

THE
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CUSTOMS WATERGUARD ASSOCIATIONS.

NO. 67

OCT. 20th, 1906

ONE PENNY.



EDITED

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BY THE
WATERGUARD STAFF OF
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THE CUSTOMS JOURNAL.

No. 67.

OCT. 20th, 1906.

Fortnightly

ONE PENNY.

A Talk to London Men.

By "VERITAS."

THE attitude of Preventive Officers in London towards their Association is something of a mystery to their outport colleagues, and to anyone who does not understand London and London officers, it might appear that the Waterguard Millenium had at last arrived at that port and that the London Preventive Officers were in a state of blissful contentment, thankful for the concessions which had recently been showered on them by a kind and paternal Board. Let no one make any such mistake; London men are in a no more contented frame of mind than their outport brethren. The truth is that the organisation of Preventive Officers and Preventive Men in London has ever been a most difficult problem. The great distance which members have to travel to attend meetings, is one of the main causes of the failure of the London Associations, and without meetings it is impossible to transact business and keep members together. Therefore we must not be too hasty in passing judgment, for London men have many difficulties to contend with that are quite unknown to those stationed at outports.

We wish, however, to ask London Preventive Officers if they are content with the present deplorable state of affairs. Are they satisfied that they should remain unrepresented on the Executive and that it should be left to outport men to find the sinews of war? Can they with a clear conscience accept their Sunday pay and other benefits which have been derived, and leave it to others to keep up the Association which won these concessions after a hard and strenuous fight? Do they realise that their apathy and indifference must in the long run have a disastrous effect on our movement? Have they no grievances special to the port of London? And are they quite satisfied that the question of a London port allowance should be left in abeyance? Have not the Post Office employees, the police and other officials in London, some consideration shown to them on account of the heavy travelling expenses, high rents and cost of living generally? Why

should not the same treatment be meted out to London Waterguard Officers, whose salaries are in most cases barely sufficient to make both ends meet? As for general grievances, are London Preventive Officers quite satisfied with their present salary and increment and the worse than miserable prospects of promotion? If, however, they are anxious to better their position, they must be up and doing, cast off their lethargy and throw in their lot with the outports. London should be in the van of the fight; the opportunities there to perform effective Association work are innumerable. For instance, what splendid work could be done by an enthusiastic Parliamentary Committee. Moreover, London men are within touch of the authorities, and can make effective use of that great instrument for good or evil—the press.

Twelve or fourteen years ago a few enthusiastic London Preventive Men, or Boatmen as they were called, entered into an almost life or death struggle with the Board, which was then presided over by a man of inflexible will—Sir Herbert Murray. The conditions of service in the Waterguard at that time were indeed deplorable, and the struggle for a bare existence, the long hours, miserable pay and iron discipline which prevailed, seemed to have crushed all the life and spirit out of the men. It was dangerous even to mention the word "association;" a state of terrorism existed, and ways and means were soon found to silence agitators or 'reformers' as our friend "Ponson" rightly calls them. At last the determination of the few prevailed, and it is now history how the autocrats of Thames Street were defeated, and very shortly afterwards most of them resigned their high positions or were transferred to other departments to make way for a more humane and enlightened administration. Here, indeed, is an example for us all. Thank goodness! We have advanced since then. The Government are favourable to the legitimate claims of Civil Servants, the Board are not unfavourable, and the Treasury, though still sitting tightly on the national cash chest, have ceased to assume the *non possumus* attitude which has been the cause of a great deal of the agitation in the Civil Service. Men who are elected leaders of their fellows no longer run any risk of incurring official odium; if they perform their official duties in a satisfactory manner their position is unassailable.

The Superannuation Act.

How It Was Repealed.

It is considerably more than half a century since the Superannuation Tax on Civil salaries was first imposed by a Treasury Order, and it is a little over fifty years since the odious impost was legalised by Act 3, Geo. IV, c 113.

The law did not, however, remain long in force, for it was repealed in 1824 by Act 5, Geo. IV, c 104, and the Government of the day possessed sufficient sense of justice to return to the contributors the abatements which had been made from their salaries during the three previous years.

