

THE VOTE,  
JAN. 4, 1929.

TO EACH READER A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.  
NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXX. No. 1,002. (Registered at the G.P.O.) ONE PENNY. FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1929

**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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## NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

FROM OUR FIRST-PRESIDENT—

Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

At the dawn of the New Year, from across the Channel that separates our stormy little island from yours, I give you greeting.

In many a big fight we have stood together: some of our most gallant comrades have passed to where "beyond these waters there is Peace." Hope, despondency, courage, determination have been our companions; and, last year, we gained our first object.

As was right and fitting we rejoiced. Now, looking forward to the future, the question is: What next? At home and abroad, the outlook is dark. Problems of the most tremendous importance—Peace or War? Freedom or Slavery? The Kingdom of light or the Kingdom of darkness?—confront us.

Woman—the mother of the race—the patient burden-bearer, the lover of all the little children in the world, is the chief sufferer from the evil conditions brought about by war and economic slavery.

We, therefore, who bear the proud title of "The Women's Freedom League," must not rest upon our first Victory. We must use the political power we possess, as we used militancy when it was necessary, to win a larger freedom for all—and especially for those who are now in the heaviest bonds of slavery—women workers of all degrees, from the mother in her home, eking out her poor income by taking in sweated work, to the factory girls and mill-hands in their hard and monotonous lives. They were with us in our battle for political emancipation; let us be with them in their battle for economic freedom.

This is the message of your old comrade-at-arms for the opening year.

To you all I send my love. For you, for myself, for my dear friends of the old brigade, for those who have joined or who will join our ranks, for our League, for women everywhere, I wish that wisdom, devotion, strength and courage may be given, so that we may go forward rejoicingly, with a full certainty of final victory to the fine issues that await our race.

*From your comrade, friend and fellow-  
worker*

*C. D. W. H. A. R. E.*

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**Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence** (President).

I wish a Happy New Year to the Women's Freedom League, and to all my fellow citizens who this year enter into possession of the kingdom of full democratic freedom. There are many battles for freedom both for ourselves and for others. Let us never rest until every child born into this world is the acknowledged heir to full freedom of mind, body and estate.

**The Countess of Iveagh, M.P.**

The year 1928 is one of memorable importance as marking the last step in the enfranchisement of women. The year which now opens will be the first in which the whole womanhood of the country will exercise their political power, and will have the opportunity to justify the confidence which the country has placed in them.

**Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P.**

The year 1929 will make history, whether for better or worse will depend to a large extent on the degree to which women become socially conscious and make their contribution to the commonweal.

I am full of hope that at the next General Election we shall have evidence that women voters are prepared to shoulder their responsibilities.

**The Viscountess Rhondda, J.P.**

I wish every good fortune to THE VOTE in the New Year. We of the feminist movement owe to it loyalty for the fine work it has done for many years towards securing equal franchise; but there is a sense in which its value is even greater now that that one big issue is settled and put behind us, for we need clear and unhesitating feminist leadership so that we may not be side-tracked from our task of doing away with all inequalities between men and women. That surely is the first task of this generation. We should be able to feel that when we go we shall leave a world in which there is equal opportunity for all human beings.

**Mrs. Margaret Wintringham.**

During the early years of the struggle for the vote, that, and that alone, was perhaps, to most people's minds, the ultimate aim and object of the woman's movement. But all through the struggle it has been realised by those of wider vision that the vote, vitally important as it is, is not itself the goal, but a step forward along the road leading to complete equality between men and women—equality not only political but economic; equality of opportunity in the professions, in the Civil Service; in a word, in all spheres of public and professional life. It is to this end that we are working, and to this end that we must use the instrument which the extension of the franchise places in our hands. We are seeking equality, not for its own sake merely; but rather because we know that only on that basis can women make their fair and just contribution to the cause of civilisation.

