

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.  
NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXIX. No. 997.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1928

**OBJECTS :** To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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## XXIX.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

### COUNCILLOR MISS ROBINSON, MAYOR OF CHRISTCHURCH.

Miss M. B. Robinson, the first woman to hold office as Mayor of Christchurch, was also the first woman to be elected a member of the Town Council. Returned in November, 1921, as the result of a keenly contested three-cornered fight, Miss Robinson has done such excellent work that she has since been returned unopposed.

Miss Robinson is a descendant of the House of Robinson—a clan renowned for its fidelity to the Stuart kings. After the battle of Culloden Moor, members of the Robertson family escaped across the border, changed their name, and settled at Carlisle. Her mother belonged to the Bryant family, of whom William Bryant was the founder of the noted firm of Bryant and May.

Miss Robinson, who has been head of the Priory Girls' School since 1920, was a student at St. Hugh's Hall, Oxford, and was for some years headmistress of Burton Church of England School. She has travelled in Europe and America, and in 1925 made a tour of Canada and the United States, in order to visit schools and welfare centres in many cities. She is a highly successful headmistress, and believes in giving her scholars as wide an outlook as possible. With this end in view, she encourages her pupils to enter for outside competitions. In 1925, the school won the Challenge Shield for the best lifeboat essay in the British Isles; last July, a scholar was awarded the Rhondda Mothercraft Shield in competition with schools in all parts of England.

In July, 1924, Miss Robinson was appointed Secretary to the Art and Technical Schools, and is responsible to the Director of Education for the classes arranged. Due to her efforts, last year, Christchurch was made one of the centres of the London School Journey Association, as a result of which

300 London children spent a happy holiday in the town.

Miss Robinson's activities outside her scholastic and municipal duties include much valuable work in connection with the Christchurch Maternity and Child Welfare Society—an organisation opened in 1922, through her direct influence. This centre is now one of the largest and best run in Hampshire, and has a weekly attendance of 135.

It is due to the activities of Miss Robinson in calling a meeting of townspeople, that Christchurch at last has a public library. Although only in its infancy, the library already has 570 borrowers for its modest 1,500 volumes.

Miss Robinson has been Chairman of the Sanitary Committee and of the Fire Brigade Committee. In the latter capacity she did much to stimulate the interest of the Brigade

in its work, and to urge the necessity of that long-felt need—a new fire engine.

Miss Robinson's experience of public work and her capacity for getting things done should make it possible for her to render most valuable service to Christchurch during her year of office.



THE MAYOR OF CHRISTCHURCH.

## THE IRISH FREE STATE CENSORSHIP BILL.

### MRS. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON'S ATTACK.

At our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting, held at the Minerva Club, on November 21st, Miss Underwood, from the Chair, said how glad we were to have Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington with us again, both as an old friend and as one who kept us in touch with the women of Ireland.

Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington gave a most interesting and enlightening address on the Free State Censorship Bill. She opened by saying there is no country, not even far Uganda, about which less is known than Ireland. In respect to the Censorship Bill, had the Creator consulted the Minister of Justice for Ireland in the Garden of Eden, He would have been advised not to grow the tree of knowledge at all, or, if he did so, to surround it with guards and barbed-wire entanglements! This expresses the attitude of the Irish Free State Government to the people's reading matter. They are not to be allowed free-will, neither are they to be allowed to pick the apple.

In a State in West Africa a Bill was hurriedly got through to prevent cocks from crowing. That is the type of legislation that is about to descend upon Ireland. Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington would describe such measures not as "grandmotherly," but "grandfatherly!"

Mrs. Skeffington objects to the Censorship Bill primarily because it is entirely the produce of male legislation, and represents the attitude of men as a mass to women. There is only one woman in the Irish Free State Parliament, and she is submerged by party politicians. In the Irish Free State, women are not allowed to serve on juries. Only male stenographers are employed in the Free State Courts—presumably because their male competitors objected to women hearing cases which were not nice!

The scope of the present Bill covers any kind of propaganda—feminist and social.