In 1829, the Government, in the teeth of this decision of Parliament, most unfairly, if not unconstitutionally, re-imposed the tax, by a Treasury Minute dated the 4th of August. But this was not all. The "powers that be" were discriminating. It was one thing to mulct a Clerk in the twentieth part of his modest income, whilst it was a widely different one to interfere with the ample salaries of the great officers of State. Cabinet Ministers, judicial and political officials, were accordingly exempted from the operation of the Minute. During a period of twelve years, the tax was apparently paid in sullen silence. Day-by-day, however, its pressure became more intense and more wide-spread, for the Service was rapidly increasing, and men were entering its ranks on small and inadequate salaries.

At length the patience of the officials was exhausted, and action was determined upon.

In 1846, a Committee of Civil Servants was formed for the purpose of endeavouring to obtain the amendment of the Superannuation Laws.

Then followed the tactics which time-honoured custom has enforced upon the Service. Parliament must not be approached, or public agitation entered upon, until respectful memorials and gentle remonstrances had met their usual fate at the hands of the Treasury.

In December, 1853, feeble counsels prevailed, and an address was presented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir George Cornewall Lewis, and in obedience to the same policy, a similar address was, in June 1855, submitted to the consideration of the Prime Minister (Lord Palmerston). The result was, in both instances, alike. Both gentlemen were equally indifferent to the plaintive pleadings of

the petitioners. 1856 saw a change in the mode of warfare. Mr E. Scanlan, of the Customs, a gentleman whose official vicissitudes would, it is said, form a striking chapter in official romance, threw himself, with characteristic energy, into the movement, and the result was that Mr. Roebuck was soon enabled to present to Parliament a monster petition, bearing 10,000 signatures.

Henceforth, the policy of the Service was straightforward and manly. Public opinion was, also, thoroughly roused on the subject, and the influence of the Press was enlisted to advance the good cause. We have omitted to state that a Committee of the House of Commons had reported in July, 1856, in favour of "doing away with the system by which a portion of the salaries of Civil Servants is deducted, on account of superannuation allowance," but this decision was accompanied by a recommendation that the abolition of the tax should be followed by an immediate revision, *i.e.* reduction of salaries! A few days later a Bill on these lines was introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but the measure elicited general dissatisfaction, and was at once withdrawn. In November of the same year, the Government referred the subject to a Royal Commission, which reported in May, 1857, and amongst other things, recommended

I. The abolition of the Superannuation Tax, unaccompanied with any reductions of salaries;

II. The maintenance of a system of Superannuation;

III. Retirement to be general at 60, and compulsory at 65 years of age;

IV. Gratuities to be given in cases of incapacity, when under 10 years service;

V. Compensation allowance to be granted for loss of office.

The concluding stages of the movement are soon told. The recommendations of the Commission were strenuously opposed by the Government. Mr. Gladstone, by "turns furious, passionate, and persuasive," had recourse to every ingenuity of argument to defeat the measure.

But the promoters of the measure, led by Lord Naas, kept up the fight, and on the 17th August, the last day of the Session, the Superannuation Act Amendment Bill received the Royal assent, and in due course became law.

A Plea for our Boy Messengers.

By "BUNCRONA."

At a meeting of the Boy Clerks' Association, recently reported in these columns, some sensible and appropriate remarks concerning the conditions of employment were made by the Lord Mayor of Dublin. "It was a very serious matter," he said, "that young men who entered the Service at the age of sixteen should be dismissed when they came to the verge of manhood. The Government that allowed such a pernicious system to exist was deserving of all censure."

We think all our readers will agree that it is a serious matter that boys who have spent the most valuable portion of their lives in the service of the Government should be summarily dismissed, without prospects or qualifications for other employment, and we think that these remarks apply equally, if not more strongly, to the employment of Boy Messengers. These boys enter the Service at the age of fourteen or fifteen, and, upon attaining the age of twenty years, have to leave the Service, having reached the age limit, no chance whatever being afforded them of entering the ranks of either the Landing or Waterguard Staffs. They are cast out to begin life afresh, without qualifications of any kind, for there is nothing to be learned in Customs-Messenger work that can be at all useful outside the Service. They have not even the help of "marks,"—allowed in some degree to the Boy-Clerks—to assist them in competitive examinations, and being usually of the class whose parents cannot afford to spend the boys' earnings on their education, they stand a very poor chance in open competition. As for entering the ranks of the Preventive Men, the absurd and antiquated system of "Nomination" precludes all but the smallest percentage from even hoping to do so, and thus the boys are without prospects of any kind.

