herrington said that he was pleased to note the great interest taken in the meeting, as the splendid attendance testified, this, despite the fact that the exigencies of the service, in the shape of heavy baggage duties, had cropped up at the last minute and deprived many of the Liverpool Staff of the opportunity to be present.

The members, he felt, would appreciate that as an active participant in earlier years, he tended to look back at times. This remark prefaced a brief review of past efforts and achievements, small by comparison with what the present and future held, but nevertheless vitally important stages in the gradual uplifting of the Waterguard status. He could assure the members that his Association had considered the reorganisation problem very thoroughly, keeping in mind the interests of everybody, from the highest to the lowest.

The General Secretary was present tonight to acquaint members, as far as possible, with the details of what had been achieved this far, so he counselled all to listen carefully to what he had to say, and he felt sure that they would have an enjoyable and beneficial meeting and profitable deliberations.

At this point Mr. Herrington left to sustained applause, which was renewed when the General Secretary rose to address the meeting. After brief thanks to the Membership for the invitation, Mr. Powell commenced with a comparison of the conditions of approach to the problems which now prevail, as against those which had to be faced in earlier years.

Then, he said, there had been difficulty in presenting our case to the Board, who had not been so kindly disposed to listen to our arguments as were the present body, who, from the Chairman downwards, had given every consideration to the case we had presented. He could say, for example, that much had been agreed to in principle, and he was hopeful that in the not too distant future a comprehensive scheme, covering all grades, would be announced

which would at last give due recognition to the basic executive grade—that of Preventive Officer.

Such progress would mean a higher standard for recruitment to the Assistant Preventive Officer grade, and this had been agreed, as also had the necessity of adequate training of new entrants. The present lack of responsibility in this grade had always caused concern, and was to be remedied, but members need have no fear that this would mean a downgrading of the Preventive Officer grade; in fact, it had indeed been recognised that modern conditions were such that the work had definitely become executive in character.

Some members had been unable to reconcile the fact that, whereas it had been stated as agreed that the present supervision of the P.O. grade was too close, an examination had been announced indicating further promotions to the rank of Chief Preventive Officer. This, however, fitted in with the new scheme of things envisaged, for whereas in the past Waterguard Districts had consisted of coastline but no depth, new methods and air travel would make this latter essential, and many new posts for Chief Preventive Officers were foreseen, hence the need for the examination. There was also a probability that in future certain duties, such as visiting Coast Preventive Men, at present allocated to the rank of Waterguard Surveyor, would be laid to the C.P.O. grade.

Other points were that there was to be a considerable readjustment in balance of numbers as between the A.P.O. and P.O. grades; whilst it seemed likely that in future some method would be devised whereby promotion tests would be undertaken at an earlier age, probably after a certain period of service.

Mr. Powell went on to tell in more detail the story which many had heard by round-about methods of the visit by members of the Board and a Treasury representative to Greenock. There they had seen for themselves some of our work during the course of its performance, and they had apparently been greatly impressed with the thoroughness and efficiency with which the department was coping with the present difficult conditions.

It was a fact that the present strength of the P.O. grade as a whole had fallen from a peace-time establishment of 625 to about 565, which figure was barely

ten per cent. above the number employed in 1897. The Board recognised that this state of affairs had to be remedied, and were as keen as the members present to see that we had enough P.O.s to do the work properly. This would assuredly come about gradually between now and the post-war period.

Finally, he felt sure that the members would want to know something about the salary position, as higher status would merit adequate recognition all round. Whilst nothing had been decided thus far, he felt that there was every reason for optimism, and members could be sure that this matter would also be as fairly dealt with as the general problems.

Resuming his seat, after a speech lasting over an hour, Mr. Powell was obviously moved by the warmth and spontaneity of the applause.