"It was fathered by a lawyer," said the speaker, "and anything that comes from a lawyer's brain we women have learnt to distrust."

The final Court of Appeal in the Irish Free State is the Minister of Justice, and he is a party politician. He elects five fit and proper persons, four of whom have it in their power to decide what the Irish people may read. The Minister of Justice is the Chairman of the Board. At any moment the Bill may be switched off from so-called obscene publications to seditious propaganda.

As regards literature, any work which presents sexual passion in any shape or form is in peril of being destroyed. What will be the fate of the Song of Solomon and Romeo and Juliet? As a great concession, the Minister of Justice—although he considers Beekie Sharp an immoral character—declared the book should not be banned, as its intention was moral! Certain of Fielding's novels—Tom Jones, for instance—stand in great danger; Bernard Shaw's books, if not burned, should at least be put on the top shelf; and the works of Anatole France have already been burned in a library in Galway.

Sunday papers have been publicly burnt in Dublin.

Although Mrs. Skeffington holds no brief for this type of paper, she deprecates this method of going to work. The Women's Societies have sent many resolutions and deputations to the Government in opposition to the Bill. Mrs. Despard is in the forefront. Mrs. Skeffington does not consider that any amendments would improve the Bill, or that "even a Board of Archangels" could carry out the censorship in a satisfactory manner. A wide interpretation would include books almost of any kind. During discussion in the House, an amendment was proposed that it should be a criminal offence to lend a book!

That the Bill will become law there is no doubt. Yet there is no demand by the country for such a measure. Political parties are playing up to certain interests. Certain groups are pressing the Government. These men show undue pre-occupation with women's affairs, and would prescribe the length a woman should wear her hair and her dress, design her bathing costume, etc.

It had been said: "A fool will be a fool with the best book, or, yea, without a book." It is necessary that free air should be allowed to blow over Ireland. "Governments get bad ideas very quickly from each other," said Mrs. Skeffington, and pointed out that there was a very real danger of our own Government following the bad example of the Irish Free State."

For four years Irish women have asked the Government to raise the age of consent. A Commission has inquired into the evil, yet nothing has been done! In view of the passing of a Censorship Bill, such negligence in attending to the finding of the Commission quoted is contradictory.

The danger of the Censorship Bill, Mrs. Skeffington pointed out, lies not in an attack on the classics—whatever their contents—but on contemporary literature. At present, there is no censorship of drama. There was a time when plays, not allowed in this country, could be played at the Abbey Theatre. "Mrs. Warren's Profession" is an example. Now that the Abbey is subsidised by the Government, the audience will probably get plays only "fit for young persons."

A lively discussion followed, the general outcome of which was that censorship defeats its own ends in stimulating interest in the very subjects it sets out to suppress, and that there should be—as there is on the Continent—a literature for adults.

### WOMEN PLUMBERS' ASSOCIATION?

Mr. R. W. Cairns, in his presidential address to the Conference of the National Federation of Master Plumbers last Friday, said that a women's association had been formed in connection with the electricity industry, and he saw no reason why a women plumbers' association should not be inaugurated. He suggested it should be started in Southport, and set an example as to what women can do in the plumbing trade.

Special issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XXVIII. Miss Violet Markham, J.P., Mayor of Chesterfield, October 19th, 1928; XXVII. Alderman Mrs. B. M. Drapper, Mayor of Deptford, July 20th, 1928; XXVI. Councillor Elizabeth Lund, Mayor of Pudsey, March 23rd, 1928; XXV. Councillor Mrs. Jenkins, Mayor of Tenby, March 9th, 1928; XXIV. Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Mayor of Lichfield, February 24th, 1928; XXIII. Mrs. Joan W. Greene, Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds, January 13th, 1928; XXII. Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, November 25th, 1927; XXI. Councillor Miss Hudson, J.P., Mayor of Eastbourne, June 24th, 1927; XX. Councillor Mrs. Coxon, Mayor of King's Lynn, March 26th, 1926; XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, February, 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Neville, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Smees, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 28th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Factory Inspectors.

