

Supplement to the Customs Journal, Nov. 18th, 1904.

Preventive Officers Association.

MINUTES

Of Conference held in London, 27th & 28th October, 1904.

East India Dock Road,
Thursday, 27th Oct., 1904

The Conference opened at 2-30 p.m.

Present—Mr. E. J. Andrews (Ireland); Mr. J. Maile (Liverpool); Mr. A. MacPherson (Scotland, East); Mr. D. Lammond (Scotland, West); Mr. E. K. Clark (Tyne); Mr. W. J. Crothers and Mr. J. L. Wheeldon (London); Mr. C. H. Watson (Humber); Mr. F. Cornish (Southampton); Mr. P. Haines (Cardiff); Mr. J. K. Hastie (General Secretary); Mr. T. D. Macfadyen (Conference Secretary).

The proceedings were opened by Mr. J. Maile, being unanimously voted to the Chair, who gave a short account of the work of the Association since the last Meeting of the Council.

The General Secretary then gave his Report of the year's work, and together with Messrs. Wheeldon and Macpherson, detailed an account of their interviews with M.P.'s.

REPORT OF FEDERATION PLEBESCITE.

A plebescite was taken of the Association on the question of Federation, viz. :—(1) Organic Federation with the Boatmen's Association; (2) A plan of joint action on questions affecting both grades; (3) That we remain as at present. The result was, that a large majority were in favour of No. 2, viz. : A plan of joint action on questions affecting both grades.

Mr. D. Lamond moved, with regard to the election of President, that the said President need not necessarily be a Member of the Executive Council. This was seconded by Mr. Haines, and decided unanimously.

A vote of thanks was then proposed by Mr. E. K. Clark to Mr. J. K. Hastie for his services as General Secretary, and, at the same time, proposed his re-election to that office. This was seconded by Mr. Wheeldon, and after all the members present had spoken in terms of appreciation of Mr. Hastie's valuable services, was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Maile moved a resolution—that what was carried at last year's Conference *re* Supervision, be re-affirmed. Mr. Macpherson seconded.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. E. K. Clark moved, and Mr. P. Haines seconded, that the following be re-affirmed :—That Preventive Officers in charge should be relieved for annual leave or sickness by Preventive Officers only.—Agreed.

Mr. Clark moved that the following be re-affirmed :—That, in the opinion of this Conference, promotions to the position of C.P.O. should be subject to a qualifying examination, on similar conditions to that governing the promotion of 2nd to 1st Class Examining Officers.—Not seconded.

Mr. Clark moved, & Mr. Andrews seconded, that the resolutions of last Conference on Salary and Sunday pay be re-affirmed, with this alteration "That the minimum salary be £110, and maximum £220."—Agreed.

The Conference adjourned at 6 p.m.

The Conference resumed at 7-15 p.m.

The same members were present with the exception of Mr. W. J. Crothers.

Minutes of previous Session were read and confirmed.

The question of Superannuation then come under discussion on the motion of Mr. Wheeldon, seconded by Mr. Watson :—It was agreed in the event of an enquiry, that we ask for optional retirement at the age of 55, and that, pending an enquiry, we ask the Board to make retirement at 60 compulsory for all members of the Waterguard Branch of the Service.

Mr. Macpherson moved that the following be re-affirmed :—That the Board be asked to appoint Preventive Officers in place of Examining Officers at certain small ports, where the Waterguard duties are at present being performed by the latter. Mr. Haines seconded. Unanimously carried.

After some discussion, it was proposed by Mr. Andrews, and seconded by Mr. Watson, that the Preventive Officers of the Port of London be asked to appoint a small Committee (say six) to act conjointly with a similar Committee from the Boatmen's Association, in the carrying on of Parliamentary work, the Committee to work in harmony with the General Secretaries of both Associations. A copy of this Resolution be sent to the General Secretary of the Boatmen's Association for the approval of his Executive.—Carried unanimously.

Conference adjourned at 10 p.m.

Friday, 28th October, 1904.

Conference resumed at 10 a.m.

The same Members being present with the exception that Mr. W. J. Crothers took Mr. Wheeldon's place.

The Minutes of previous Session were read and confirmed.

Mr. Watson moved, that on account of the general dissatisfaction and discontent which exists on the question of Sunday Pay throughout the whole Waterguard Department, the claim for special remuneration for work performed on Sundays be the only subject submitted to the Treasury at the present time. Seconded by Mr. Macpherson. Mr. Andrew moved as a counter-motion "That this Conference resolves that the claim for Sunday pay be kept prominently forward, and every effort made to keep it before the Treasury, either by a deputation to the Financial Secretary, or by any other means which the Executive may be able to adopt." Seconded by Mr. Lamond. The counter-motion was carried by 7 to 2.

Mr. Maile next moved that the Board be approached on the question of Examination of Free Goods, with a view to that duty, which is purely Preventive work, being entrusted to the Preventive Staff. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, after a lengthy and interesting discussion.

Mr. Watson moved, that the system of promotion in the Waterguard Department by seniority and efficiency be strictly adhered to, as per Goschen Minute.—Seconded by Mr. Macpherson. Being put to a vote, the motion was carried by a majority of 5 to 3.

The suggestion from West Hartlepool, that a Second Class of Chief Preventive Officers, to supervise the small Ports, be created, was then discussed, and the Conference agreed that this suggestion was covered by the resolution on supervision, passed yesterday.

Mr. Lamond moved, that the Board be approached on the question of a better quality of uniform than that now supplied, and asking that a cloth similar in texture to that at present supplied to the Assistants, be used.—Mr. Clark Seconded.—Agreed.

Mr. Maile moved, that the Board be asked to reconsider the present practice as to the record of Officers characters, and to allow each Officer to be informed (in confidence) what character is ascribed to him, and also of what changes may be made in the record from time to time.—Mr. Watson seconded. Mr. Macpherson moved as an amendment. That the Board be asked to reconsider the present system of awarding characters, and an Officer be informed (in confidence) the character ascribed to him which would be detrimental to his advancement.—Mr. Haines seconded. The motion was carried by a majority of 6 to 2.

The Conference agreed that travelling expenses at large Ports should be left to Ports affected, to deal with the matter locally.

Proposed by Mr. Watson, that the rate of overtime for Upper Section Preventive Officers be increased to 2/- per hour.—Seconded by Mr. Haines, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Andrews proposed that a statement embodying the following subjects be prepared and forwarded to the Board, viz. : Free Goods, Supervision, Characters, Superannuation, Uniform, Overtime for Upper Section Preventive Officers at 2/- per hour, also a request that a deputation of Preventive Officers be received. Mr. Lamond seconded. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Crothers proposed, and Mr. Clark seconded, that Messrs. J. L. Paul and W. Burke Preventive Officers, Glasgow, be appointed Auditors of the Association's Accounts for the year.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. Clark proposed that a copy of the Minutes be sent to the Customs Journal, to be printed as a Supplement, at the expense of the Preventive Officers' Association.—Mr. Watson seconded. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Clark proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. Maile for his services as Chairman.—Mr. Hastie seconded. The vote was given most heartily.

The thanks of the Executive Council were also awarded to Mr. T. D. Macfadyen for his services as Secretary during the Conference.

The Minutes were read and adopted.

The Conference Closed at 2.45 p.m.