

THE VOTE,
JULY 20, 1928.

THE ALL-MAN TRIBUNAL REPORTS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 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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XXVII.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

ALDERMAN MRS. B. M. DRAPPER, MAYOR OF DEPTFORD.

Alderman Mrs. Beatrice M. Drapper has the distinction of being the only woman mayor of London this year. Immediately after being made mayor she was called upon to attend the Lord Mayor's Banquet at the Guildhall—an honour which falls to Deptford only once in two years.

For the first six months of office Mrs. Drapper occupied the dual position of Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and Mayor. Her work has been rendered unusually heavy by the Thames floods. By her own exertions the Mayor has raised £4,500, mainly in the district. In all, 230 homes were affected. Mrs. Drapper has personally conducted the whole of the work connected with the distribution of the Flood Fund. In speaking of the work, she remarked she was surprised to discover the number of really good pianos there were in Deptford!

Mrs. Drapper leads a strenuous life, she not only attends at the Mayor's Parlour from nine-thirty every morning, fulfils the usual duties of her office, and appears at social functions, but interviews the many women of the borough who call on her at her home on Sundays for advice. Housing difficulties are among the problems which she is asked to solve. The insight into the home life of the people of Deptford, which is acquired in this way, is of great assistance in getting conditions remedied.

Mrs. Drapper describes her Council as a very workable one. Her husband, who has been a councillor 15 years, considers it an honour to sit under his wife. "The Deptford Borough Council" said Mrs. Drapper, "can hold its own with anybody." The Public Health Department is very much alive, as is also the Board of Engineers, Roads and Houses. A New Health Centre has been opened under

which come all the Health Centres of the Borough. She is the only woman member of the Baths' Committee.

Mrs. Drapper said that the experience of many years of public work alone make it possible for her to deal adequately with the many claims made upon her. She was a member of the Greenwich Board of Guardians for twenty-one years, during which period she was three times Chairman; she has had nine years experience as Councillor. She is Chairman of various Public Health Committees, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres; and has been a permanent Justice of the Peace for seven years. She takes a keen interest in Juvenile Courts and is hoping to get one established in Deptford.

Mrs. Drapper said it is a mystery to her how a man with other business to attend to during the day, can get through his mayoral duties. With her it is a full time job. Her Secretary is surprised at the amount of work she gets through, and agreeably so at the weight of responsibility she takes off his own shoulders. In confiding this to the Mayor, he summed up the position by saying, "I don't have to think for you." Mrs. Drapper prepares her own speeches. She considers that women

score over men in that when called upon to speak at a minute's notice, they show greater facility in rising to the occasion.

The untiring energy which Mrs. Drapper puts into her work, and the expeditious way in which she changes from regalia to evening dress—sometimes while travelling—to keep engagements diverse and often far apart, has won her the title of "The Hustler Mayor."



THE MAYOR OF DEPTFORD.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.**Another Woman Alderman.**

Dame Wilton Phipps has been elected an Alderman of the London County Council, caused by the resignation of Mr. G. H. Walmisley.

Woman's Success in Mathematics.

Miss C. M. Rigby has obtained a first class in the Final Honours School in Mathematics at Oxford University.

Woman's Success in Accountancy.

Miss Dorothy May Slaymaker has taken the six-place certificate in the intermediate examination of the Society of Incorporated Accountants.

Another Woman President for Rhyl.

Mrs. F. J. Gamlin has been appointed President of the Rhyl Branch of the Flintshire Conservative Association. Mrs. Gamlin succeeds the late Hon. Mary Hughes.

Women's Motor Racing Successes.

At the recent Surbiton Automobile Club's Meeting, a special four-lap race for women was won by Mrs. Scott, at a speed of 105.52 miles an hour. Two of the remaining five races were won by women. Mrs. Scott won the Surbiton Junior Short Handicap. Last month, Miss Maconochie won the first experimental race for women. For the first time women are to be allowed to participate in the Brooklands Automobile Racing Club's Meeting on August Bank Holiday.

V.A.D. Commandant Honoured.

Mrs. Clough Herring, Commandant of the 82nd (Belfast) V.A.D., has been awarded the first proficiency badge granted by the British Red Cross Society for the tuberculosis courses of nursing. The decoration was presented by the Lady Mayoress of Belfast.

French Women Tramway Conductors' Triumph.