No private firm of any repute would deal so remorselessly and unfeelingly with its employees. Such firms look upon it as their duty—and it is their duty—to afford their youthful servants every reasonable opportunity for further employment. They know also that it is to their own interest to do so, for a person who has served them well for a number of years, and with whose character they are acquainted, is likely to be of more use to them than a stranger.

It is little short of monstrous that the Government, after preventing youths from equipping themselves for the struggle for existence, should discharge them upon reaching the verge of

manhood, at the very time when it is necessary and essential that they should have employment. If this is not the way to swell the ranks of the incompetent and out-of-works, what is? After the insight a Messenger obtains of Customs procedure, and if he had the opportunity to qualify, he might become a capable officer, but without such opportunity, and being without other resources, he is forced to snap at the first labourer's job he can get, and is probably condemned to such work for the remainder of his life. When complaints have been made to the authorities against this treatment, the answer has been, invariably, that the boys are given to understand before entering that they will not be employed after attaining twenty years of age, as if that were any excuse! It is not even wholly true, for most parents refuse to believe it is possible that such can be an invariable rule in *Government Service* and argue, not knowing any better, that some position is bound to be open to boys of good character. They find out when too late that fair treatment is not always to be had, even in the Civil Service.

It would be interesting to find out why the Government treat their youthful employees in this shabby fashion. It is certainly opposed to the interests of the boys, and it is equally certain that it is not to the benefit of the Service. Many of the boys, wise in their generation, dissatisfied with the prospect before them, leave the Service after serving a year or so; there are thus frequent changes, the newcomers all having to be instructed in the duties they have to perform. They of course make frequent mistakes at first when dealing with documents or messages, and nothing is more exasperating in Government Departments, where every document has its value, than having such things misplaced or lost. Some of the boys too, as the end of their time draw near, become reckless and discontented, and no wonder.

There are not so many Messengers in the Customs that the authorities need be afraid of swamping the Service with them, and, altogether, it is difficult to conceive why such a system of employment exists.

The Government is sometimes spoken of as the "Model Employer," but to deserve such a designation it will have to make material alterations in the terms it offers to youthful entrants into its Service, and if it is not prepared to accept the responsibility attached to the employment of youths, either as Messenger or Clerks, then, for the sake of its own honour, it should cease their employment altogether.

CUSTOMS  JOURNAL.

Saturday, Sept. 20th, 1906.

The issue of the new classification of the Collectorate reminds us of the conditions under which the Collector's grade are recruited. The Board in their General Order in 1898, laid it down that in the future Collectors would be selected from the whole of the "Board's Establishment, whether indoor or outdoor," and we are compelled to ask whether the utter exemption of the Waterguard staff from furnishing a member of the Collector grade, is to be taken that we are not included within the range of selection. Surely the Waterguard has men fully capable of performing the duties, if they were given an equal chance with other branches of the Customs Service.

The many friends of Mr. P. McKean, Preventive Officer, Cardiff, will learn with deep regret, of his demise, which sad event took place on the 2nd inst., at the Cardiff Infirmary whither he had been removed for an operation, after a severe illness extending over six months. Unfortunately by his death Mrs. McKean and six children, all of whom are under sixteen years of age, have been left totally unprovided for.

Our readers will also be sorry to hear of the death of Mr. T. F. Murray, which took place on the 27th ult., at Sunderland.

Mr. Murray was promoted to Preventive Officer at Cardiff, where he filled the office of local Secretary of that branch of the Preventive Officers Association, and was transferred to the port of Sunderland. A very critical and dangerous illness, compelled him, at his own request, to revert to the position of Preventive Man, and he was afterwards superannuated, from that cause, a few months ago, followed so soon by his death.

Several complaints reach us referring to the delay in filling the existing vacancies for Preventive Officerships throughout the Service.

We hope there is a reasonable cause for the delay, because it is very hard that those successful should be kept so long out of their appointments, for which they have patiently waited for so many years.