Mr. C. F. Shaw spoke next, paying tribute to the General Secretary who, he said, had presented his account of the position in his usual self-effacing manner. He would undoubtedly return to London happy in the knowledge that he had the undivided support of the whole of the district membership. The visit reminded the speaker of an occasion when he had seen in the London Underground a notice condemning the action of unsticking the netting which was placed on the carriage windows as blast protection. The official notice read: "Pardon the correction, this has been put here for your protection." Underneath a wag had put in pencil: "Pardon the desecration, we want to see the — station." We were satisfied that the whole matter had always been in good hands in the safe keeping of the General Secretary, and whereas in the past we had been in a somewhat similar position to the wag who wrote on the notice, his visit had undoubtedly done much to enable us to "see the station."

He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the General Secretary, who had travelled and attended the meeting at considerable personal inconvenience. Mr. R. Davies, District Secretary, seconded, and the vote was passed by acclamation.

The Chairman then threw the meeting open to questions, and some of the more important of these and the replies given are indicated below:—

1. A.P.O.s who have exhausted their chances for promotion under the present system. There will undoubtedly be a comb-over of these officers, offering further opportunity at an appropriate stage.

2. A.P.O.s in charge at small ports where it is proposed to upgrade the port to P.O. in charge. Replacements will be effected with a minimum of hardship, and the interests of present occupants will be safeguarded.

3. Training methods for new entrants. Apart from anything which the Board may propose, the Executive Committee has considerable memoranda available on the subject which has been submitted by the Publicity Secretary and Mr. H. E. P. Bevan, in addition to the E.C. members.

4. The position as regards fitting in with the Government's Social Security proposals on pensions, etc. Too early to say at this stage, but the position is being closely watched.

In view of the local travelling difficulties the meeting terminated at 9 p.m. with votes of thanks to Mr. Herrington for opening the meeting, and to the Chairman. As if to emphasise the travelling position it is reported that the General Secretary and his host were among those forced to walk home following the inevitable personal reminiscences with members after the meeting.

BILL HUGHES.

## Cumberland Ports

The Quarterly Meeting was held at Maryport on Friday, October 13th, when A.P.O.s from all the Cumberland Ports, and the P.O.-in-charge at Maryport, discussed an invitation to attend the Area Meeting at Liverpool.

The meeting, recognising the value of information received at first hand, decided to send a representative to hear the General Secretary on the all-important subject of "Post-War Reorganisation." It was therefore agreed that Mr. Martin, A.P.O., should make the journey to Liverpool.

Owing to the oblivion in which the Cumberland Ports exist so far as information on the proposed post-war reorganisation is concerned, it was decided to adjourn the meeting until Mr. Martin's return from Liverpool.

J.L.C.

### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.

**H**ONEYMOONS and HOLIDAYS.—West Surrey Rambling Centre. Brochure.—Morris Lodge Hotel, Gong Hill, nr. Farnham, Surrey. Frensham 362.

## Eve of Conference Scrap Book

(A collection of cuttings from books, papers, etc., of things for every P.S.A. member to think on. A similar fardel of odds and whatsanames will appear from time to time in the New Year, and there will also be another series of *HOW TO RUN YOUR MEETINGS, ETC.*, by "Slippery Sam," dealing with Council activities and such matters; both, of course, if editorial exigencies permit.—PUBLICITY OFFICER.)

For my part I would have all men in association.—ADDISON.

\* \* \* \* \*

General publicity is a matter of great importance to the staff . . . If the worst characteristics [of excessive professionalism in associations] are to be avoided, the rank and file should understand the situation. It is essential that the C.S. democracy should be instructed. As in the wider sphere, the continuance of civilised development appears to rest, in no small degree, upon the common sense of the ordinary man.—E. N. Gladden, in *CIVIL SERVICE STAFF RELATIONSHIPS*.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the introduction of the staff associations the driving power of discontent is an important factor, but with the association's subsequent consolidation a vigorous reaction to unacceptable circumstances is less necessary to its continued existence . . . They [the staff] will need to educate themselves concerning the real difficulties of the administration and by encouraging as well as criticising their representatives ensure the selection of the best in preference to leaving the task to those who are merely willing, as too often happens now . . . It is not unusual for representatives, in default of inspiration from their constituents, to give their personal views undue weight, and it is to the advantage of neither the administration nor the rank and file that this should be encouraged.—E. N. Gladden.