**Miss M. I. Neal** (National Executive Committee).

While wishing you all a Very Happy New Year, I want to remind you that the full enfranchisement of women granted this year is due to the efforts of those who never stopped working. It is a great step forward but much is still to be won. Our economic freedom depends upon our winning Equal Pay for Equal Work. Let that be our object during 1929, and let us put into our campaign for it all the energy and all the enthusiasm which characterised our work for the vote. Only so shall we achieve our end. Remember "the price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance." Women must not "let the sword rest in their hand" until the goal of Equality is reached.

**Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.** (National Executive Committee).

We have had a very wonderful time in the "Women's Movement," with our hopes and fears and dangers and rejoicings. Our gains have been many, but "eternal vigilance" is required to realise, maintain and increase them. We cannot spare the Women's Freedom League and "THE VOTE." May they continue to flourish and

bring us to that time when we shall have not only equal voting rights, but equal numbers of women and men on our governing bodies, local and national.

**Miss C. Neal** (National Executive Committee).

In the year 1929 there will be a General Election at which, for the first time, every woman over twenty-one years of age will be able to record her vote. In order to use her vote properly, every feminist will take care that she helps to return to Parliament only those candidates who are definitely pledged to the carrying-out of her feminist principles. In most constituencies, candidates for the three political parties have been adopted. No time should be lost in writing to the candidates, asking their attitude towards those questions in which we as feminists are so deeply interested. Party feeling should not be allowed to influence the vote of any woman; party feeling allows one to fall into ruts; a motto for 1929 might well be—"Don't fall into any new ruts, but get out of those you have already fallen into."

**Miss Eunice Murray** (National Executive Committee).

We who have the Woman's Cause at heart have reason for rejoicing in the progress made in 1928. My wish for 1929 is that we use the vote now won, to secure equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to work for the causes we believe in. Peace throughout the world—the strengthening of the League of Nations, the restoration of industrial prosperity, and the opportunity for all sections of the community to participate in this. There is infinite work to be done, and I confidently believe that the influence of women in our national and political life will do much to help in the upward trend of social conditions. So let us shoulder our responsibilities, happy in the knowledge of citizenship, and confident in our power to give men the help they so sorely need, in bringing about a new era.

**Mrs. E. Drummond** (National Executive Committee).

Allow me through THE VOTE to wish all our members a happy and prosperous New Year, and may we in this our first year of equal franchise have a grand White beginning to our year, a Green spring, and a fine Golden and bountiful harvest.

**Mrs. Zangwill** (National Executive Committee).

This year women have fully acquired a great opportunity. May the New Year and all the successive new years prove us worthy of it. May peace on earth, goodwill to men change from an empty formula into a potent reality. And may humanity remember that in order to promote peace, we must prepare for peace, and that Satan rather than God is on the side of the big battalions.

**Baillie Mrs. Bell** (National Executive Committee).

I know that in the New Year THE VOTE will encourage all women to be up and doing, and to work with unceasing vigilance for the good of their sister women.

I am looking forward to seeing the twenty-ones turning the scale in favour of Women Representatives on all Public bodies.

If our young women of to-day will carry into the more serious and vital problems of life the same enthusiastic spirit as into all their sport and amusements, then all will be well.

It will give the young women of 21 a stake in their country that they never had before, when they have a voice in putting into power those who have the making of laws and regulations for the benefit of women.

I would like them to remember that the best thanks that they can give to the women who dared so much and carried on so valiantly in the face of such opposition for equal rights for women is that at all times they exercise their right and use their VOTE.

**Miss Anna Munro.**

"There is no monotony or weariness . . . we go on, For ever exploring and adventuring. Each day opens a new continent of vivid experience. Each day shows a new world to conquer."

**Miss E. Rodgers.**

Best wishes to the League and its staunch little satellite—no, its luminary, THE VOTE. And yet, perhaps, "satellite" is right, for I see the dictionary definition is, "one of the smaller members of the solar system, attending on the larger planets, by which their motions are controlled."