Preventive Officers' Association Notes.

The resolution submitted by the Hull Branch, having been considered by the Executive, we have to report that by a substantial majority, they adhere to the decision of the Conference. It may be well to bear in mind that the questions dealt with at the Conference were fully discussed previous to the vote being taken. Further, the members of the Executive voted as instructed by the districts they represented, consequently it will be necessary to obtain the sanction of a majority of the Branches ere making any alteration in our programme.

Any branch is perfectly within its right, in protesting against a decision with which they cannot agree, but we appeal for a little sweet reasonableness, and in the present instance, it is hoped that the minority will loyally fall in with the majority, particularly when the resolution protested against was carried almost unanimously.

We commend to all Waterguard Officers the appeal issued on behalf of the widow and six young children of the late Mr. P. McKean, Preventive Officer. Sheets are being sent to all the ports in the Kingdom, but should any be overlooked, the General Secretary will gladly receive and acknowledge contributions sent to him.

A Correction.

(From "The People's Friend," 8-10-06.)

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. J. K. Hastie, Secretary of the Preventive Officers' Association, Grangemouth, to this effect:—"Sir,—The paragraph in your column of the 'Peoples' Friend' headed 'A Valuable Appointment' is interesting, but a little in error in one small particular. Your old pupil in London directs attention to certain rumours, the latest being a scheme abolishing the Board of Customs, and in the most gentlemanly manner expresses his opinion that, as said scheme emanated from the Waterguard Staff, little is likely to be heard of it. I give the statement in question an authoritative denial. No such scheme has been put forward by the Waterguard Staff, and as the 'People's Friend' circulates so very widely amongst all branches of Civil Service Officers, I hope you will publish our denial. It may interest your readers to know that Waterguard Officers generally, agree with your old pupil as to the prospects for Assistants of Customs. They have no grievances, and as a result agitation in their ranks is a thing unknown.

We still hear that at certain small ports, especially at one on the East Coast of Scotland, Preventive Officers are required to be in attendance at home on Sunday, ready for any call, whenever their services are required, without any payment whatever. We believe that those effected have brought the subject before the Inspecting Officers without obtaining any redress. We feel sure the Board are not aware of this state of affairs, and we seriously hope that steps will be taken to put an end to this pressing grievance.

We regret that, through exceptional pressure on our space for this issue, we have been compelled to omit the N.Q.A. page, the Preventive Men's Association Notes, and a portion of the Preventive Officers' Association Notes.

From the same cause we have also curtailed the Editor's Notes.

We ask the indulgence of our readers accordingly.

As this pressure, apparently, only applies to

this issue, our numerous contributors and correspondents will please note that their esteemed favours are still solicited.

**Preventive Officers' Association,
HULL BRANCH.**

A general meeting of the above was held at the Friendly Societies' Hall, Albion Street, on Thursday the 4th inst. A lengthy discussion took place on the minutes of the recent Conference held at Liverpool. Strong opinions were expressed with regard to the subjects to be brought before the Treasury at the forthcoming interview.

After a discussion of two hours, the following resolution was carried unanimously:

"That this meeting of Preventive Officers strongly protest against the decisions arrived at by the Executive at the recent Conference held at Liverpool, and that we submit to the Treasury, three subjects only, viz., Salary, Increment and Superannuation, these subjects, being in our opinion of the greatest importance."

Testimonial to Mr. J. K. Hastie, General Secretary.