\* \* \* \* \*

. . . Acquiescence is a duty and their lordships resent a memorial addressed in a tone of angry remonstrance. . . —From a reply by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to a last century memorial. Earlier, Tom Payne was dismissed the service for leading a deputa-

tion for more pay, and Burns, "the angel put to gauging firkins," as Coleridge said ("A most unsuitable task for a man of his unstable temperament," as the Children's Encyclopædia says), had been silenced for alleged Jacobin views too freely expressed, and had died at thirty-seven, bemoaning the lack of promotion prospects. But 1899, when the Postmaster-General agreed to deal with a staff association, brought a change, which twenty years later was consolidated in the starting, not without a deal of official reluctance, of the Whitley System, so that now, as Sir Horace Wilson has said, "There is no doubt that the staff representatives can play a helpful part in the discussions to determine what are the best arrangements to make to ensure that *the Executive duly carries out policy.*" (My italics.)

### \* \* \* \* \*

#### What Others Thought of the Customs.

I wish to God I could see the day, master, when there shall not be a priest, an exciseman or a customhouse officer in this kingdom.—Smollett.

\* \* \* \* \*

I enquired of my friend what they called this busy spot; he told me 'twas the Custom House. They (the customers) are a parcel of edged tools with whom there is no jesting, and he that attempts to eat fire to please a crowd, if he find cause to complain he has burnt his mouth, maketh himself but a laughing-stock.—Ned Ward, 1698.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was a practice, subsequently prohibited, though winked at, whenever a seizure was made to reserve one or two tubs for the refreshment of the crew; in the words of a quaint official order of those days, "to afford cheerfulness and buoyancy of spirit." . . . Not content with these minor depredations, which did little harm to the revenue, we find the crews on two occasions concerned in extensive smuggling transactions on their own account.—H. N. Shore, in *CUSTOMS DAYS AND CUSTOMS WAYS*, 1892.

\* \* \* \* \*

There being reason to fear that an attempt will be made to corrupt our men through the medium of females, it is my direction that patrols hold no communication with any person, either male or female.—An Order issued in Brighton district, 1831.

When brewers put no baggage in their beer;

When vintners mix no water with their wine;

When printers pass no errors in their books;

When searchers see all corners in a ship.

—A BALLAD OF UNLIKELY HAPPENINGS, by George Gascoigne.

\* \* \* \*

### Yet We Had One Virtue.

The Revenue Departments provide the public with efficiency at a cheap rate.—Lord Randolph Churchill. (Even to-day it costs only .6 per cent. of the C. and E. Revenue to collect it.)

\* \* \* \*

It is gratifying to see that a Preventive Officer has taken up the serious question of the lack of unity in the Customs . . .

At present some of the Preventive Officers think it would be subversive of discipline to amalgamate with their subordinates, the Preventive men; but to paraphrase that famous speech of the pirate captain to the men when the frigate hove in sight, if they do not hang together, the Board of Customs and the Treasury will see them hanged first.—“Daily Express,” 1908.

\* \* \* \*

And what about our export trade, which has to earn the money to buy war materials abroad? The Customs and Excise Department has been trebled to treble the difficulty of getting orders through.—“Daily Express,” 1939.

\* \* \* \*

### Suitable Suiting?

The Custom Officer in this country is usually so unobtrusively dressed that he is often overlooked.—Pay Lt.-Commander E. C. Talbot-Booth, R.N.R.

\* \* \* \*

### Merit Exams.

I cannot help thinking that the future requires a reconsideration of the policy of rigid attachment to the rule of seniority, which, while it may be popular, may also be disastrous.—A. E. H., in “Customs Journal” Christmas Number, 1925.

\* \* \* \*

### Better Office Accommodation.

Correspondents to the “Sunday Times” are disturbed about the inadequate accommodation for Customs examination of passengers and baggage in this country. It started on January 8th with a letter from Mr. Beverley Baxter, who complained that the dingy surroundings

of Southampton, Dover and Folkestone needed modernising, if only as an encouragement to tourist traffic. . . . So long as the Department lags behind the general standards of the commercial world, so long shall it suffer in status. . .

