

Majesty's visit to the Custom House on June 8, 1966.

Sir Wilfred said he was very moved and very grateful. He particularly liked this photograph and wished to convey to the Fund's members his appreciation of their gift.

The meeting closed at 5 pm.

AN ITEM FROM THE PAST

An old Minute Book—now at PSA Headquarters—came into my hands at West Hartlepool the other day and in it were some interesting historical facts, e.g., on page 1:—

At a meeting held on 24th February, 1896:

"That we the undersigned do assist in the formation of a Preventive Officers' Association on the lines laid down by 'Preventive' in *The Civilian* of date February 1, 1896—or on such other lines as may to the majority of the Preventive Officers of the United Kingdom be found most expedient."

A Local Secretary and Treasurer was appointed.

"Preventive" in his article in the above paper must have asked for prospective members as a list of thirteen names from West Hartlepool and Middlesbrough was submitted to him.

Matters must have moved apace as on April 21, 1896, we read: "That the Secretary write to 'Preventive' to ascertain whether the Federation scheme as circulated from Cardiff by Mr Robinson on April 2, 1896, was issued 'in conjunction with' or 'in opposition to' 'Preventive's' scheme."

In May, 1896, a draft of the Rules of the Waterguard Federation (Preventive Officer's Branch), was read and discussed. At that stage amalgamation with the Boatmen's Association must have been envisaged and it is quoted that there were 16 Districts,

134 Ports, 324 POs and 1,138 Boatmen. Suggested subscriptions were:—

POs ... 3/- per year.
Boatmen ... 1/6 per year.

Mr Robinson had, by this time, been elected as General Secretary and Treasurer of the Federation.

This Minute Book shows that June 9, 10 and 11 were outstanding dates as on these days the first Conference of the Executive Councillors of the Preventive Officers' Association was held at No. 6 Kerby Street, Poplar, London E.

Nine Councillors attended: Messrs Ward (Leth), Duke (Hull), Fleming (West Hartlepool), Gilbert (Southampton), Hastie (Ireland), Hall (Liverpool), Richardson (Dover), McKenna (London), King (Gravesend) with Mr Robinson as General Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr Ward was elected President, although Mr Duke was Chairman for the three days.

Among resolutions discussed:—

- "Sunday and Public Holiday pay when employed"
- "Payment of OT when employed on Baggage duties"
- "Superannuation of two-thirds salary on reaching thirty years' service."
- "Maximum salary be raised to £220 per year"
- "Payment of £5 allowance for uniform—prefer to supply own uniform rather than risk being officially supplied with ill-fitting inferior clothing"
- "Week to consist of six days of eight hours each—Sunday standing distinct with OT payment of time and a half"
- "Vote of thanks to Editor of *The Civilian* for his advocacy of our cause"

(Continued overleaf)

FROM THE PAST—

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Discussion also arose on the question of examination and clearance of Free Goods but it was thought better to avoid friction with the Landing Department by not pressing this.

Two delegates from the Boatmen's Association were allowed to attend on the last day and it was apparent that amalgamation with them was "out" as "the bond of Federation had been severed by them on December 9, 1897."

The Treasurer produced an account for £5 Is. 0d. for hotel expenses of the delegates which was accepted for payment.

March, 1900, shows discussion on "Statement of Case of the Preventive Officers" which had been prepared to forward to Members of Parliament and in March, 1901, "Strong dissatisfaction at the Board's reply" was expressed.

January 27, 1902 a letter addressed to Mr Duke (? now President), supporting him in his forthcoming interview with the Board and full confidence that he would impress upon the Board the genuineness of our grievances.

Then the record jumps to 1917 and the more modern subjects of War Bonus and the like.