

January 1, 1923.

My dear Madam President:-

A very happy New Year to you, and to your Club! May it flourish like a green Bay tree and, as the sands of the sea, may its members multiply!

This is the wish that goes out from the National Committee today to every Women's Democratic club in the country. There are nearly a thousand of us now, you know, and the birth certificates continue to pour in on us so fast that there is simply no telling what the size of our family will be by the time another New Year rolls around.

I am writing a letter to you this week, instead of sending you a Fortnightly Bulletin, because there are some things I want to say to you that I cannot say very well in the Bulletin. It would be much nicer, of course, if you were getting this letter from Mrs. Blair instead of from me: because Mrs. Blair is the real Mother of the Clubs, while I am just sort of a step-mother, you see. Unfortunately, Mrs. Blair is too far away to write. But step-mothers are not always so bad, after all. One thing is this: A step-mother can scold much more fiercely than a real mother can, and it is a bit of scolding, even more than a New Year's greeting, that I want to hand out to you today.

You are all very nice Clubs, of course, and we here at Headquarters are mighty proud of you. But, all the same, it does seem to me that you might, with profit, cultivate the habit of "minding your mammas" a little better than you have been doing recently. I spend many hours of my time, and use up reams and reams of paper writing out Suggestions for you in the Bulletin which many of you take great pains not to follow. I call that rather inconsiderate, don't you? For instance, I have been telling you for some weeks past about the big Button Drive for new club members that we wanted to put on in all the states during the week of January 14th to 21st, and have explained to you how necessary it is to have the Clubs send in to us a full list of their members in order that we might form some idea of how many buttons and bulletins to send out to them. I am ashamed to tell you how few Club Presidents have taken the trouble to comply with this request. Consequently we have been compelled to postpone the Drive until a later period. This is rather hard on the few Clubs that have been nice and prompt about sending to us their membership lists and their 35 cents per member quota, counted upon by us to help pay the cost of the buttons and of supplying individual club members with a yearly subscription to the Bulletin. We are awfully sorry to disappoint these clubs. But all of you can easily see how impossible it is to conduct such a Drive from Headquarters unless the clubs will cooperate heartily with us and take as much interest as we do in making the undertaking a success. It is a very expensive thing to send out separate letters to all the clubs, and the National Committee, unfortunately, has to count its dollars and cents. Therefore, we have asked that suggestions and requests appearing in the Bulletin be regarded by the Club Presidents as personal letters to them, and that they comply as promptly as possible with such requests.

Perhaps the intervention of the holiday season has had something to do with the slow response the clubs have recently made to our appeals. But the holidays are over now, and there seems to be no good reason why we can not now get down to work in earnest.

The question is: Do the clubs want to have this Button Drive? Do they want to increase their membership and to build themselves up into big and prosperous organizations, equipped with the sinews of war, and ready to do battle for the cause of Democracy in the big campaign fight staged for 1924? If they do, then, one and all, they must get busy. We can not designate January 14th to 21st as "Button Week" as we had planned to do. But we can name a new date as soon thereafter as possible, - say during the birthday week of George Washington in February.