The correspondents to the “Sunday Times” are seriously concerned about the first impressions of the visitors to this country: we are similarly anxious about the reactions which our dismal surroundings may have on members of the general public and even upon the denizens themselves.—Editorial in Federation “Journal,” January, 1938.

\* \* \* \*

### Training the New Entrant.

How can we expect the newcomers to the job to be interested in the only organisation which can protect their interests when there is nothing done even to make them interested in their work? A definite course of instruction is long overdue. I can think of many, including “failed” A.P.O.s, who would make excellent instructors.—Article in “Journal,” 1937.

\* \* \* \*

In 1837 the day's subsistence for officers exceeding £200 but not exceeding £300 was 8s. For boatmen it was 2s. per diem and 4½d. a mile, plus the actual expenses of coach and package hire.—THE LAWS AND PRACTICAL REGULATIONS FORMING THE WATERGUARD AND GENERAL PRACTICE IN THE CUSTOMS, by Robert Ellis, Esq., The Long Room, Custom House, London.

\* \* \* \*

It would be foolish to expect that any reconditioning of the civil servant will present criticism of the C.S. As the Committee point out, the urge to shoot the pianist often arises not so much from the demerits of his performance as from dislike of the tune.—Editorial in RED TAPE, 1944.

\* \* \* \*

It is held that seagulls are reincarnated Customs Rummage Preventive Officers—note the ring and curl of his uniformed rank.—B. J. H., in pamphlet SAILORS ARE SUPERSTITIOUS.

\* \* \* \*

Whatever differences may exist between Associations on the claims of their membership I think we have one thing to recognise, that is, that we have a common fight. We are fighting for the maintenance and improvement of the working lives of our people, and to win

that fight the first thing we must do is to clear up the divisions which exist within our own ranks.—G. V. Carvell, Gen. Sec., Minor Grades Association, in a letter.

\* \* \* \*

Remember that all Association activity is not directed solely to improving conditions. The defence of existing conditions will always justify a strong and united organisation.—P.S.A. Membership Card c. 1926.

\* \* \* \*

Don't take too seriously the individual who has a penchant for asking: "What have I got out of the Association?" Ask him to try and visualise conditions without such an organisation.—Ibid.

\* \* \* \*

**New Names Needed?**

The names A.P.O., P.O. and C.P.O. all have a significance in the armed services, and, except for A.P.O., all mean something, as to grade, lower than their significance in our job.—From a letter.

\* \* \* \*

**Government English.**

The Departmental Ditty of to-day is a lullaby: How sad that it should have all the power of the poppy with so little of its grace.—Ivor Brown.

\* \* \* \*

(Winston Churchill in 1940 advocated less verbosity in official documents. Yet from Chaucer to Burns, and since, this Department has possessed good writers of English. Churchill's great ancestor was the patron of one, John Dennis, poet, playwright, the first drama reviewer, called by Thackeray "the Timon of Grub Street," friend of Dryden and Congreve, foe of Pope, who was dismissed the service in 1680 for drunkenness and ended his days in great poverty.)

\* \* \* \*

**Trades Disputes Act.**

How now for mitigation of this Bill Urged by the Commons?

—Shakespeare, KING HENRY V.

\* \* \* \*

**Certain Representatives?**

He has no enemy, you say; my friend, your boast is poor.  
He who hath mingled in the fray of duty that the brave endure  
Must have made foes. If he has none,  
Small is the work that he has done.

—Anastasis Grun, 1860.

It is significant that the initiative in Whitley business has hitherto come almost entirely from the side of the staff; the official attitude at the best having been one of passive benevolence.—E. N. Gladden.

\* \* \* \*

And now, kind friends, what I have wrote,  
I hope you will pass o'er,  
And not criticise as some have done  
Hitherto, herebefore.

—Julia Moore, "the Sweet Singer of Michigan."

