

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

### O'HARA ON McCUTCHEON. — I

like your Forum letters. They are independent. They are genuine. Insincerity, garbed in dignity and fine words, is not to be caught up with in The Forum. But now and then a correspondent, at least so it appears to me, permits his earnestness to carry him a little beyond the legitimate depths of controversy into the treacherous undertow of personality. Such, to my way of looking at things, is my good comrade, anonymous though he be, who signs himself "Spanish War Vet." He doesn't approve the Tribune's politics and policies. No more do I. He has a distaste of John McCutcheon's cartoons ridiculing Woodrow Wilson. So have I.

Because of this, however, my comrade puts in question the personal bravery of Mr. McCutcheon, and, in turn, ridicules him, from the soldier's viewpoint, as savagely and, in my opinion, as unfairly as Mr. McCutcheon seeks to ridicule the president. The truth is that John McCutcheon possesses a high caliber of personal courage, and where danger and hardships abound his comrades and associates in many hazards will testify he is not a shirker. And it is not my observation of the man and his manners that McCutcheon is anything at all of the snob, the effeminate, the aristocrat. Very contrary, I esteem him democratic, unaffected by success, unspoiled by large income, a commoner at heart—and very human. In his present predicament he justly should have, not personal abuse, but personal pity. His is the genius of kindness; and that sort of genius, sought to be abused into the genius of bitterness, ceases to be genius at all.

My comrade may be certain that John McCutcheon, the man, has no heart in the present task of John McCutcheon, the artist, and that none will welcome the end of the cam-

paign (with the re-election of Woodrow Wilson) and the return of the era of neighborliness and good-will with more genuine rejoicing than will Mr. McCutcheon.

Also I hazard the prediction that when the curtain is pulled on election day, hiding the actions of the man from the prying eyes of the employer, John McCutcheon's cross will be put down, with much pent-up vim released, opposite the name of Woodrow Wilson. For in the secrecy of the ballot all Americans stand truly as freedman, the worker without the necessity of obeying orders, the boss without power to enforce orders.—**Barrett O'Hara.**

**TO THE VOTER.**—Read between the lines before you vote on the little ballots, for they are full of "jokers."

Who or what is responsible for the little ballot to be presented to the voters Nov. 7 entitled: "An act to consolidate in the government of the city of Chicago the powers and functions now vested in local governments and authorities within the territory of said city and to make provisions concerning the same."

Voters! Do you get the sense of this little ballot from the way it reads? I do not! But I know what it is all about. It is supposed to be a bill to save your money in taxes by consolidating the park boards of the city of Chicago.

A bill very similar was drafted in 1913 by the same committee drafting the present bill. That bill was vetoed by the governor. Now they are trying to get away with it again.

The passage of this bill will not decrease your taxes, but it will make it possible for the city to place in the parks such institutions as an armory, reformatory, insane asylum, tuberculosis sanitarium, etc., and, I believe, will decrease the value and efficiency of the public library enormously.

There are unquestionably good features in the bill, but I believe the bad features in the form of "jokers"