

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HEARS TALK

(Continued from page 4)

Women Voters are not sponsored hastily, Mrs. Lunde pointed out. They are studied from all angles for at least two years (sometimes four or six years) before the National convention approves them. The league has been working for the World Court since 1926.

Going back to the first Hague conference in 1899, Mrs. Lunde said, that at that time the delegates from the United States carried a plan for a World Court based on their own Supreme Court. Europeans were not ready to accept this, but the Hague Court was finally formed, which was not so much a court as a panel of jurors. These men were selected for their knowledge of international law. The United States was the first to try the Court when a dispute with Mexico was submitted, and settled successfully. There seemed no way however, of building up a body of precedent as the judges (2 from each nation concerned and a 5th from the panel,) were always different.

In 1907 at another Hague conference, the United States' delegates again attempted to plan a World Court, but no agreement could be reached on the election of judges, so the plan was laid aside.

The Permanent Court of International Justice was finally established in 1921. The plan was much like that of 1907, and Mrs. Elihu Root was one of the committee at the Hague. The court consists of 15 judges nominated by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the "Hague Court," of which the United States is a member, and elected by the council and assembly of the League of Nations. The United States will share in this election if it goes into the court. Its expenses are pro-rated among the states which belong to it. Its procedure is similar to that of the Supreme Court of the United States, except that it has compulsory jurisdiction only when the member states have expressly agreed to it. It holds regular annual and extra sessions at the Hague. Fifty-four states have joined the court.

In January, 1926, the Senate voted that the United States should adhere to the World Court subject to five reservations. The 5th reservation (dealing with advisory opinions) has caused much argument and was rejected by the other nations, Mrs. Lunde said that when the League of Nations has a dispute, and is not sure of the law, it submits the question to the court for a legal opinion. The United States felt that all advisory opinions should be public, and in fact revisions last summer have made public hearings part of the court statute. The United States also considered, Mrs. Lunde continued, that it should be given the power of veto over anything where it claimed an interest. This appeared to give the United States unreasonable power and the other nations objected.

Root Formula

A year ago another committee met, and Mr. Root presented the "Root Formula which is a compromise of Reservation 5. This was accepted

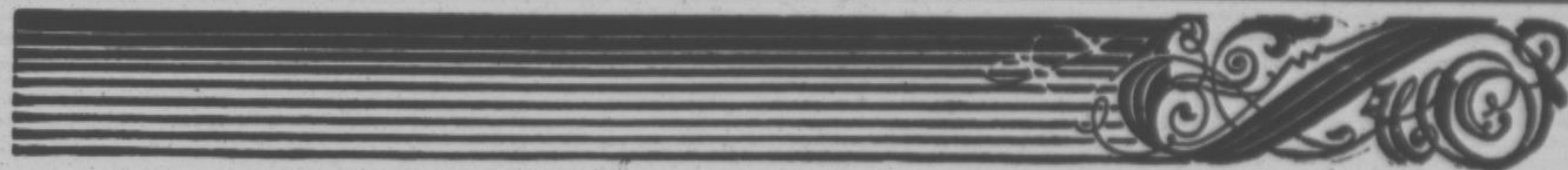
and signed at Geneva in September. Under the Root Formula, the United States must be informed every time that the council of the League of Nations intends asking for an advisory opinion, and the objection of the United States to asking for such an opinion will be conclusive on any question in which the United States has an interest. If agreement cannot be reached, the United States may withdraw from the Court. This is a privilege not accorded any other nation. Mrs. Lunde also stated that it has

been decided that the council may not ask, and the court may not give an advisory opinion, unless both sides concerned have presented their cases. This in itself, answers most objections.

Mrs. Lunde emphasized the fact that there is nothing compulsory about the World Court and that the use of force is not implied. She feels that the Paris Peace Pact by which nations have agreed to settle disputes in a pacific manner, calls for some means by which this may be accom-

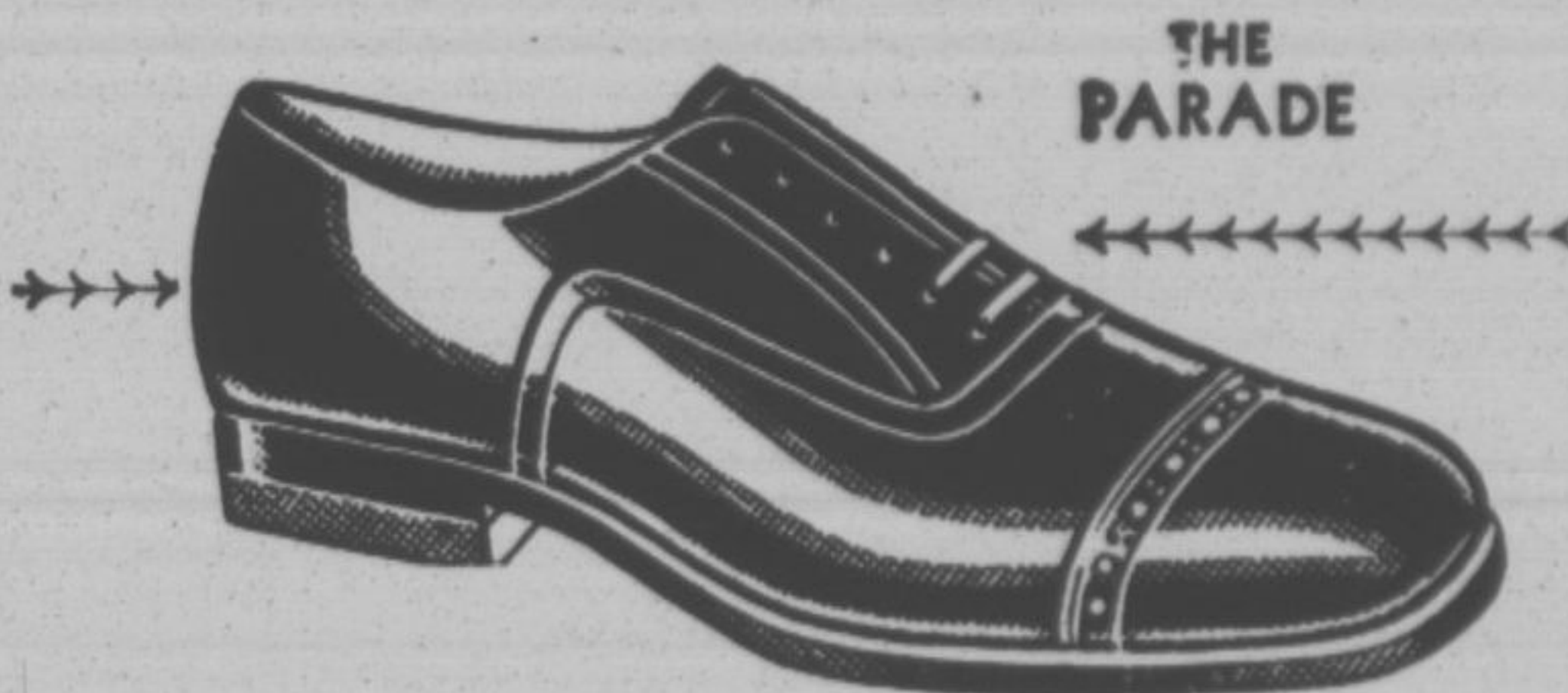
plished. The World Court seems to be the best machinery devised as yet. She cited as a successful example, the International Waterways committee whose opinions have been accepted since 1910 by Canada and the United States.

The United States has been urging a World Court for so many years; four presidents have been in favor of it; Europe has finally met us more than half-way; it seems almost a point of honor to join, Mrs. Lunde concluded.



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