**METHIL PRESENTATION**

**MR. B. E. STOUT, A.P.O.**

An interesting ceremony took place on September 29th, in the C.P.O.'s Room, when colleagues and friends of Mr. B. E. Stout, A.P.O., assembled to bid him farewell after 42 years' service.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. G. O. Warne, Waterguard Superintendent, Mr. W. M. Sheehan, Waterguard Surveyor, presided, and in an able speech outlined Mr. Stout's official career, and spoke warmly of his many sterling qualities and the high degree of all-round ability he had brought to his duties.

Messrs. Gunn, Rundle and Berry, P.O.s, and Austin and Hornby, A.P.O.s, spoke on behalf of their respective grades, expressing regret at losing a valued colleague, but finding satisfaction in that he was entering on a rest that was undeniably well earned. They hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Stout would be spared to have many happy years of retired life together. Representatives of the Long Room Staff, the Immigration Officers, the Intelligence Corps, and various shipping firms testified to the general high esteem in which "Ben" was held, and voiced their good wishes for his retirement.

Mr. A. MacDougall, C.P.O., then presented a suitably inscribed gold watch to Mr. Stout, together with a gift for Mrs. Stout. Mr. MacDougall added his good wishes to those already expressed, and trusted that the robust good health Mr. Stout had enjoyed in the Service would be with him in his retirement.

In acknowledging the gifts, Mr. Stout was obviously deeply moved, spoke of his many happy days at Methil and the great changes he had seen in the port since he took up duty there in 1902.

J.J.H.

## Southampton Notes

Force of circumstances compels us to be brief this month. The only news to hand of our Forces boys comes from Flying-Officer Ron Greenaigh, who is operating at Nassau, Banamas. Ron is very well, and is expecting to move again in the near future, on a return voyage to England. Cliff Pearson and Joe, still in Scotland, and looking up old friends. Ted Milane, keeping in good trim with the Fleet Air Arm.

From Plymouth we are glad to learn of the home return of Bert (A. H.) Harrison, R.A.F., from South Africa. He is hoping to complete his navigator's operational training in this country.

In the home port there have been several movements since September. Mr. C. A. Turvey, C.P.O., has been appointed to Greenock, after a varied spell of "unattached" duties in the South and South-West. George Lindell has been promoted P.O. to Glasgow.

The end of October will see the return to 29 Berth of three A.P.O.s who have recently been assisting the Ministry of War Transport at the Southampton Operational Pool. They will return to a busy dock station, and the A.P.O. complement in the port will be seven only. The expected increase in the number of P.O.s in the port had not materialised by mid-end October, but with the result of the September exam. being imminent we hope the acute shortage of staff may be alleviated from that source, directly or indirectly.

Cheerio, Forces!

L.B.

## Cardiff District News

Somewhat belatedly we have news of Alan S. Davies, of the R.N. who, when last heard from, was back in Chatham after severing his connection with Naval Control. Alan, we understand, has been for some time in the married ranks and, though late in the day, we offer him our congratulations. For his information we add that at least five officers from this Division have lost their lives on Active Service, including those he mentioned. Alan asks after Gordon Patterson and Phil Comley. Perhaps the mention of their names will prompt, or provoke, some hint as to their whereabouts and well-being.

I would still like to hear from H. I. Jones and many others. We hear that Flying-Officer Stan Couchman is on Ops., and we have seen J.K.K. fairly often. Jock Collier and Sandy report fit and still in this country; as also Jack Adams. Where do you "belong to be," you others?

We hope the time will not be far distant when all of you will be back in the fold.

From the local P.S.A. viewpoint there is little to report, and we await more news of the impending changes in the structure of the Department. That we are coming into our own at Airports is welcome news, and our thanks are due, in no small measure, to those colleagues now discharging these duties so efficiently. F.S.L.