We are going to have plenty of votes in 1929, and we cannot have too many of the right, bright, kind. It is, indeed, going to be a new year for the women and the causes for which they stand.

May we all make a right use of our fuller opportunities, and go forward with courage to increase the light in the still dark places of the world.

**Miss Marian Reeves.**

We greet the New Year with a cheer! I believe that 1929, the first year in which women will vote as full citizens, will begin a new era of well-being, not only for women, but for the whole country.

All good wishes to members of The Women's Freedom League and readers of THE VOTE.

#### IN PARLIAMENT.

The following questions and answers are taken from the Parliamentary Debates, Thursday, December 20th:—**Juvenile Offenders (Pontefract).**

**MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE** (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention has been drawn to the action of the Justices of Pontefract Petty Sessions on 26th November in ordering each of a number of schoolboys found guilty of theft to be placed on probation for two years and to receive six strokes with the birch rod; and whether he proposes any amendment of the law to prohibit concurrent infliction of whipping with probation, even for separate offences? **SIR V. HENDERSON** (Under-Secretary, Home Office): My right hon. Friend has received a report from the Pontefract Justices, from which it appears that the boys were not placed on probation but were ordered to be whipped and bound over for two years to be of good behaviour under the Summary Jurisdiction Act. The question raised in the last paragraph, therefore, does not arise.

**Education (Women Teachers).**

**SIR ROBERT THOMAS** (Lib., Anglesey) asked the President of the Board of Education if he can give, for England and for Wales separately, the total number of women teachers, the number of married women teachers; and the increase or decrease, during the last five years, in the proportion of married to single? **LORD EUSTACE PERCY**: I am afraid that I am unable to give the information which the hon. Member desires in the form in which he asks for it; but the following is a statement showing the total number of women teachers and the number of married women teachers employed, in the years 1921 and 1927, in Public Elementary Schools and in Special Schools in England and Wales.

Public Elementary and Special Schools—Women Teachers.

Date	Single (including widows)	Married (excluding widows)	Total
31st March, 1921	98,646	18,676	117,322
31st March, 1927	104,144	14,430	118,574

The proportion of married women teachers to single women teachers decreased, therefore, from 18.9 per cent. in 1921 to 13.9 per cent. in 1927.

**Voluntary Homes (Children).**

**CAPTAIN MACMILLAN** (U., Stockton-on-Tees) asked the Home Secretary whether he has any information as to the number of boys over 16, girls over 16, boys between 14 and 16, and girls between 14 and 16,

respectively, who are being detained in voluntary homes under a condition of residence imposed by the Courts under Section 8 of the Criminal Justice Administration Act, 1914; whether his attention has been directed to the dangers, pointed out on page 55 of the Juvenile Offenders Committee Report, of such detention in homes that are not under any Government inspection; whether any and what steps have been taken to carry out the provisions of Section 25 (1) of the Children Act, 1908, as to the visiting and inspection of such homes; and whether any persons have been appointed under that Section to carry out its provisions? **SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS**: The number of boys between 16 and 21, girls between 16 and 21, boys between 14 and 16, and girls between 14 and 16, respectively, who were ordered to be detained during 1927 in voluntary homes under a condition of a Probation Order were 113, 142, 61, and 34. I have read the Report of the Juvenile Offenders Committee and also the Final Report of the Child Adoption Committee; and proposals to amend Section 25 of the Children Act, 1908, relating to voluntary homes, as recommended in the last-named Report, will be included in the Bill to amend the Children Act which I hope to introduce as soon as possible. Inspections of voluntary homes are constantly being carried out by Inspectors of the Children's Branch of the Home Office in accordance with the provisions of Section 25 (1). When this Section first came into operation, nine appointments were made in favour of persons recommended by societies established for the prevention of cruelty to children, but five of these appointments have been surrendered or recalled, and it is believed that the other appointments are no longer acted on, as the work of inspection has been taken over by the Inspectors of the Children's Branch of the Home Office.