We congratulate Mme. Blanche Schweig—a member of the French League for Women's Rights—on the success of the campaign she led against the threatened prohibition of "nightwork" to women. The right of French women tramway conductors to work on the shift which ends at 1 a.m. has now been established.

A New Woman President.

Mrs. John F. Sippel, of Maryland, was elected President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs by the Nineteenth Biennial Convention in San Antonio, in June. The office is one which requires much tact and capability.

Woman Judge for U.S.A. Customs Court.

The nomination of Miss Genevieve R. Chine to be a Judge of the United States Customs Court has been confirmed by the Senate.

SCHOOLING IN THE SUNSHINE.

Our Hastings Branch members are taking a special interest in the new open-air school, Clive Vale, which was formally opened last week by Lord Eustace Percy, the President of the Board of Education. This school was the gift of Miss Rance, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of our Hastings Branch, and Mrs. Strickland, another member, is taking a personal interest in it. The school has twenty-two little pupils, sickly children, who are already showing a healthier glow, due to the open-air life. The building, which is light, airy, and well ventilated, is fitted with skylight windows of vita-glass, which passes the ultra-violet rays so beneficial to health. Adjoining the building is a cemented playground, where open-air lessons are given in fine weather. A feature of the curriculum is a period of sleep for each child from 12.45 to 2 p.m. There are also special arrangements for providing meals for the children. Lord Eustace Percy, in thanking Miss Rance for her generosity, said that at the end of last year it was ascertained that in Hastings and St. Leonards about sixty-three delicate children needed treatment like this.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE AND THE SAVIDGE REPORT.

The Women's Freedom League was represented throughout the six days of the Inquiry conducted by the Tribunal into the action of the police in connection with their interrogation of Miss Savidge on May 15th last, and at a meeting of the Political Committee of the League, held at 144, High Holborn, this afternoon, presided over by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, the following statement was issued, and is being sent to the Home Secretary:—

The Women's Freedom League greatly regrets that women Members of Parliament were not appointed to this Tribunal, and strongly urges that, in the foreshadowed Commission to inquire into police methods, women equally with men shall be appointed to it. Our experience throughout the suffrage agitation, and our long years of study of police methods in police courts, have convinced us that our present police system needs to be brought into proper relations with modern conditions.

The Women's Freedom League makes the following recommendations:—

(1) There shall be two women Assistant Commissioners of Police, one of whom shall be the Deputy Commissioner.

(2) There shall be a great increase in the number of women police, who shall have equality of status and equal chances of promotion with the men police.

(3) Our present Solicitation Laws shall be swept away.

(4) In our police courts equal opportunities shall be given for the defence and the prosecution, and there shall be a representative of a Public Defender to assist both men and women to conduct their defence, whenever this is required.

Finally, we insist that never again shall there be a Commission appointed to inquire into a matter affecting the honour of a woman, or into a conflict of evidence between a woman and the authorities, which does not include women as well as men.

DEMONSTRATION AT QUEEN'S HALL.

Dear Fellow-Members,—On Wednesday, July 25th, a great Demonstration will take place in the Queen's Hall, in support of the "Kellogg" Peace Pact. This Demonstration has been organised by women. The speakers are women. I beg you to support it with your presence. We expect the publication of our Government's reply on Friday, July 20th, and we hope the Demonstration will celebrate a new victory for World Peace.—Your President,

EMMELINE PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

THE WOMAN'S A.A.A.**THREE NEW WORLD'S RECORDS.**

British women hold a larger proportion of world's records than do the men athletes of this country. On Saturday last, at Stamford Bridge, the Women's Amateur Athletic Association beat the world's record in three contests and equalled it in two others. Miss Marjorie Clark, of South Africa, won the 100 yards hurdles in the record time of 13 4/5 sec.; the London Olympiades A.C. beat the Middlesex Ladies' A.C., in the 660 yards relay championship, in 1 min. 17 1/5 sec.; and Miss Gunn, with a leap of 18 ft. 7 3/4 in. regained the world's long jump record. Miss Gunn, who also won the 100 yards championship, and finished third in the hurdles, was awarded Lord Hawke's Challenge Cup for the best performance of the day.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

Last Monday, Lady Rhondda was the guest of the Executive Committee of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, of which she is the President, at a lunch at the Lyceum Club. There were toasts to Equality of Women with Men, to Lady Rhondda, to Miss Froud (Chairman of the Committee), to Miss Beaumont, the present Secretary, and to Miss Daisy Solomon, the former Secretary of this Committee. A very pleasant hour and a delightful lunch were thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.**WOMEN'S PART IN INDIAN LIFE.**

On Wednesday afternoon, July 11th, there was a good crowd at the Minerva Club to hear Mrs. Jinarajadasa, who is on a brief visit to this country from India, speak on the part Indian women are taking in their national life.