## Plymouth Notes

**Retiral.**—Mr. A. S. Carter, P.O., retired from the service on the 1st October, 1944. On the 11th October, at the office of the W. Supt., a presentation was made to him by his old colleagues of a reading-lamp and a cheque. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Winfield, Collector; Mr. Crossley, Landing Officer; Mr. Rundle, Watcher; Mr. Stanfield, W. Supt.; Mr. Finley, W. Sur.; Messrs. Sinnott and Wender, C.P.O.s; and all the P.O.s and A.P.O.s of the Plymouth staff who were not away from the port on relief duties. Everyone present said a few words and, in general, endeavoured to express to Arthur our sincere feelings of friendship and respect. Most of us had known him for several years and had on many occasions been grateful for his never-failing help and advice. In his capacity of appointer he had been the mainspring and hub of all Waterguard life in Plymouth. No man is indispensable, but Mr. Carter will be very hard to dispense with. Messages were received from Falmouth, Methil and Appledore. In the course of his long service Mr. Carter met a very large number of Waterguard officers, who, I feel sure, will be glad to know that, although he is still bothered by asthma, he is in every other respect very fit and well, and may be expected to enjoy many years of retirement.

## "Sunderland Calling"

Hello Forces!

Once more news is to hand of Charlie Scarfe. I regret to report that he is in hospital suffering from a bad attack of dysentery. At the time of writing he was in Assam. Charles has had a tough time during his tour of duty with the Chindits. An Airgraph just received from him reports that he is making steady progress and hopes to be out again soon.

Eddie Ladbroke reports being fit and well, and is putting in plenty of sea time these days and really enjoying it.

News is also to hand from Ron Greenhalgh. He reports being fit and well. He is at Nassau, Bahamas. I have had news from Buster; he now runs about with two up.

I regret to have to record the death at Greenock, on the 17th August, of Alf Phipps, E.M.I., after a short illness. Alf was taken ill on duty and removed to hospital. On the afternoon of the 17th August he was visited by Mr. Sutton, P.O., and Alf was in good spirits, fully confident that he would return home in a short while. He died later that night. The cortege was brought back to Sunderland for interment at Bishopwearmouth Cemetery on the 22nd ult. The staff at Sunderland and North Shields were represented by Mr. Hodge, C.P.O., Lennon, P.O., Moore, Senr. Eng. North Shields, Terry, Tuck, E.M.s., and Jacobsen, Steersman. Floral tributes were sent from Waterguard and Launch Staffs, Greenock, North Shields and Sunderland. Alf was a favourite with all; nothing was too much trouble for him to do. He was exceedingly proud of his family. He learnt shortly before his death that his boy George had been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for gallantry whilst serving with L.C. Forces.

The Service has lost a good and capable servant, while we who knew him have lost a very good friend.

To his widow and family we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

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

Cheerio, Forces. Keep smiling. Over to you—over.

O. H. L.

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

I have heard of the proposed improvements in the Waterguard Department, and I am naturally very pleased that at last the Department is taking steps in the right direction to take up a more important place in affairs. The news of the exams. for P.O.ship, in which so many of our colleagues are taking part, is very gratifying.

It also raises a "spectre" in my mind, and no doubt in the minds of many others in a similar position as I am. It gives food for much thought to those of us now serving in the Forces. For my own part, as there are few A.P.O.s—apart from those who volunteered or were called up with the Territorials, etc.—with more seniority than myself, now in the Services, I often wonder if I am going to be able to participate to the full in these new developments. If things continue as they have been doing recently, that list of A.P.O.s called for examination is going to extend to the vicinity of our names before so very long. How are we going to fare in this respect? The prospect of missing an exam, or being faced with a month or two in which to pick up the threads of the job again and "cram" in the necessary regulations, etc., is not bright.

Many ex-A.P.O.s like myself have wives and children and homes of their own, and obviously we consider greatly our families in our future plans. We don't wish them to be penalised financially by the unfortunate circumstances, which have already placed a great burden of anxiety and loneliness upon them.

In view of the proposed demobilisation scheme, it appears that a considerable time may elapse before most of us are released to return to the Department, unless (ever-present hope!) the Board asks for and secures our release on the termination of hostilities in Europe. To be quite frank, the prospect of—who knows how long?—further separation from wife and home appals me. At the time I was called up much effort was expended by certain people to get the 60 or 70 of us in my particular group into Armed Service. I can only hope that as much effort will be expended in securing our demobilisation.