MR. KELLY (Lab., Rochdale) asked the Home Secretary the number of men and women employed as factory inspectors at the present time; and if there is any likelihood of an increase in the number in the next few months? SIR VIVIAN HENDERSON (Under-Secretary, Home Office): At the moment there are 165 men and thirty-four women inspectors. Vacancies exist for seven men and these are being filled, but the question of any further increase must await the Report of the Committee which my right hon. Friend has set up to consider the matter.

### Ministries of Health and Pensions.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Ministers of Health and Pensions the number of men and women officers, respectively, of executive grading employed in the headquarters of these Ministries, showing the numbers in the executive, higher executive, and super-executive grades?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN (Minister of Health): The number of men and women officers, respectively, of executive grading, employed in the headquarter offices of my Department, is as follows:—

	Men.	Women.
Junior Executive ... ..	123	15
Higher Executive ... ..	87	10
Super-executive ... ..	41	2

MAJOR TRYON (Minister of Pensions): The figures required are as follow:—

	Men.	Women.
Executive Officers ... ..	88	3
Higher Executive Officers ...	76	3*
Officers above Higher Executive	51	—*

\* In addition, there are six women staff officers equal to or higher than those of higher executive officers.

### Hyde Park Prosecutions.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull) asked the Home Secretary how many prosecutions for offences in Hyde Park have been brought by the Metropolitan Police during the last three months; how many have succeeded; and whether any decision has been reached regarding the better lighting of Hyde Park at night? SIR V. HENDERSON: During the three months to October 31st there were 264 prosecutions for various offences, involving 298 persons. In every case except three, involving three persons, the offence was found to have been proved. As regards the second part of the question, my noble Friend, the First Commissioner of Works, informs me that additional lights have been provided and are now in use in certain parts of the Park where better lighting was considered necessary, namely, in the area behind the Achilles Statue and at two other points in the central part of the Park.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### New Women Magistrates for Middlesex.

The following four women have recently been sworn in at the Middlesex Sessions as Justices of the Peace: Mrs. E. A. Kilby, Mrs. E. S. Taylor, Miss A. M. Wakefield, and Mrs. C. H. Wolfe.

### Married Women Appointed!

We learn from the *Daily Herald* that the Metropolitan Asylums Board has agreed that five married women be appointed to the Board's permanent staff, "notwithstanding the fact that they are married women." We are not told what duties they will be called upon to perform, but we cannot think that the mere fact of their marriage need be either a hindrance or a help. Then why mention it?

### The Only Woman Sweep?

Mrs. Nelson, of Clapton, who is doing her husband's work while he is ill, believes herself to be the only woman sweep in England.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: If this lighting is sufficient, why is there this extraordinary number of prosecutions; and will the hon. and gallant Gentleman look into the matter of increasing the lighting? Further, is he aware that, just before the Recess, the Home Secretary admitted that the police had been reluctant to carry out their duty in prosecutions for indecency? Has that reluctance been removed? SIR V. HENDERSON: As far as I am aware, in fact, I am certain, the police always carry out their duty. As to the first part of the question, the lighting, which I have personally examined, was considered suitable and sufficient in the eyes of the inspector who is in charge of the Park, and there is nothing to show that these particular offences are necessarily due to defective lighting.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Does the hon. and gallant Gentleman not think that if we had more qualified and trained policewomen matters would be improved? THE SPEAKER: That raises quite another subject.

### Women Medical Students.

MR. RHYS DAVIES (Lab., Westhoughton) asked the President of the Board of Education the number of women medical students who have entered for university training for each of the last five years in England, Scotland, and Wales, respectively? MR. SAMUEL (Financial Secretary, Treasury): I regret that the information in my possession does not enable me to state the number of entries of women medical students. The returns made to the University Grants Committee show that the total number of full-time women medical students attending University Institutions for the past five years have been as follow:—

	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
England ... ..	1,375	1,197	1,059	930	862
Wales ... ..	35	32	30	32	30
Scotland ... ..	610	431	313	274	254
Total ... ..	2,020	1,660	1,402	1,236	1,146

### Offices Regulation Bill.

On November 21st, Miss Ellen Wilkinson secured leave to bring in the Offices Regulation Bill to "regulate offices and the employment of young persons therein; and for other purposes connected therewith." This Bill was given a First Reading.

