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EDITORIAL

The Chicago park job.

The park referendum on which the people of Chicago are to vote next month (p. 450) raises no question of more parks, yes or no; it raises a question of another State House ring, yes or no. This is the issue to be kept in mind when voting.

Arraying rich and poor.

Secretary Taft expresses a fear that Bryan and Tom Johnson may succeed in arraying the poor against the rich. Our ponderous war secretary misses the issue. Bryan and Johnson are not trying to array the poor against the

rich; they are trying to stop the rich arraying themselves against the poor.

The Shakers for peace.

The Shakers of Mount Lebanon, N. Y., are preparing to urge upon Congress appropriate action upon the resolutions adopted at their peace convention in August in favor of international arbitration and the reduction of national armaments. The Springfield Republican advises that the first thing done be an effort to arrest the movement at Washington for enlarging this nation's armament. That is truly good advice, for little headway can be made toward securing universal peace in the face of universal increase of armament, and if we are to ask other nations to reduce their armaments we should prove our good faith by first reducing our own. Not only our good faith but our power to control our armament builders' lobby. If President Roosevelt's present peaceful mood were taken advantage of to induce him to advise Congress against a greater navy, a substantial advance toward peace would be made.

The New York campaign.

Advices from New York, confirmed by significant between-the-line indications in the New York papers, point to a change in the election probabilities there. It seemed last week (pp. 449, 457) that McClellan would easily be reelected, and that Hearst would lead only a third party protest. Now, however, the appearances are strong that the Hearst movement has swung at least into second place. Mr. Ivins is trying to convince the Republicans that they can win if they remain true to their party and do not run off in a panic to McClellan in order to "save society," as in 1886. But he is apparently making no headway. The plutocratic Republicans of the big business man class, would rather depend upon McClellan to "save society" than upon Ivins, and the democratic Republicans

distrust both. These are the circumstances which seem to have pushed the local Republican party into the background, and turned the campaign into a contest between McClellan and Hearst.

Death of Jerry Simpson.

After a long and painful illness from an aneurism of the aorta (p. 266), Jerry Simpson died at Wichita, Kansas, as the sun rose on the 23d. In a later issue we intend to describe this remarkably useful man's public career. At present we content ourselves with paying to his memory that tribute which few of his contemporaries in public life would deserve themselves nor any deny to him. He was an honest man—not honest enough merely to keep out of jail, but honest enough to go to jail, if need be, for honesty's sake. It is one of the most encouraging signs of the times that our Republic is beginning to honor its Jerry Simpsons who try to serve it, instead of its business statesmen who try to bleed it. When it trusts men who are true to republican ideals instead of men who have no ideals that are not personally profitable to themselves, it will be in the way of realizing its high destiny. Jerry Simpson was such a man. He was a Democrat whose democracy tolerated no legal limitations of race, class or sex, and a patriot to whom love of country meant love of man. These are more than friendly epithets, and they are not lightly bestowed. They are accurately descriptive of the kind of man Jerry Simpson was.

American indifference to republicanism.

The Independent for October contained a brief communication from John Lund, a veteran Norwegian statesman, who replies to the question, Will Norway become a republic or continue to be a kingdom? that if the Norwegian people were to vote on the subject, he feels sure the majority would pronounce for the republic. Yet every indication is