

THE CASE NOW GOES TO THE JURY



[Copyright: 1917: By John T. McCutcheon.]

Above is Cartoonist McCutcheon's idea of the situation as regards the national constitutional amendment, which is here reproduced through the courtesy of the Chicago Tribune. As will be noted the attorney for the defense seems to be having a hard time to make out a case for his client. Likewise notice the joyful expression of the forty-eight jurors. Reporter Bryan does not seem at all downcast.—American Issue.

NO HALTING OF DEMOCRACY

The house of representatives narrowly missed making the mistake of not voting to submit the woman suffrage amendment to the states. The hard-earned victory of the suffragists was by the narrow margin of two-thirds of a vote. But it was a victory and for that there is occasion for gratitude.

The vote showed plainly enough that the suffragists owe their victory to President Wilson. Had he not come out for suffrage via constitutional amendment night before last the required two-thirds majority would not have been secured. His powerful influence brought victory.

The vote of 274 for and 136 against was quite different from the vote in January, 1915, when the yeas numbered 174 and the nays 204. Suffrage has gained ground rapidly in recent months. Had the house failed to vote yesterday for submission it would have been only a matter of time before a favorable

vote would have been obtained. Reforms enlarging the sweep of democracy can not be defeated. They may suffer a reverse now and then but it always will be temporary. That is why confidence is so general that autocracy will lose out in the great struggle that is now convulsing the world. It is written in the stars that democracy can not lose. It is for this reason that the charge that pro-German and pacifist influence was responsible for the woman suffrage victory in New York state was so ridiculous. Germany is not seeking to extend the dominion of democracy. The vote in New York state and the vote in Washington will hasten the downfall of autocracy.

By a singular coincidence the house of lords of the British government yesterday by about the same proportion that marked the vote in the American house of representatives voted down an amendment to the "representation of the people" bill by which it was sought to exclude women from the suffrage. It is matter for rejoicing that while the conservative house of lords was voting to give justice to women the American house of representatives did not take an opposite stand.

The chances in the senate, it is said, are not very good. But that was what was thought with respect to the house a month ago, indeed a few weeks ago. The members of the house saw the drift of public sentiment and voted accordingly. Who knows that the senate will not do the same?—Raleigh, N. C., News and Observer.

IN RIGHT AND JUSTICE

President Wilson takes a pronounced and decided stand on women's suffrage. "Vote for the amendment," said the President to

members of congress, "as an act of right and justice to the women of the country and of the world."

This means that it is the belief of President Wilson that each state should have the right and privilege of going on record in this most important matter and that an amendment to the constitution of the United States should be submitted to the states. The long drawn out opposition to women's suffrage is chargeable entirely to prejudice and the usual American policy of following former precedents. In the long ago, the fathers read women out of public affairs and for that matter, prior to that age, women were given no place even in family affairs. Woman was merely an incident — a conception entirely without reason.

European countries, some of them, facing this question, have accepted the view that woman is entitled to the right of suffrage. The decision did not come until after long and serious consideration. Years have been given to the campaign, strong minded women, women of faith and earnestness, have labored to convince men of their equality. There has been a certain class of workers whose tactics and actions have done the cause damage, but this class were in a minority and should be so considered.

Women are entitled to the suffrage — it is their right, too long withheld, and this country should quickly take the necessary steps to place American women in position to stand and invite the world to witness the fairness of American men.—Asheville, N. C., Times.

SECY BAKER REVIEWS WORK OF WAR DEPARTMENT

(Continued from Page 11.)

school being shipped home in a sheet, Secretary Baker said, inquiry developed that the camp was in charge of a British aviation officer, who followed the British method of sending bodies home unclothed, the man's clothes being shipped in a separate parcel. An American officer was then put in charge.

Another complaint of neglect of a patient at Camp Wheeler, he said, developed that it was unjustifiable, and resulting from the "distressed imagination of the widow."

Secretary Baker read a letter from Mrs. Mary Roberts Rinehart, the writer, who has a son in the service, commending hospital conditions she recently inspected.

Regarding Senator Chamberlain's statement that rifles originally sent to camp were a "motley collection," Secretary Baker said he did not object to the term, but that the facts were that "we had about 600,000 Springfield rifles and something over 100,000 Krag's.

"The German army, best prepared in the world," he added, "furnishes on obsolete rifle for practice until men learn to take care of a better weapon."

The events in the great and unhappy war drama have seemed to sidetrack for the time Mr. Bryan's doctrines, but they have not become of no moment in the large prospective. He will be longest remembered because of broad foundations which he has helped to lay and to which the world will grow. He has stood by his convictions at the expense of his place in President Wilson's cabinet, and the thinking people of the United States will respect him for it. He has been consistent with himself.—Springfield Republican.

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