### Women Tax Inspectors.

The Inland Revenue Department now have a number of women tax inspectors, who perform precisely the same duties as the men inspectors.

### Retiring Woman M.P.

Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P. for the Berwick-on-Tweed Division, has decided not to contest the seat at the next General Election.

### A Centenarian Suffragette.

The centenary of Maria Desraines, a French woman, who early took a leading part in the Suffragette movement, has recently been celebrated by women in Paris.

### Three Men—One Woman.

The Lord Chancellor has approved the addition of three men and one woman, Mrs. W. J. Harris, to the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Guildford

## THE VOTE.

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### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### THE WOMAN'S VOTE.

Politicians, the Press, and the Public, are freely speculating on the women's vote at the next General Election. We are told that it was the women's vote which gave Mr. Hoover such an overwhelming majority at the recent elections in the United States, and it is certain that the women's vote in this country which is being so enormously increased at the next General Election will be a force which not one of the political parties can safely ignore. They have evidently no wish to ignore it, for all three political parties are making their own special appeal to women. The election policy of the Women's Freedom League is simple. We are prepared to support any suitable woman candidate irrespective of the party to which she belongs. By suitable we mean any woman who is prepared to work inside and outside the House of Commons for women's equality with men, and who can gain the support of our Branch when we have one in her locality. When there is no woman candidate, we shall submit through our Branches or our members in the district questions to the various candidates, and the replies to those questions will serve as a guide to our members and friends when they record their vote. We are particularly anxious to know the attitude of all candidates towards opening the Diplomatic and Consular Service and all the higher posts in the Civil Service to women equally with men; and what their attitude is towards women members in the House of Lords and women members of the Privy Council. We shall also want to know how much help candidates will give towards getting equality of pay for women and men throughout all branches of the Civil Service and the teaching profession; and what steps they propose to take to ensure that the Public Audit Act will not be systematically used to prevent women employees under local governing bodies securing equal pay for equal work done by the men. We shall want to know what these candidates will do to ensure that marriage shall be no bar to a woman holding any appointment paid for by public money, and that no restriction shall be placed on the work of women in industry which is not imposed on the work of men. We shall also ask the candidates what support they will give to a Bill making it compulsory on all local authorities to employ an adequate number of fit women as well as fit men as Police Constables. We consider that Women Police are urgently required and that they should be an integral part of our police force. We also want to see the practical recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women, and shall want candidates to press that no man or woman shall be convicted for annoying, molesting, or soliciting, unless the person stated to have been annoyed, molested or solicited appears in court to substantiate the charge. Then there is the question of the nationality of married women. Four years ago a resolution was passed in the House of Commons to the effect that no British woman who married an alien should therefore automatically lose her nationality. With or without the consent of our Dominions, we want to see that principle carried into law. These are a few of the questions which women want to have answered by candidates at the next General Election.

### VALUE FOR PUBLIC MONEY.

A fortnight ago, there was a discussion at a meeting of an Urban District Council not far from London on the appointment of a librarian assistant to succeed a woman assistant, who has done good work for several years. One Councillor declared that the work was increasing, and that they should engage a male assistant at £3 a week. Other Councillors maintained that, on grounds of economy, they should make do with a girl assistant, paying her, presumably, a "girl's" wage. It did not seem to occur to these Councillors—there was not a woman among them—that the right and proper thing to do was to advertise for an assistant and appoint the applicant with the best qualifications, irrespective of the applicant's sex, and to pay the assistant at the ordinary rate for a librarian assistant, and not according to their ideas of a man's wage or a woman's wage. It is time that women electors made it clear to members of local governing authorities that all posts paid for by public money should be open to men and women without discrimination in regard to conditions and pay. It is not for local governing bodies to decide that all the better-paid posts should go to men, and all the inferior ones to women.