#### WOMEN STUDENTS' LOST VOTES.

According to the *Liverpool Post and Mercury*, a singular position has arisen with regard to the votes of women students at Bangor. They have shown keenness to be on the Register for the first time, and about 700 of them have sent in the necessary claims.

To qualify, however, they must have been in residence in Bangor for three months from September 1st, but the majority of them arrived in the city in October, after the summer vacation. This disqualifies them from voting. Unfortunately, also, it debars them in their home districts, as they are in Bangor during part of the qualifying period.

A large number of men students and maids serving in different colleges are also affected.

#### WOMAN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Miss Mabel Walker Willebrandt is acting as the Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, and is engaged almost exclusively in proceedings in connection with the violation of the Prohibition Law.

#### WIT AND WISDOM.

"Women candidates, being conscientious, enthusiastic, and still new at the game, have not yet acquired the platitude habit; they have a disadvantageous tendency to think for themselves and to expect their audiences to do the same."—*Vera Brittain.*

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## THE VOTE.

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 FRIDAY, JANUARY 4th, 1929.

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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Holborn 9301, London."

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

### A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

To all our readers, to all members of women's organisations in this country, and in all other countries, who are working for the freedom of women, we send cordial Greetings and our heartiest good wishes for the year we have now entered. In this country women have now won equal voting rights with men, and they have the opportunity of winning full equality with men in every branch of our national life. Will the achievements of women in 1929 equal those in previous years? We have faith enough to believe that women in 1929 will excel all their former records. They will soon have the chance of exercising their new power at the polls, and we believe they will use it to secure further freedom for women. We hope that we shall see many more women candidates put forward by each of the three political parties at the coming General Election, and that we shall see many more women Members in the next Parliament. It is cheering news that one of the successful women candidates at the recent examination for the Administrative Grade of the Civil Service, Miss Nancy Procter-Gregg, has been appointed to the Ministry of Transport, where she is to help to deal with traffic problems. Since the Administrative Grade of the Civil Service was first thrown open to women, in 1925, six have succeeded in obtaining places on level terms with men, but this is the first time a woman has been appointed to the Ministry of Transport. The previous appointment of a woman was to the Public Record Office. We look forward, however, to seeing many more than six women on level terms with men in the higher grades of our Home Civil Service, and to the throwing open to women on equal terms with men of all posts in the Diplomatic Service, in the Consular Service, in the Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates, in the Civil Service of His Majesty in India, and in the Commercial Diplomatic Service and the Trade Commissioner Services—every one of which is now reserved to men under the Regulations made by the Civil Service Commissioners, with the approval of the Lords' Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury under the Order in Council of the 22nd July, 1920! We hope that this year women will insist that all these posts shall be thrown open to the equal competition of women and men. In the meantime we point out that there is at present no woman Civil Service Commissioner, no woman among the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury and no woman Member of the Privy Council. This, too, in a country in which the majority of women are citizens, must be altered.

Not only in Great Britain but in every country, organised women are working for full equality with men in every direction, and when the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) holds its Congress in Berlin next June, there will be many victories to recount on the part of women.

To all the women who have won any measure of freedom and to all who are determined to win full equality with men in national and international life, again we say, a Very Happy and Successful New Year!