Perhaps this is a selfish viewpoint, but I think that, if you officials of the Association were able to influence the "powers that be" to do everything possible in the circumstances, to obtain the release of all A.P.O.s now in the Forces, you would render us a great service. You have safeguarded and furthered our interests extremely well during our absence, and if it were possible to render us this other service, so that we could share in our new-found "glory," our cup of happiness would indeed be full.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

"NAVY BLUES."

[We can assure our correspondent that the Association has the interests of our Forces colleagues very much to the fore, and no effort will be spared in its endeavour to obtain the best possible treatment.—Ed.]

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Dear Sir,

I, in common with many other prospective candidates for the P.O.s examination, have been anxiously waiting to see what sort of "modified" examination this one would be. I often thought that, apart from shortening the time allowed, the examiners still had the wide scope of 5 Volumes plus "O" Circulars from which to select their questions, but I was agreeably surprised to find that they were confined to every-day Waterguard work, and for anybody who had done any studying at all, the questions should not have presented any difficulty. Personally, I think this is a wise move, both from the Staff and the Administration point of view, because it does tend to promote the best Customs Officer. For instance, a man who knows how and when to make issues is worth more than one who, perhaps having the aptitude for learning things parrot fashion, can write down what "explosive substance" is word-perfect; also, because one can tell you the names of all the animals belonging to the canine tribe, it doesn't necessarily follow that he can pull his weight on a busy baggage floor.

I could find no snags at all in any of the questions. I did the paper under examination conditions, and the only fault I had to find was with the "Time Allowed," and in order to have done justice to the questions and written down

all I knew about them I should have required another 15-20 minutes. However, if the future examinations are as straightforward as this one, I shall be satisfied.—Yours,

R.

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."  
Sir,

With reference to O.W.O. 37/44.

I am an A.P.O. with 24 years' service. My net income from official emoluments, made up of salary, plus seizure rewards and eight Sundays' overtime (each of eight hours) during the last quarter, presents me with the sum of £5 18s. 4d. per week.

During the last month I have been shown the "Settlement Slip" of a deck-hand on a trawler. His net income was over £12 per week.

A dock labourer showed me his pay packet, which showed his net income for the week as £8 3s. 6d. (no Sunday work).

I read in the Press the recently made statement of an M.P.: "A taxidriver informed me he could earn at least £2 per day."

I learned to-day the rates of overtime paid to labourers by a railway company are: Week-days 2s. 6d. per hour, Sundays 3s. 4d. per hour (both day rates). Any comments?

Yours faithfully,

AITCHEFF.

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."  
Sir,

If C.F.S.

Condensed his views

There'd be more room

For Customs news.

Yours faithfully,

"WILDCAT."

## VERSATILE ?

We are pleased to record that Mr. J. H. Stewart, Waterguard Surveyor, London, has since 1942, in spite of prevailing difficulties, gained the following certificates:—

First Aid: St. John Ambulance Association.

L.F.G.I.: Fireguard Instructor, Ministry of Home Security.

Practical Beemaster: South-Eastern Federation of Beekeepers.

**LARGE STOCKS OF BOOKS**

on

**LAW, COMMERCE, POLITICS**

and

**TECHNICAL SUBJECTS.****FOYLES**  
★ ★ FOR BOOKS ★ ★

Nearly 3 Million Volumes in Stock.  
New and Secondhand Books on every  
subject.

**BOOKS BOUGHT**

and

**SENT ON APPROVAL.**

119-125, CHARING CROSS ROAD,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

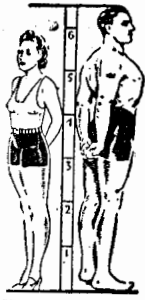
'Phone: GERRARD 5660 (16 lines).  
OPEN 9—6 (inc. Sat.)

**MORTONS study YOUR wishes**

Studied selection of Clothing, Shoes, etc., from our own and makers' stocks to meet your needs. Home Approval by post. Extended terms at cash prices. Any return of coupons can be by vouchers usable anywhere. Other Depts.: Rings, Prams, Cycles, Blankets, Mattresses, Radio, etc. Send 1d. stamp (Govt. order) for List (detailing your needs), or send, say, 3d., to cover future lists also. If near, call (9—5; Sat. 9—1).  
P.S.—Utility Furniture for London area (zoned)

**MORTONS**

18, Highbury Place (C.J.), London, N.5.