A casual glance at the advertisement columns in last Friday's *Times* showed us three glaring cases of discrimination against women in regard to Public Appointments. Charing Cross Hospital wanted a Surgical Registrar, and the Council invited "applications from candidates, who must be registered practitioners (male)." Chelsea Hospital for Women had "a vacancy for a Junior House Surgeon (male) on January 1st, 1929"; and Salop County Council invited applications for the post of County Medical Officer of Health. "Candidates must be duly qualified medical men," etc. With regard to the Hospitals, these are supported by money contributed by the general public, that is, men and women, and the patients are largely women; in the case of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, wholly so. What reason, therefore, can there be, outside the prejudices of those in authority, for not opening these posts equally to men and women? As for the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health under the Salop Council, we repeat that all posts paid for by public money—to which women as well as men contribute—ought to be filled by the applicants with the best qualifications, irrespective of the sex of the applicants.

### EQUALITY IS GOOD ENOUGH!

It is curious how anxious some people are to mark a difference in the citizenship of men and women. There are still men Members of Parliament who want to see some distinction made in the Parliamentary Register between single and married women—S for the single ones and M for the married! They do not, of course, ask that married and single men should be so treated. Women all along have asked for equality in citizenship, and the fussy alterations in it suggested by these gentlemen are declined, without thanks. Then Mrs. Baldwin is credited with outlining a scheme for a separate Parliament for women! This was repudiated at once by all accredited suffragists. It is really an old chestnut of the anti-suffragists. In pre-suffrage days our friends the antis, at public meetings outside Parliament and at Debates inside, urged, one after the other, and time after time, *ad nauseam*, that there should be a separate House where women could pass Resolutions, table their wishes, and send them up in baskets or packages to the House of Commons, to be considered by the Members, or the Government, or somebody, when there was time. The genuine suffragist was invariably scornful of such suggested procedure. She made it her first business to get the Parliamentary vote. Her next business is to get many more women into the House of Commons and women into the House of Lords, so that men and women in both Houses of Legislature shall together decide on all the affairs of State. Equality is quite good enough.

## THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

**Mr. H. J. Turrell**, Recorder of Banbury, previously many years at the Bar, thought that cautioning was rather overdone.

**Women Police.**—He had no experience, but thought them unnecessary. In close touch with every police station should be a rescue worker or probation officer.

**Complaints against Police.**—He had never been dissatisfied with the police evidence in any case he had tried, but Banbury was a very small place, and he only had about one case a year. He thought an elementary course of legal study should be included in secondary schools. He believed the police only brought a charge when they honestly believed it well founded, but he thought they sometimes, in giving evidence, did not trouble about the accuracy of their details, and one police officer usually supported another. The police, a body of mostly young and attractive men, were brought into contact with prostitutes, and scandals occurred.

**Mr. Heber L. Hart, K.C., LL.D.**, Recorder of Ipswich for nearly fourteen years, before that at the Bar, would add to the Judges' Rules a warning against pressure to elicit unwilling information. If serious mischief resulted from the present practice of taking statements, the only effective safeguard was to alter the law and prohibit all questions to prisoners altogether, counterbalancing this by adopting the Continental method of examination of the prisoner by a magistrate with full power to question him. He did not think it wrong to encourage a prisoner to incriminate himself; thought fairness to the prisoner had gone far enough. Rights of members of the community must be considered. The idea that a man must not incriminate himself was purely English, dating from Elizabethan times, when penalties and tortures were savage. We were now humane. If capital punishment were abolished, the public would be much less critical how prisoners were questioned.

**Women Police.**—He had no experience. Thought it desirable, if easily possible, that a woman police officer should be present at taking of statements from a woman witness, suspect, or prisoner.

November 26th, **Mr. Freke Palmer**, Solicitor, 44 years at Great Marlborough Street before Mr. Mead, and at Seymour Place, and in Criminal Courts, chiefly in defence of prisoners, said most people thought they were absolutely bound to go to a Police Station when the Police "invite" them to. The Savidge case had opened their eyes.