From the chair, Miss Underwood said how pleased the Women's Freedom League was to welcome Mrs. Jinarajadasa, who, in pre-suffrage days, before going to India, took her full share in the struggle for woman's enfranchisement in this country. In India our speaker held the position of Vice-President of the Women's Indian Association, which worked actively in the interests of women and brought out a periodical, *Stri Dharma*, from which we frequently quoted extracts in our own paper, *THE VOTE*.

Mrs. Jinarajadasa said that she was glad to reach England in time to take part in the Breakfast celebrating the Equal Franchise Victory—that she was in at the re-birth of the woman's movement over here. She owed a great debt of gratitude to the campaigners in the old days, when she had learned how to organise and had received training in organisation, which was of great value to her work in India. Happily, Indian women had not had to resort to militant methods to secure equal franchise rights with men, although she had found orthodox Hindu ladies who were prepared to adopt militant methods if things had proved too difficult. The speaker said it was not a new thing for women to have power and influence in India. In their old civilisation Indian girls had received an equal liberal education with Indian boys, and, in addition, the girls had received special instruction in domestic duties. In the olden times women had taken a great part in the national life of India as educationists, as rulers, as counsellors, and as warriors. It was unfortunate that Indian women had lost so much of their old position, probably because of the domination of foreigners, but Mrs. Jinarajadasa went on to say that they were now regaining their heritage as potential workers and potential legislators.

Referring to Miss Mayo's book, "Mother India," Mrs. Jinarajadasa reminded her audience that "a lie that is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies." There was a measure of truth in many of the incidents mentioned in the book, but she emphatically denied that it represented Indian life—it was a wicked libel on it. It no more represented Indian life than the description she herself could give of the appalling conditions she came across in this country twelve or thirteen years ago of little girls in our hospitals, who had been criminally assaulted, and the poverty and despair of some of the slum-dwellers in our great cities, would represent life in this country. At the present time there was a great awakening of Indian women to their responsibilities. At the first great National Congress in India in 1914, only two women were present. Now they not only attended these Congresses in great numbers with the men, but they arranged and carried through most successfully All-India Women's Conferences. Lord Southborough had been amazed to find that Indian women were keen on women's

enfranchisement in that country; the women's opinion of him had been that he was an amiable but extremely old-fashioned gentleman, whose views were certainly not modern. The Indian Reform Act of 1919 did not give Indian women the right to vote, but it enabled Indian men to give their womenfolk this right, and they had done so in every Province but one. Indian men had also given women the right to sit as Members of the Legislative Councils. There were now seven women on these Councils, and the men had elected a woman Deputy-Speaker of the Madras Council. In Burmah women had the right to vote, but not to be elected as Members of the Council. In Ceylon women had not the right to vote, but they were working very hard to get it. Women on the Councils in India had done a great deal of good work. They had worked for better education in the country, and this was necessary where there was such a vast amount of illiteracy. They had worked hard, too, against the early consummation of child marriages, and had raised the age of consent for marriage for a girl in India to thirteen. Organised women throughout India were working specially for free compulsory education for boys and girls, and for the abolition of child marriage itself. In the olden days there was a school in every village; now only 2 per cent. of the girls and 6 per cent. of the boys in large tracts of the country could claim to have had any education; but there were many hopeful signs of improvement. Students in colleges had themselves started night-schools, and night after night conducted classes for the poorer people and for the outcasts.

Mrs. Jinarajadasa said there were now many women magistrates in India, and a great number of women were taking up the moral question with vigour.