Dr.	Balance Sheet.	Cr.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
To Barrow 2/-, Fleetwood 2/-, Stornoway 2/-	0 6 0	By Mr. John Barrie, Cost of Piano,.....	21 0 0
Troon 2/-, Burntisland 2/-, Dublin 8/- ...	0 12 0	Secretary's expenses—Printing & Postage	1 1 5
Falmouth 4/-, Sunderland 13/-, Dundee 4s	1 1 0	W. Fazakerley, supplying and engraving	
Sligo 1/6, Fowey 2/-, Preston 2/-,		nickel plate—Presented to, &c.,.....	1 4 0
Peterhead 2/-	0 7 6	Treasurer's expenses—Postage Stationery, &c.	0 7 0
Southampton 15/-, Weymouth 4/-,		Fixing Plate on Piano and Postage	0 1 0½
Portsmouth 2/-	1 1 0		
Plymouth, 10/6, Youghal 2/-, Grangem'th, 8s	1 0 6		
Dysart 2/-, Queenstown 2/-,			
Humber district 11/6	0 15 6		
Glasgow 16/-, Leith district £1 8s. 5½d.	2 4 5½		
Hartlepool 8/-, Shields 12s, Greenock 4s	1 4 0		
Westport 2s, Dover and Shoreham, 8s,			
Aberdeen 2/6	0 12 6		
Blyth 10s, Bristol 5s, Belfast 5s, Harwich 3s	1 3 0		
Methil, 2s, Burghead 2s, Newhaven 4s,			
Ipswich 1s	0 9 0		
Folkstone 3s, Newport Mon. 5s,			
Cardiff 10s, Swansea 6s.	1 4 0		
Barry 6s, Manchester 4s, Stockton 5s ...	0 15 0		
London 25s, Gravesend 17s, Liverpool 56s	4 18 0		
Voted from Association Funds.....	5 0 0		
	£22 13 5½		£22 13 5½

We, the undersigned, certify that we have audited this account and found same correct.

R. STANLEY, } Auditors.
T. COADY. }

Preventive Men's Association.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A well attended meeting of the above was held in Liverpool on the 20th ult.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the Bank Book showing the local balance being produced, was accepted. The Parliamentary Committee having been reformed at the last meeting, and the Secretary's report and correspondence read, there was much approval expressed at the progress made by the new committee.

A discussion next took place in relation to the present system of voting by delegates attending the Conference. It was finally agreed that our delegates be instructed to raise the question of voting, so that each district delegate should be entitled to voice the number of paying members whom he represented. Some members having fallen into arrears, a heated discussion took place as to the best means to adopt with regard to them.

It was proposed—"That any Preventive Man owing 6 months contributions from 1st January, 1907, and refusing to pay the same, shall cease to be a member of the Association, and be debarred from any privileges or rights appertaining thereto, also that he be informed of the same by the local Secretary."

The amendment to the above proposition that the discussion be held over until the next meeting, was declared carried.

"SERVICE SCALE OF PAY" OR "FREE GOODS."

In view of the coming Conference, discussion was called for with reference to the above. Several members expressed their opinion, and it was unanimously agreed that while "Free Goods" would brighten the prospects of the Preventive Men, "Service Scale of Pay" would tend more to alleviate the grievances of the majority, therefore, since the Association existed for the benefit of all members, our delegates be instructed to support "Service Scale of Pay."

After a vote of thanks was accorded the Parliamentary Committee and the Chairman, the meeting terminated.

GRAVESEND.

At a meeting of the Preventive Men's Association, held at Gravesend on the 27th

ult., the following resolutions were submitted for the consideration of the forthcoming Conference:

I. "That, whilst recognising the importance of the "Free Goods" question as an outlet for promotion, this meeting is of opinion that the policy of a "Service Scale of Pay" should take precedence in the programme of the next Conference"

II. "That, considering the disparity which now exists between the overtime rate of Preventive Officers and Preventive Men—a disparity out of proportion to salaries and duties—the time has arrived when action should be taken with a view to increasing the overtime rate of Preventive Men."

III. "Having regard to the physical difficulties encountered in Waterguard duties, and the debilitating effects of a long number of years on such duties, that all officers of over 50 years of age should be employed on work where night and other arduous duties do not obtain."

Local business having been transacted, the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman.

DOVER.

A very successful meeting of the Preventive Men's Association, was held at Dover on the 28th September, with a record attendance.

An Executive Officer and District Secretary were nominated for the ensuing year.

A long discussion took place on the question of future prospects and the rates of overtime for day and hour granted to the Preventive Officers and Men and a resolution was unanimously passed asking the Executive to endeavour to get an increase in the hourly rate for Preventive Men.

Several local grievances were discussed and a deputation appointed to approach the local authorities.

HULL BRANCH.

A General Meeting of the Preventive Men's Association was held on Tuesday, 9th inst. There was a good representative gathering.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and unanimously adopted.