**BE TALLER!**

Increased my own height to **6ft. 3½ ins.**

**CEYLON CLIENT**, aged  
20 gains **EIGHT inches.**  
**OTHER PUPILS**

**REPORT**

Age	Gains	In.
20	3½ ins.	16 days!
19½	5 "	6 weeks!
21	5 "	5 months!
27½	1½ "	4 weeks
34	3 "	6 months!
40	1½ "	6 weeks!
16½	passed 6 ft. mark!	
18½	passed 6ft. 2ins. Mark	

No Appliances.

No Tablets. No Dieting.

**ROSS SYSTEM GETS RESULTS**

Fee £2 2s. Complete. Details 6d. stamp.

**D. MALCOLM ROSS**

Height Specialist, BM/HYTE, London, W.C.1.

**USEFUL BOOKS ON  
HOBBIES, CRAFTWORK  
AND CAREERS**

**PHOTOGRAPHY FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT**, by Reginald Harrison. The hobby fully explained and illustrated. Ways and means of turning amateur photography to profit. Amateur faults and difficulties explained. Many delightful half-tone illustrations of the art.

**THE CAREER OF A WIRELESS OPERATOR**. An interesting and successful career for any ambitious young person, full of useful hints and valuable explanations of elementary wireless and Morse code. Many diagrams. How to go about entering the profession and what to learn.

**LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER**. The young man or woman interested in books and literature may well find this guide an invaluable help in finding an interesting career full of service to the community and opportunity for self-development. How to become a Library Assistant. How to develop one's own abilities and become a Librarian.

**THE BOYS' BOOK OF METAL-CRAFT**, by Wm. Bagley. How to make all kinds of useful and ornamental objects in metalware. Full instructions and diagrams. What tools are needed and the care and use of them. A 98 pp. book full of "meat" and of endless interest to Father as well as Son.

**STAMPS FOR ALL**, by L. N. and M. Williams. First steps in Stamp Collecting as a hobby. Many illustrations and detailed explanations of rare stamps, designs, manufacture, stamp clubs, stamp dealing, etc.

**MODEL THEATRE AND PUPPET MAKING**, by Caspar and Ethelwyn Hoist. Fully illustrated. How to make and operate your own home theatre, with working puppets, lighting, etc.

**MODELS AND MODEL MAKING**. Endless hours of amusement, all of the highest educational value. A hobby and handicraft for any youngster of either sex.

**A MODEL VILLAGE AND HOW TO MAKE IT**. Full instructions and diagrams showing how to make a complete model village, using home materials.

**THE BOYS' BOOK OF SCIENTIFIC AND ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTS**. A magnificently entertaining book for any boy—or girl. First steps in elementary science and electricity. Very entertaining simple experiments easily carried out at home.

**ALL ABOUT SKETCHING**, by Reginald Harrison. A reliable guide to sketching, full of diagrams and illustrations, a study of which enables anyone to learn easily and quickly the basic principles of drawing.

**PAPER COVERS** - 2/- each net  
(Printed in Colour)

**CLOTH BOARDS** - 3/6 each net

Obtainable from all booksellers or from  
the publishers:—

**VAWSER & WILES, LTD.,**  
644, FOREST RD., WALTHAMSTOW,  
LONDON, E.17.

# THE CUSTOMS FUND

FOUNDED 1816.

---

**The Mutual Life Assurance Society**

of the

**Customs and Excise Department**

---

**LIFE ASSURANCE**

from £50 to £3,000

---

**HOUSE PURCHASE  
ADVANCES**

---

**TOTAL ASSETS EXCEED £1,000,000**

---

For full particulars apply to:—

**F. T. G. HARRIS, Secretary,**  
Customs Fund, H.M. Customs and Excise,  
City Gate House, Finsbury Square,  
London, E.C.2.