In conclusion, the speaker gave a fascinating description of the proceedings of Women's Day, in which women from all parts of India shared. The resolutions passed at that Conference, drawn up and discussed entirely by Indian women, would compare favourably with those discussed at a Conference run by any British women's organisation, and those resolutions have been taken as the Charter for Indian women. At the morning session 2,000 women were present. At the afternoon session the walls of the building in which the conference was held had to be pulled down in order to accommodate 4,000 women, and in the evening another meeting place had to be obtained, and men and women to the number of 10,000 gathered together. Mrs. Jinarajadasa told us that women of various creeds—Hindu, Mohammedan, and Christian—met at this Women's Day Congress. A prayer was offered in accordance with the creed of each, and listened to with interest by all present. Then came the following Universal Prayer before the opening Presidential Address was given:—

O! Hidden Life, vibrant in every atom,
O! Hidden Light, shining in every creature,
O! Hidden Love, embracing all in oneness,
May each who feels herself as one in Thee
Know that she is also one with every other.

WOMEN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

Since the Society of Incorporated Accountants opened its doors to women in 1918, thirty-six women have qualified. In the recent examinations, while only just over fifty per cent. of the male entrants satisfied the examiner, seven out of the ten women who sat were successful.

The reason that more women do not enter this profession is not that women dislike figures—reports from schools prove girls to be equally as gifted as boys in mathematics—but that women feel they will not stand the same chance to secure good posts as men with the same qualifications.

WOMEN TEACHERS PENALISED FOR ECONOMY.

With the object of saving the salary of a head teacher, it is becoming a practise with Educational Authorities to merge infants' schools or departments with other schools or departments. Between 1924 and 1927, 51 infants' schools were closed and 286 infants' departments merged into other departments. In each case a head mistress was either dismissed or "degraded." But the evil does not rest there. In many areas senior mixed and junior mixed departments are being created, usually with a man as head.

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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 is enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

THE SAVIDGE REPORT.

Last Friday, the Report of the Tribunal appointed to inquire into the interrogation of Miss Savidge was published. The members of this Tribunal were the Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon Bankes, G.C.B. (presiding), Mr. John Withers, C.B.E., M.P., and Mr. H. B. Lees-Smith, M.P. The Inquiry, which was held at the Law Courts, extended over six days. Both Miss Savidge and the police were represented by counsel, and evidence was heard from witnesses called on behalf of Miss Savidge and from witnesses called on behalf of the police, and also from such further witnesses as the Tribunal itself desired to hear. The members of the Tribunal found it impossible to issue an agreed Report, so we have two Reports—one signed by Sir John Eldon Bankes and Mr. Withers, M.P., and the other signed by Mr. Lees-Smith, M.P. It seems absurd to call one the Majority and the other the Minority Report, since there were only three men on the Tribunal, one of whom was the Chairman; but the Tribunal itself was ridiculously small. It ought to have included two women Members of Parliament in addition to the men on it, and because it had no woman on it we said at the time that women were not likely to have any confidence in its findings. Once again we have proved to be right. The two Reports fundamentally disagree with each other in regard to the comparative credibility of the police and Miss Savidge. Sir John Eldon Bankes, a judge of the High Court, and Mr. Withers, a lawyer, accept the statements of the police when they are in conflict with those of Miss Savidge, acquit the Chief Inspector of any improper conduct during the taking of her statement, and are satisfied that the interrogation by him followed the lines indicated to him by the Director of Public Prosecutions and was not unduly extended. Mr. Lees-Smith, on the other hand, gives the preference to Miss Savidge's credibility, concludes that she was asked a number of questions that ought not to have been asked, and that certain of her replies were moulded into a form that misrepresented what she intended to express. For this the responsibility rests with the Chief Inspector. While the Majority Report refrains from any censure of the police, it has something to say about the present police system, as the following extracts from it will show:—

(1) We do not approve of the practice of treating as willing to make a voluntary statement a person who, although apparently willing, the police know to be unaware of the nature of the statement required, or of the possible consequences to himself or herself of making it; . . . the witness should be clearly informed, before the statement is taken, of the nature of the statement required and of the possible consequences involved to him or her in agreeing to it.

(2) We are of opinion that, where it is open to the police to see a person from whom a statement is desired, either at his home or at his place of employment, the police should, in the absence of special reasons to the contrary, call at that person's home and not at his place of employment, and that only in cases of necessity should the person concerned be taken to a

police-station or to Scotland Yard for the purpose of making the statement.