The General Secretary gave a report of the progress of the Association generally since the last meeting. The manner the members have supported him in his efforts for a Conference has been most satisfactory. Everything is now in readiness for the deputation to the Treasury when he receives the command from our leading M.P.

Mr. Kirkham, Treasurer *pro tem.*, produced the Association Bank Book, showing a balance of £42. All debts and expenses paid up to date.

Resolutions were next proposed for the coming Conference. Many members complain of the lack of prospects, various remedies were suggested for the relief of this grievance, and the following were unanimously adopted :

I. "That this meeting heartily agree with the steps that are being taken with the view of taking over the examination of "Free Goods," and that our representative be instructed to support it at the Conference."

II. "That we are strongly in favour of the question of "Service Scale of Pay," with compulsory retirement on two-thirds salary after 35 years service; and we wish our delegate to give this his whole support."

III. "That the present rate per hour for overtime be raised from 8d. to 1s in every case."

IV. "That our delegate be instructed to bring the question of "Sunday Duty" before the Conference with the view of securing more uniformity."

As another meeting will be held in a few weeks, several other important items were allowed to stand over until then.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

GLASGOW BRANCH.

A meeting of the above was held on the 4th inst., to discuss matters relative to the forthcoming Conference.

It was unanimously agreed that the following resolutions be submitted from this district :

I. "That the members of the Conference be earnestly requested to impress upon the

Board of Customs and the Treasury that the utterly inadequate amount of promotion from the grade of Preventive Man to Preventive Officer calls for their Honours immediate consideration. The fact, that more than half of the Preventive Men are now marking time at their maximum, as also the abnormal amount of Acting performed by Preventive Men, without the slightest remuneration for the increased responsibility, is a great injustice to hardworking and deserving officers."

III. "We humbly suggest that, if the majority of Preventive Men cannot expect promotion, that the maximum salary of the grade should be increased to £104 per annum, exclusive of Stars, more especially having regard to the increased cost of living in such cities as London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Cardiff.

III. "That the rate of overtime allowed to the Preventive Men's grade from the Crown and from the merchant calls for an increase to 1 - per hour."

The meeting also decided that the members of the Conference be recommended to place the following before the Board of Customs:—

That Preventive Officers in charge, Preventive and Second Officers, Principal Coast Officers and Preventive Men in charge be relieved by Waterguard Officers.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.

"Coopering" Charge at Grimsby.

THE DUTCHMEN BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.

The skipper and crew of the "Maria" were recently charged with being within territorial waters, having on board a large quantity of tobacco, spirits and wine. Mr. T. Mountain prosecuted for the Crown, and Mr. Brown defended. Mr. F. W. Wood, Collector of Customs, Grimsby, was also present on behalf of the Crown.

Mr. Mountain, in his opening statement, repeated the evidence previously given by Commander Hicks of H.M. "Argus." The value of the goods, said Mr. Mountain, was £192 9s. 11d., and the duty payable £254 4s. 4d., making a total single value of £446 14s. 3d. In the case of the Captain,

they asked for the treble value and duty, and against the men £100 each. The ship and cargo would also be forfeited in case of conviction.

Commander Hicks, C. H. Davis, second officer, V. H. Mayrick, first class petty officer, all of the "Argus," and Mr. T. Keily, H.M. Customs, all gave evidence as to the seizure and value of the goods.

The Magistrate, in convicting, said, that as no spirits were found on board, it was not a case for a heavy penalty. He must endeavour to show these men that it was a trade that had dangers and disadvantages. He must do this, for the trade deprived the Government of a large amount of revenue. If the cargo of this one boat had been sold the country would have been deprived of £250. The captain would have to pay £25 or two months, the mate £5, or one month, and each man 2s., or 14 days.

Letters to the Editor.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Articles and Correspondence for insertion should be accompanied with the Signature and Address of the Writer—not for publication—and addressed, The Editor, "The Customs Journal," care of the Publisher, 10, Portland Place, Prospect Street, Hull.

