

INAUGURATING BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK

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Baltimore

THE coming week has been chosen to celebrate "One Hundred Years of Women's Progress." The program arranged has been sponsored by 1600 women's clubs, with a membership of seventy odd thousand, distributed through all parts of the Nation. The active direction of this celebration week is in the hands of representative Women's clubs of the Country.

During the week in practically every one of our States, hundreds, and perhaps thousands of women, who have achieved leadership and responsible position, will participate in the program in various ways. By such united action, it is proposed to give emphasis to the progress and achievements of women during the years in American business, professional, and civic life. It is meet and proper that such a program should have been arranged. The voice of any movement, in the last analysis, is found to be the voice of the leaders of that movement. Recognition and appreciation, through which comes encouragement, is almost always the result of persistent and emphatic action on the part of those who have active leadership in the interest of a given cause.

The progress made by women, while cause for pride on their part, really rebounds to the benefit of the whole of society. While the plans outlined for this week of celebration by these women's clubs finds justification to them in the fact that these achievements have been made by women, the celebration thus arranged deserves the commendation of us all.

The past one hundred years have been marked by intense progress in almost all phases of life, both National and International. As a fact, it may be ventured to say that in almost all lines the progress of the world during that period exceeded all that had been done in the previous one thousand years. Great fundamental change, and rapid progress in ways having world-wide effect, have been pronouncedly characteristic of the period of which we speak.

Not the least among those changes during that time has been the change notably amongst Western nations in the status and position of women. In America particularly, that change may be said to have been remarkable, and the progress of women to have been outstanding in its importance and effect. Our whole point of view has been re-arranged with the progress made by the women.

This great change, affecting as it has the whole of our society and polity, was not easily brought about. The truth is that the change and progress referred to was the result of courageous effort by a very small number of far-sighted women. The road to that progress was not smooth—more often it was rough, full of stoppage and obstruction. The attainment thus achieved for women, and for the whole of society, was the result of real struggle—while many times their efforts seemed doomed to fail. It is the long view, however, that counts. Attempts which never succeeded—efforts which met with setback, amounting frequently to apparent flat failure, can be overlooked and forgotten when the survey shows that, as a whole, such great and substantial progress has been finally achieved. The names of these early leaders in the cause of women's emancipation are deservedly the names of great pioneers,