(3) We suggest that it should be the practice in cases in which a statement to be taken from a woman by the police involves matters intimately affecting her morals, that a woman should always be present unless the woman being examined expressly requests that no woman should be present.

Our view is that such elementary principles of common sense and justice ought never to have needed re-stating in this country, and that it was considered necessary to state them clearly shows us to what glaring abuses our present prison system may lead.

We find ourselves in greater sympathy with the chief findings of Mr. Lees-Smith, which are summarised as follows:—

(1) Miss Savidge's presence at Scotland Yard was secured by confronting her without notice by the police officers accompanied by a car; she was compelled to decide forthwith whether she would go or not; she was given no opportunity of asking the advice of her parents; and was misled as to the nature of the inquiry she would undergo. These proceedings are deserving of censure, falling chiefly on Chief Inspector Collins, and to a smaller extent on Chief Constable Wensley and Superintendent Savage, who were consulted as to the arrangements.

(2) Miss Wyles should have stayed in the room at Scotland Yard during the interview as a matter of course. Her presence in the car had been used as a reason for inducing Miss Savidge to come to Scotland Yard.

(3) There is a clear contradiction between the two versions of what took place inside the room at Scotland Yard between the hours of 3 o'clock and 7 o'clock. Little corroboration can be obtained to the story told by either side. Mr. Lees-Smith's conclusion is that Miss Savidge is the more credible witness, that the evidence of Mr. Saxe, the Welfare Officer at the factory at which Miss Savidge was employed, and Miss Egan, her friend, the two witnesses who were detached from the main events, corroborates Miss Savidge rather than the police officers.

(4) What happened to Miss Savidge can easily happen to any man or woman in her position. Great perils to private citizens and to civil liberty have been revealed by her experience.

In his Report, Mr. Lees-Smith suggests fifteen questions concerning the system of Scotland Yard, and truly says that the full reply to them will need an investigation into still wider fields of police administration and control. We have further proof of the crying need for reform in Sir William Horwood's own admission that he had spent the past months in planning alterations of methods for the police.

This matter of our police system is one of grave concern to every citizen—man and woman. In this country, in normal times, we have always challenged with the fiercest resentment any encroachment on the liberty of the subject. During the War, Scotland Yard was charged with the interrogation of spies and aliens, and the liberties of all of us were then considered as of little account, but the War ceased in 1918, and after ten years of Peace we do not expect war-time methods to prevail at Scotland Yard. The function of the police is to maintain law and order among free citizens, and not to use Third Degree methods in order to secure convictions. Our whole prison system needs thorough investigation and complete reorganisation, and women are as much concerned as men in seeing that this is done. We look forward to a representative Inquiry into this system, but we insist that its personnel shall consist equally of women and men. We now have women Members of Parliament, women barristers and solicitors, women magistrates, and capable women in every branch of our public life, who are eminently suitable to sit with men on any Committee of Inquiry, and we say emphatically that women will not tolerate any further Tribunals of Inquiry into matters of first-class public importance from which women are excluded.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Street Offences (Names, Publication).

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Home Secretary whether he will consider the introduction of legislation giving magistrates of Summary Courts of Justice the power to enforce the withholding from publication of the names of any accused persons who have been charged with either indecency or street offences, and who have been discharged through insufficient evidence or police mistakes generally; and will he consider in any future legislation the same protection to witnesses who may be called to give corroborative evidence in such charges? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I see no reason to differentiate the practice in regard to street offences from other and more serious ones of which persons may be acquitted.

Women Inspectors (Ministry of Health).

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., Middlesbrough, E.) asked the Minister of Health what are the duties allocated to each of the following grades: Women inspectors, insurance; women assistant inspectors, insurance; women inspectors of general work other than insurance; the chief woman inspector and the deputy woman inspector, insurance, respectively; and women inspectors under the Board of Control? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The duties assigned to the various grades are as follows:—

1.—*Insurance. Chief woman inspector, Deputy-chief woman inspector:* General supervision at headquarters of the work of the women inspectors.

Women inspectors: General charge in their districts of investigation and inquiry work in connection with the administration of the National Health Insurance Acts and the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, and with the payment of contributions under the Unemployment Insurance Acts.

Assistant Inspectors: Investigation and inquiry work in connection with the Health Insurance, Pensions, and Unemployment Insurance Acts under the general direction of the inspector.