To the Editor of the "Customs Journal,"

Sir,—I trust there are not many Upper Section Preventive Officers like "Londoner," who appears to be in a violent state of alarm that the poor unfortunate Lower Section Officers capture the Association. "Londoner" need have no such fear, as Preventive Officers of both sections would be foolish, indeed, if they entertained the slightest idea of placing the interests of one class before another. The recent concessions are ample proof of the necessity of maintaining an united front, and if we drift into sectional movements as proposed by "Londoner," it will be "good by" to any prospect of amelioration for either grade. I think that most Preventive Officers of the Upper Section would gladly accept a £220 maximum. As for rotation of duties it is altogether too trivial a matter to be discussed.

"Londoner" must know that there are two Upper Section Preventive Officers on the Executive, viz. :- the President and the General Secretary—gentlemen who have done, and are still doing, splendid service for all Preventive Officers, and who are quite capable of looking after the interests of their grade.

Yours, &c.,

"LONDONER No. 2,"

Preventive Men on Immigration Duty.

To the Editor of the Customs Journal.

Sir,—The allocation of Preventive Men for the position of Assistants to Immigration Officers has been the cause of much heartburning at more ports than one. The fairly handsome allowance—the exemption from night-work, and the congenial nature of the duties make the position a most coveted one by Preventive Men. It has been suggested at a large port that this duty could be taken in yearly turns by all Preventive Men, at the various Immigration ports, capable of performing the duties.

We know that it would be impracticable, and it is not suggested that Immigration Officers should rotate with other Revenue officers, but the nature of the duties and the qualifications required by their assistants put no difficulty whatever in the way of all Preventive Men getting a fair share of this duty.

Yours, &c.,

"LET IT GO ROUND."

To the Editor of the "Customs Journal."

Sir,—Many of your correspondents I note are pressing the question of retirement, with full pension of Waterguard Officers after 35 years service.

It is an important question, and many would be pleased to note the resolution on this matter passed at the recent Conference of the Preventive Officers, held at Liverpool.

It was a move in the right direction, and would show the authorities the wish of the grade. Probably the matter will be taken up when they meet before the Treasury, as it is of the utmost importance to efficiency and promotion.

That this request is reasonable could be proved to the satisfaction of any unbiased tribunal.

The number of hours of duty done under stress of arduous conditions, and mostly night-duty, compared with a retiring officer's hours of the sister department when he reaches sixty years.

The requirements of efficiency up to an age, it is almost impossible for the Waterguard Officer to carry it.

The absence of any reasonable flow in the promotion makes the question a vital one, not only to the wishes of the officers immediately concerned, but to the whole of the grades, who are in most instances patiently marking time at their maximum salaries with disappointed and crushed hopes.

In contradistinction stands out a small class of Waterguarders, who, with utter selfishness, hang on, long past the retirement age, and some even past the requirements of service for a full pension, ignoring the patent fact that their subordinates cannot receive the same amount of salary which they have received, they are unfairly taking a portion of another officers share of salary who will do the same work, serve the same time, yet draw less salary than they.

Of course, the non-effective charge must be economised—but other officers and efficiency suffer.

That joint action will be taken by both Associations, and that the Preventive Men will press the question to its final issue at their forthcoming Conference is the earnest wish of

DOCIBUS.

Appointments, Promotions, Removals.

Mr. N. Thompson, Chief Preventive Officer,
London to Glasgow.

Mr. C. Clandillon, Preventive Officer, upper
section, to Chief Preventive Officer, London

Mr. C. Wilson, Preventive Man, London

Mr. F. King do Goole

Mr. A. Tait, do Barrowstones

Mr. P. Ould do Swansea

Mr. Wittraham do Barrow

Mr. A. Beard, Collector and Surveyor, Blyth,
to Ardrossan.

Mr. G. Moffatt, Collector and Surveyor,
Dartmouth, to Blyth

Mr. W. Boucher, Chief Officer at Barry
Dock, to Collector and Surveyor, Exeter

Mr. G. Shenton, Surveyor, 2nd class, London,
to 1st class, Dublin

Mr. W. Medcalf, Surveyor, 3rd class, to 2nd
class, London

Mr. J. Tonkin, Examining Officer, 1st class,
to Surveyor, 3rd class, London

Mr. R. Brown, Examining Officer, 2nd class,
Leith to Grangemouth

Mr. A. Davidson, Collector and Surveyor,
Cork, to Collector, Hull.

Mr. A. Sheridan, Collector and Surveyor,
Middlesborough, to Collector, Harwich.

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