### WOMEN WORKERS AND THEIR PROBLEMS.

\* "The Woman Worker and Restrictive Legislation," written by Mrs. J. Blainey, should be read by every worker in the woman's movement, and by every woman who is taking her part as a worker in the professional or industrial world. It is true that the writer deals only with restrictions upon the work of women in industry, but the implications in her book affect the status of every woman worker. The subject dealt with is of increasing importance to every woman, and we cannot praise too highly the clearness with which Mrs. Blainey has dealt with it. Her introductory chapter on the recent history of women in industry is well worth memorising, while the further chapters on the women workers' position to-day, the legal restrictions on women's work, the customary restrictions on that same work, and the trade union restrictions on it, are invaluable to the thinking woman, whether she belongs to a feminist organisation or to the women's trade union movement. With the conclusions in the last chapter most of our readers will agree, and we think that the woman trade unionist will at any rate agree with some of them. She will agree, upon the evidence of facts, that the present position of the women workers in industry is not satisfactory, and that their advancement is likely to be difficult and slow. We also think she will admit that again and again inquiry shows that it is the juvenile and adolescent who requires protection, while what the adult woman wants is opportunity to show what she can do, and above all adequate wages to keep her fit to do it; and that the tendency to continue to class "women" and "young persons" together is a mistake. Will she not also agree that if the classing of women with young persons is a mistake, so also, from a different point of view, is protective legislation for women which does not apply to men doing the same job? Mrs. Blainey asserts: "There is very little doubt that if the red-herring of protection for women workers had not been trailed across attempts to improve conditions in lead-paint and potteries, the whole of these industries would be very much more safe and healthy than they are to-day." She sums up:—"The true lines of advance for industrial women would appear to be protection based on the nature of the work, and not on the sex of the worker, removal of artificial restrictions based on custom and tradition, a forward movement in Trade Union action, in which women shall be strong enough to voice their real views and opinions, and finally, scientific and not sentimental enquiry in all doubtful cases where women or their children might be injuriously affected by the conditions of their work."

The Woman Worker and Restrictive Legislation, prepared for the London and National Society for Women's Service, by J. Blainey Price 1/- Published by Arrowsmith. (Can be obtained from this Office).

### WOMEN TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.

This week the National Union of Women Teachers is holding its Annual Conference at Buxton, and is deciding to inaugurate a determined campaign to secure equal pay for women teachers with their men colleagues. In this campaign we wish them every possible success. The struggle for equal pay with men for work of equal value among women teachers and women civil servants cannot but help to raise the economic position of all women workers. To be paid less for any kind of work, not because the work is done less efficiently, but simply and solely because the worker is a woman, is a stigma of inferiority which all women ought to refuse to tolerate. Equal pay for men and women workers should make a good Election slogan, one with which the Women's Freedom League is in most cordial agreement, and to which it will give its utmost support.

## FILMS FOR CHILDREN.

By GRACE I. COTTELL, B.A. (Member of Central Council, National Union of Women Teachers, and Hon. Sec. of Standing Joint Committee on Cinema Performances for Children, City of Bristol).

We have recently awakened to the fact that the cinema plays an enormous part in the lives of our children; over 90% of our primary scholars, it is said, visit the "pictures" at least once a week. We have allowed this state of affairs to grow up and become established before we properly realised the great possibilities, both for good and for ill, of the cinema, and we are now becoming increasingly disturbed by the results of our neglect.

What are the grounds of our complaints? First of all, we feel that the educational possibilities of the cinema are not sufficiently recognised. No apparent interest is taken by our Board of Education or our local authorities (with one or two honourable exceptions) in the film as a means of instruction. Wonderful films are being made, showing the growth of plants, life under the sea, the habits of animals and birds, the scenery and customs of foreign nations—portable fire-proof projectors are being devised for use in schools—but instead of teachers being encouraged to use them, all sorts of difficulties are put in their way. In May, 1928, a European Conference was held at The Hague on the subject of Educational Films. The following countries were represented:—Holland (by 60 delegates), Germany (by 60), France, Belgium, Russia, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Greece, Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland, U.S.A. and Chili. Amongst them were professors, inspectors, doctors, chargés d'affaires, consuls, directors of school cinemas, directors of Pathé Frères, a leading Hungarian producer and at least one State Censor. There was no representative of the English Government or of any British film company (though British Instructional Films, Ltd., sent over some of its films for exhibition). The only British delegate was one sent by the National Union of Women Teachers, which has been actively working for some years in connection with films for children.