2.—*Other than Insurance. Women Inspectors:* To assist the general inspectors and medical officers in the inspection of infirmaries, sick wards, and nurseries in Poor Law institutions, schools and homes for children, and the arrangements for boarding-out children by Boards of Guardians; and of the work of local authorities and voluntary agencies under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act.

Inspector in connection with the welfare of the blind. The inspection of all branches of work carried out on behalf of the blind.

3.—*Board of Control. Inspectors (Women):* The visitation and inspection of institutions and homes for mental defectives and of the defectives therein, on licence therefrom, or under guardianship or supervision elsewhere.

WOMEN M.Ps. AND WOMEN POLICE.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, in a speech in the House of Commons supporting the appointment of Lord Byng as Commissioner of Police, said: "I do not believe a company of arch-angels could administer some of our laws justly, because the laws are not just. We want to make things better. Sir Nevil Macready said 1,200 women in the Metropolitan area were arrested on the word of the police as prostitutes. You cannot arrest persons for being prostitutes. They are arrested under a faked charge of annoyance and condemned, and they have to go through life as prostitutes. There is no other profession open to a woman who is once branded as a prostitute. Those women were arrested on a faked charge. Sir Nevil Macready knew that, and he said that, if he had his way, he would not let a policeman arrest a woman in that sense. . . . There were two Committees that said things were wrong and ought to be changed, but, instead of attempting to change

Hyde Park Prosecutions.

MR. HAYES (Lab., Edge Hill) asked the Home Secretary the nature of the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the matter of Constables Maclean and Badger, who arrested Sir Leo Money and Miss Savidge in Hyde Park; and whether, in the event of proceedings for alleged perjury not being recommended, he will say what form of inquiry he proposes to institute on disciplinary grounds? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Yes, Sir. The Director of Public Prosecutions has advised, and I agree, that proceedings for perjury would not be justified. In view of this decision, no question of a disciplinary inquiry arises. I have informed the Commissioner that, in my opinion, the action of these officers in the case in question should not be regarded as reflecting to their discredit in any way.

MR. HAYES: Will the right hon. Gentleman take the very earliest opportunity of communicating such decision to the officers in question? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: It is the duty of the Commissioner. I have communicated with the Commissioner, and I have no doubt he will take all proper steps.

Discussion on the Reports of the Savidge Case.

In reply to a question by MR. CLYNES (Lab., Plating) in regard to the Business of the House, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (COMMANDER EYRES MONSELL) said that to-day (Friday) the Report of the Tribunal of Inquiry, set up to consider the Savidge case, will be taken on the Police Vote.

Lady Deputy Lunacy Commissioner, Scotland.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what are the duties allocated to the lady Assistant Commissioner employed under the General Board of Control for Scotland? SIR JOHN GILMOUR: The normal duties of the lady Deputy-Commissioner consist of visiting lunatics and mental defectives under guardianship in private dwellings throughout Scotland. Occasionally she inspects lunatic wards of poorhouses. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Does the right hon. Gentleman think that these are all the things she ought to do? Does he not think that her powers ought to be greater in regard to looking into more matters? SIR JOHN GILMOUR: I think, broadly speaking, that she is employed on those duties for which she is most suitable.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., Middlesbrough, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the Assistant Commissioner has any power over the food supply, whether she inspects the kitchen and the sanitary accommodation, and whether she has the right to make reports as to defects in the food supply? SIR J. GILMOUR: I have no doubt that she would make reports on anything that came to her notice. I have no reason to doubt that she does not do so.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: How is it possible for her to make reports on things in regard to which she is not allowed to have any control? (No reply was given.)

them, Sir William Horwood has done everything he could to get rid of the few women who were there. . . . Sixty years ago, Josephine Butler said you could not have a law which was unfair to even the lowest and most despised of the community without reflecting on the whole community. That is exactly what has happened. . . . We have only 159 women police in the country. Now that we have got this changed outlook in the last ten years, this uneasy feeling has been growing. . . . I congratulate the Home Secretary and the country on having secured a man like Lord Byng."

MISS WILKINSON, opposing the appointment of Lord Byng, said: "Women have very little for which to thank the military mind. We believe that at this moment the whole question of women police needs to be considered in a very different way from that in which it was considered by Sir William Horwood.

FRIDAY,
JULY 20,
1928.

THE VOTE

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

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