**"Detention."**—"Had no legal authority," if no charge followed the person might bring an action for wrongful imprisonment.

**Statements.**—Since the war there had been a great change in the Police System of Voluntary Statements:—from the usual few casual remarks made by the prisoner after arrest while being escorted to the Police Station and entered in the Policeman's note-book, to the present very common long detailed "voluntary" statement of many foolscap pages. It was rapidly growing unchecked, and would soon be universal. It was common to "invite" suspected persons to the Police Station, examine and cross-examine them at length and finally decide to arrest them. Persons were often "talked into" making "voluntary" statements by undue familiarity or promises of help from the Police. This was contrary to regulations, but they were not always observed. The presence of an Inspector or Sergeant to caution and be present at the statement would be a protection to all, the uniformed branch watching the detective and seeing that no improper pressure or questions were asked.

Statements should be written down by the person or taken verbatim at his dictation, and be taken by trained persons. "Extracted" statements should be only in incomplete cases where lack of evidence. Prisoners always can make a statement later before the Court, and

it was much better to leave it till then, unless the prisoner insisted on making it.

**Unwilling Witnesses.**—He saw much objection to summoning before a Magistrate.

**The Judges' Rules** had not improved matters, it was better before, when the Police kept generally to the broad working rule that once a man was in custody they asked him no questions.

**Women Police.**—No experience. He found himself that girls often opened their hearts to him more freely than to women social and rescue workers. There was a great art in taking statements, especially from children and girls, and in answer to Miss Beavan he agreed that he was here comparing the highly-trained and skilled work of great experience with the work of very unequal opportunity.

In special cases involving character (Savidge case) statements should be taken by the witness' own solicitor or, if none, then by the Public Prosecutor.

**Morality.**—He would do away with rubber-soled plain-clothes Police looking for trouble with flash-lights in Hyde Park, and have only uniformed Police who were quite sufficient to attend to trouble when they saw it or were told of it.

**Complaints Against Police.**—He was amazed at the late Commissioner of Police's statement that attacks on the Police were "absolutely common in Criminal cases." Defending Council never attacked the Police except on the definite word of the prisoner, and often he did not make complaints he had had made to him which seemed true, because he thought it unwise to do so.

**Mr. J. A. Wilson, O.B.E.**, Chief Constable of Cardiff City Police for 8 years, with 32 years' police experience, a Yorkshireman, said he had no instruction book. He would adopt the expected Home Office standard book, his probationers were instructed by expert Police Officers.

**Judges' Rules.**—Necessary; he suggested a "super-caution" that he might refuse to answer, before putting a question to a suspect the answer to which was likely to incriminate him.

**Statements.**—Most persons incapable of making coherent statements without Police help.

**Clubs.**—Police should have same power as in licensed premises, 75% of his Clubs were bogus and would then close.

A well educated efficient Policeman might quickly become a detective. His crime was stationary though population increasing, undetected reported crimes were about 25%.

**Women Police.**—He had none. Police matrons were continuously on duty at the Central Police Station to look after women prisoners; they helped to take statements, sometimes took them themselves, from women and children. They were untrained. He did not consider women capable of dealing properly with sexual crime. He thought it fair to be opposed to Women Police judging from the experience of others, with none of his own. There were so many things a woman could not do, and so few that she could. No self-respecting policeman could work with a woman. It was revolting. He was determined not to have Women Police, but if his Watch Committee said so he would have to.

**Mr. T. Hollis Walker, K.C.**, Recorder of Derby for 10 years, with 36 years experience at the Bar, criminal and general, thought it much better not to question a prisoner at all. Statements had increased in number. Would have an interval for consideration of a statement before signing.

**Women Police.**—Very little experience of them.

**Morality.**—Police duty was very difficult. He suggested more light and earlier closing of some places.

**Lady Emmott**, President, National Council of Women, said the Council felt they could make a contribution as to the duties of Women Police in regard to



FRIDAY,  
NOV. 30,  
1928.

# THE VOTE

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## NOTICES.

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