Indeed, the attitude of the "powers that be" in our country compares very unfavourably in general with that of other governments. In France, Belgium and Holland, the State takes a direct interest, the making of special films is encouraged, and film "libraries" are formed, on which the schools may draw. Sweden, France and Czecho-Slovakia arrange for teachers to be trained in using film apparatus; in Holland (at the Hague) there is a School Cinema.

### MEN AND WOMEN JURORS.

We learn from *The Daily Telegraph* that in England and Wales last year 85,969 persons served as jurors, of whom 68,624 were men and 17,345 women, giving a proportion of about four men to one woman.

Jurors are summoned either by Sheriffs or Clerks of the Peace for boroughs. Those summoned by Sheriffs and serving at Assizes and Quarter Sessions in the Sheriff's Court (a trifling number) and in the Supreme Court, numbered, in 1927, 69,646; 56,131 being men and 13,515 women. The ratio of men to women varies considerably in the different categories of jurors. For instance, out of 15,536 summoned on grand juries only 1,285, or one in twelve, were women, whereas there were 8,239 men against 2,204 women on special juries, and 33,641 men and 10,026 women on common juries, these latter figures representing a much larger proportion of women to men, the proportion being largest on common juries.

The number of women summoned as jurors in the various jurisdictions is an interesting feature of the figures. In the County of London women numbered 2,731 in a total of 10,304. In Lancashire there were 943 women in a total of 4,132. Hereford called for only fifteen women, and Rutland for only nineteen. Similar contrasts marked the cities and towns. Out of 1,216 men and women summoned in the City of London, only eighteen were women—one woman to

Not only, however, do our English Authorities fail to make use of the film in education, but they take surprisingly little care to see that children are not shown unsuitable things in our picture theatres. There is, of course, no State Censorship; the British Board of Film Censors is an unofficial body connected with, but financially independent of, the cinema trade. It rests entirely with local authorities whether its standards are enforced or not, and nine out of every ten "picture-goers" are ignorant of these standards. Each film passed for exhibition by the Board is given a certificate, which should be (but often is not) shown on the screen at the beginning of the performance. Those whose certificate bears the letter "U" are passed for universal exhibition; those bearing the letter "A" are for adults only, and children under 16 are supposed not to be admitted *unless accompanied by an adult*. But very few people know what the letters mean; more often than not no announcement is made beforehand that an "A" film is to be shown, and children attend as usual. It has even been found that "A" films have been shown at so-called "children's performances." This sort of thing makes the censorship merely a farce. The British Board of Film Censors is not over-squeamish—some of us consider many of the "U" films quite unsuitable for children—but here at any rate is a distinction which local authorities could enforce if they would.

We plead, however, for more than this. We do not put into the hands of children *books* which (however harmless or beneficial to adults) are beyond their comprehension. Special story-books are written for them and placed before them, and we want a similar provision to be made for them in the cinema world. We want not only instructional films, but films such as Peter Pan, Cinderella, Little Lord Fauntleroy (of which there are not yet nearly enough). We want special performances at which the programme shall consist of such films, together with instructional films and "topical budgets"—the sort of programme which is being arranged in London by the Battersea Borough Council and by Mr. Bernstein in some of his picture-theatres—instead of the sort of thing we frequently find now; the over-sensational serials, the stories of passion, divorce and murder, which have been shown to adults all through the week. We plead with all who care that children shall be surrounded with wholesome influences, with all in whose hands lies any kind of authority, to awake to their responsibility in this matter.

sixty-seven men, whereas Bristol summoned 114 women in a total of 675. For Canterbury twenty men, without any women, sufficed.

The Clerks of the Peace for boroughs summoned 6,016 grand jurors and 10,307 petty jurors. Of the former 1,177, and of the latter 2,653, were females. In this case it will be seen that the proportion of women on grand juries is very much larger than in the case of the grand jurors summoned by Sheriffs.

### Membership Application Form.

To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first

Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-



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JAN. 4,  
1929.

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