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EDITORIAL

The New York Campaign.

It is a circumstance of more or less significance relative to the New York gubernatorial campaign (p. 654) that the election gamblers consider that

Hearst's chances are improving. They have been offering odds of 4 to 1, but they are now offering only 2½ to 1.

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Mr. Hughes is reported to be drawing in his speeches a distinction between good discontent and bad discontent. He believes, he says, in discontent with things that are wrong, but not in discontent that interferes with business enterprise. This is in these days of modern "business" in very great degree a distinction without a difference.

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Steffens on Hearst.

Lincoln Steffens's article on Hearst in the American Magazine for November is the first pen portrait of Hearst the man, the journalist and the politician that has yet appeared. Like all of Steffens's work of this kind, it is conscientious and courageous. He has gone to original sources for his information, and drawing his own inferences without prejudgment he expresses them without fear or favor. Just as Hearst seemed to him from personal observation, so he has presented him, and the net result, although Mr. Steffens does not so describe it, is an advancing shadow of "the man on horseback." The idea that Hearst is either a nonentity or a simpleton must be abandoned, in the face of Steffens's report. That he is a believer in Jeffersonian democracy as he understands it, must be accepted. But that he regards himself and himself alone as the true and only reliable repository of democratic power, cannot be denied.

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An Interesting Conspiracy of the "Interests."

An amazing degree of attention to School Board affairs in Chicago has been manifested by three or four local newspapers recently. This unwonted and evidently cooperative attention became noticeable when it appeared that Mayor Dunne's appointments of school trustees (p. 347) had probably taken the control of school affairs away from the class of men that have heretofore run them in the interest of the local plunderbund, which has for the past fifty years or more continuously and systematically robbed the school children of Chicago. The onslaught has been maintained virulently and mendaciously. Such papers as the Tribune, which is in the enjoyment of a good slice of the old "business" plunder; the Daily