

Freedom of borough for Ald. Gibson

Ald. C. H. Gibson, who has served on Croydon Council longer than any other member, is to be the borough's 21st honorary freeman.

The council agreed on Monday to confer this honour on Ald. Gibson in recognition of his 30 years' service to Croydon as councillor and alderman and, for one year, as Mayor.



Ald. Gibson

Forty - four years ago Ald. Gibson came to Croydon and for many years he has been among its leading figures in business and social life as well as in municipal affairs.

Educated at Kingswood School, Bath, he was articled to a firm of contractors and then came to Croydon to join a small

firm of builders.

He founded the firm of C. H. Gibson Ltd. (Contractors) in 1913. This firm moved to its present London Road premises in 1928 and now employs about 300 men.

For 29 years Ald. Gibson has been a director of Stewart Klitz and Company, the estate agents.

He was Mayor of Croydon in 1949 and during that year, as a representative member of the Crystal Palace Trustees, he took the leading part in getting a running track and football pitches provided in the derelict grounds. That was before the grounds were acquired by the London County Council.

INDEPENDENT OUTLOOK

A man with a fearlessly independent mind, Ald. Gibson is never afraid to take the unpopular view on any question.

Soon after he was first elected to the council he became known as "chief tram scrapper" because he felt that the trams, which were then owned by the corporation, had outlived their usefulness.

He has done some of his most valuable work on the council as chairman of the Planning and Development Committee.

He is a governor of the Whitgift Foundation, a member of Croydon Rotary Club and a member of Croham Hurst Golf Club.

Ald. Gibson, who holds the rank of lieutenant-colonel, served overseas in both wars. He was in France in 1940 and scrambled back from St. Malo in June with the last of four officers and 91 men of the original company.

Last year Ald. Gibson was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey.