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FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1919

On The Last Lap

The ratification campaign that is being waged by the National American Woman Suffrage association is not lagging. Already four states have ratified and telegrams have been sent to the governors of the fifteen full suffrage states asking that they call special sessions if that is necessary for ratification of the Anthony amendment in order that all the women of the United States may cast their votes in the next presidential election.

In addition to the appeal to the governors of these fifteen full suffrage states, telegrams have been dispatched to twenty-two other governors asking each if he would be willing to be one of twenty-two to call a special session in order to secure ratification by thirty-six states in time for women to vote in the 1920 election. Two governors have so far wished to help that they have, on their own account, wired the governors of other states asking that special sessions of their legislatures be called in order to ratify the amendment. The governors of New York, Kansas and Missouri have already called special sessions in order that the legislature may act upon the ratification of the amendment.

The passage of the Anthony amendment by the national Congress has not been the occasion for relaxation from the strain of endeavor by suffrage workers. Rather has it been the signal for redoubling their energies to the end that the necessary ratification action may be taken to give the two-thirds approval essential to make the amendment law.

The President's Return

President Wilson will be back at his post in Washington very soon now, and not too soon to serve the advantage of the United States.

There is nothing to be gained now by questioning the wisdom of the President's course in the matter of his presence at the Peace Conference. That is beyond change. But it is not too late to remark the very urgent need of the executive head of the government in Washington, to the end that there may be a directing hand to the events that are there taking place. If the animosity that is driving the leading element in Congress in their present course is without other foundation than partisan politics and personal dislike, it is time that the American people should be given some actual facts to establish that assertion. If, on the other hand, there is a real basis for the record that has been made in Congress, it is time, too, that the American people should be made acquainted with the truth in that regard.

Wherever the blame lies for the hostile relations between the two branches of the government of the United States, the fact remains that there can be an adjustment of misunderstandings, a development of a policy that is dictated only by concern for the well being of the United States, only by a closer relationship between the Capitol and the White House. The complex situation that exists today will only become more complex until President Wilson comes personally before Congress and the American public with the information that he has withheld as to the business transacted by the peace

conference. The sooner that happens, the better will it be for us all.

No Excuses Accepted

During the last two years there have been a number of happenings to prove that the impossible is not impossible at all, and one of these has been the ability of the United States to get along without a president.

If it had been anything but the call of the peace conference that had kept the White House without an occupant for seven months, we should have insisted upon action to fill it. We never would have thought that the nation could go on in its accustomed ways without the hand of the chief executive at the helm of the ship of state.

Six years ago, shortly after his inauguration, President Wilson propounded his idea of the duties of the president. "He is expected by the nation," he wrote, "to be the leader of his party, as well as the chief executive officer of the government, and the country will take no excuses from him."

This is certainly true now as it was in 1913, particularly the part relative to the lack of disposition of the country to "take no excuses from him." It is this that will be demonstrated when the President returns to take up his duties as "the leader of his party and the chief executive officer of the government" in Washington, after the business of the peace conference shall have been brought to a close.

And it is unfortunate that the verdict of the country will not be based upon the work that the President has been doing, nor even upon the individual opinion as to the propriety of the chief executive leaving his post of duty at home for service in a foreign country, but upon the measure of success that follows his operations abroad. If President Wilson comes home with the palm of victory for his principles in his hand, there will be no need for excuses and the country will demand none. The nation, as the individual, always glorifies success and the success of the President will be taken as a thing to have been expected. If, on the other hand, President Wilson returns to America without having accomplished the purposes for which he left the nation to get on without a president, it will be futile to make excuses, to offer explanations, for, indeed, "the country will take no excuses from him."

SIX — LAKE SHORE The Theater

The history of the theater has been one of ups and downs, mainly downs, for it has been the mediocre that has flourished in other eras as well as in our own. It is only occasionally that a great name appears in the annals of the stage, but the few have attained a position in the literature of the stage that tells how the public does accept, if it has the chance, what is of real worth in the drama, for all the tale that the box office receipts seem to tell of the preference of the public for the type of play that makes its sole appeal to the senses, demanding nothing in the way of intellectual effort.

It is hard to believe that there is little that is worth while to be had today even though there is quite obviously little that is worth while offered the public. The manager stands between, makes his choice upon what he has found, or what he thinks he has found, to be the public taste, and nothing else is likely to be brought before the theater going public unless some revolutionary change is brought about.

It is gratifying to know that the practitioners of the art of the stage are beginning themselves to rebel against the limitations that are placed upon the vehicles through which they may give expression to the talent that they possess by men whose only knowledge of the dramatic art is the drawing power that certain types of "shows" have proved themselves to exert. It is being suggested that the Actors' Associa-

tion of London organize a co-operative society, with its own board of expert directors, to organize repertory companies to play the best of every sort of drama, both new and old, in circuits of their own. If such a plan could be put into operation it would provide, in the course of a not too long time, the sort of leadership which the theater so badly needs today.

Mrs. Frank R. Watts of Kenilworth has as her guest, Miss Dunn of St. Louis, Mo.

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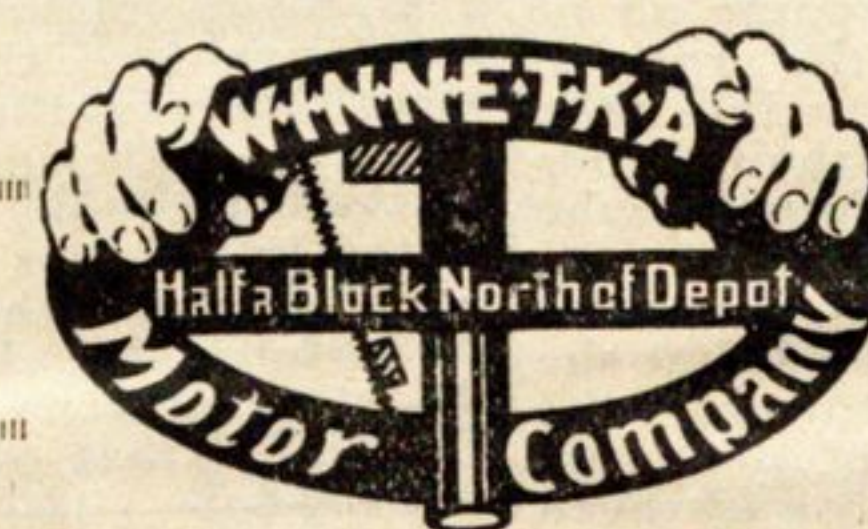
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