

Kensington, Md.
April 30th, 1918.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Miss Ida M. Tarkenton,
132 East 19th street,
New York.

My dear Miss Tarkenton:

It was my pleasure, and also that of some of the members of my committee to hear you in Baltimore on Thursday last. You said so exactly the things we have been trying to get before our women, we wondered if it would be presuming too much to ask you to speak to the conservation committee of our County Federation. So yesterday Mrs. Truitt of Garrett Park and I went in to Washington to see if we might find you. We found Miss Braddock who was most courteous, and, as she had come from Montgomery County, knew exactly the conditions under which we are working. She said that while she could not promise us anything, she knew that you enjoyed speaking to bodies of women who were interested, and, as we were so near Washington, she thought you might consider it, and asked me to write you. And so here I am, coming in fear and trembling, hoping that you may consider us as needing you so very much, you will want to come. The situation is this: The upper end of the county is made up of conservative, wealthy farmers, whose ancestors occupied these same estates before the war, and the communities bordering on the District of Columbia, made up of government people. The upper county people are sufficient unto themselves, feeling no responsibility

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as to their duty to their poorer neighbors - both white and black. They have a plenty, cannot see why they should teach these dependents on them; and for some reason, think we wish them to make equals of their servants, instead of merely showing them how to con-
serve and serve their country most loyally. It is a most delicate situation for a chairman, whose husband happens to be one of those Gov't people, and who, for the purpose of influencing them, lives in the wrong end of the country. Please do not misunderstand them, your experience with human nature is too wide for that. They are dear women, slow of conviction, but when once convinced, will work unstintingly, and so, while I have been able to enlist some, they need someone big to inspire them at this crucial moment, ~~hence~~ I have come to you.

We are fifteen miles out of Washington, would send in for you and take you back. Miss Braddock told me you would return about the eleventh, and had engagements for the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth. If you would prefer speaking before our whole Federation, rather than the Conservation Committee, its annual meeting is to be held on the seventeenth of May; but if the smaller body appeals to you, we would make our meeting on any day to suit your convenience either before the fourteenth or after the seventeenth. If it is a pleasant day on the seventeenth, I can promise you a larger audience at our small county Federation, than you had for the State Federation in Baltimore. Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am, most cordially

Bettie Ronch B. Waters.

From Mrs Willard O. Waters, Kensington, Md.
to Miss Ida M. Sachel. New York, N. Y.