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ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

Even the worst corporations have their Day.

The Milwaukee Sentinel declares that Mr. Jerome is a national figure. O?

Congress shows a disinclination to accept any canned advice from the White House.

Senator-elect Dupont may believe in a smokeless Fourth of July, but not in a noiseless one.

Senator Beveridge wants congress to adjourn because he is "tired to death." That makes it unanimous.

Dr. Holt says a man at forty is worth \$29,000. If that is true there is some man who is \$58,000 to the good.

We gather that the packers are in favor of a government inspection that will know just what not to inspect.

The republican party has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, and seems about the only proof offered of the truth of the Osler theory.

Mr. Lodge of Massachusetts evidently avoided the telephone booth while the president and Mr. Wadsworth were discussing the meat inspection bill.

As long as they fight they are merely Filipino bandits. As soon as they surrender they become the "last of the Filipino rebels." The confusion of terms is equal to the confusion of logic.

Mr. Cassatt is greatly afraid that the daily newspapers are undermining public confidence. It seems never to strike the eminent financial gentlemen that they are responsible for the excavations under public confidence.

"Canned meat is good for a hundred years," declared a representative of the packers. The packers evidently believe that wars will continue to break out despite The Hague peace conferences and the growth of arbitration.

Any one knowing of the whereabouts of Lew Wingate, formerly of Chariton, Iowa, is requested to notify Ernest Connor, R. F. D. No. 3, Chariton, Iowa. Mr. Wingate's daughter is very anxious to hear from him. When last heard from he was in Nebraska.

Senator-elect Dupont is the president of the powder trust that sells smokeless powder to the government at prices 100 per cent higher than the government has and can make it in its own factories. It is not likely that he will cause any explosions in the interests of the people.

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WASHINGTON CITY LETTER

Washington, D. C., June 25.—The pressure that was brought to bear on certain republicans in the senate to have them support the administration policy with regard to the kind of canal the government shall construct across the isthmus of Panama, was something terrific. People who have no idea of the way things are done here would be surprised could they get an inside view of what occasionally goes on at the capitol. As previously stated in this correspondence the senate committee on inter-oceanic canals, of which Mr. Millard, of Nebraska, is chairman, by a pronounced majority, reported in favor of a sea level canal. The president and the secretary of war and Messrs. Shonts, Stevens and the high priced officials who have made the capital city their abiding place for so many months instead of attending to business out on the isthmus, demanded the lock system. Two weeks ago there did not seem to be the slightest doubt that the committee would be sustained by the senate. A majority of not less than six was claimed for the sea level plan. But active agents of the administration and of the inert commission commenced to bestir themselves. The day before the vote in the senate was taken the president is reputed to have informed several of his callers that his policy would prevail by a majority of exactly five. The roll call proved that Mr. Roosevelt knew what he was talking about. And, of course, the chief executive was exceedingly happy over the result. The result also made Speaker Cannon and Colonel "Pete" Hepburn, of Iowa, gleeful in the extreme, for that eminent pair had been in a mighty, gloomy mood up to the time a twist was given the senate.

The result in the senate was a bad defeat for the canal committee. Practically ninety-nine times out of a hundred when a committee by a pronounced majority makes a report its action is sustained. It was the powerful influence of the administration exerted at the proper time. Even so sagacious and determined a man as Senator Platt, of New York, who is a member of the canals committee and returned to Washington especially to take a hand in the fight, could not stem the tide. Senator Kittredge, of South Dakota, was another republican who battled hard for the sea level type. He is of the younger set and is a vigorous man of splendid health. Senator Dick, of Ohio, although not on the committee, also did his utmost to have the committee sustained.

A great deal of "tomfoolery" and nonsense has been circulated about the proposed waterway to connect the two oceans. For instance, several weeks before the vote referred to stories were started that if the senate insisted upon the sea level plan and the house held out for the lock system it might keep congress in session for five or six weeks longer than the managers had estimated. It would never do, people declared, to have an adjournment before the matter was definitely settled. Those acquainted with the real facts in the case know perfectly well that the question could easily have been carried over until the next session. Work on the isthmus is hardly commenced. The men in authority have admitted that it will be probably a year or more before the dirt will begin to fly, and this, too, in spite of the fact that no sooner had the senate determined upon the lock plan than the shouters began to proclaim that since the administration and the commission had been upheld the president would see to it that the digging should commence at an early date.

All has not been happiness, however, during the present session for the administration. A number of treaties that the president and his advisers are anxious to put through have been blocked. One is the suspicious Santo Domingo document. The republicans behind this fishy scheme are afraid to make a positive move because they know they will be beaten if they do. It has practically no democratic support and a number of the republicans are just as fierce in their opposition as are the leading democrats on the foreign relations committee. As it requires a two-thirds vote to ratify a treaty the efforts of the administration have been effectually checked. Secretary Root would like very much to have action on the proposition to give Cuba a clear title to the Isle of Pines. But in this case the foreign relations committee has put an obstacle in the way. Senator Morgan is not the only one who holds that in the treaty with Spain this island was clearly ceded to the United States.

When General Leonard Wood was the major domo down in Cuba he managed to tie up matters and the Cubans insist that the Isle of Pines belongs to them. That wonderfully fertile and productive island, which is about the size of the state of Rhode Island, is dominated industrially and socially by men and women who went from the states. They possess nearly all the land. They say they settled there because they believed it was our territory, and have made the island blossom and bloom and bring forth wealth and happiness for all the inhabitants.

An exceptionally strong delegation of Americans from the Isle of Pines has been here all the session looking out for their claims. They are naturally disappointed that a settlement of the dispute is delayed, but at the same time felicitate themselves upon the fact that Secretary Root has not been able to carry his point. It simply prolongs the agitation, and it may be a year or two until the senate disposes of the question, though every effort will be made to have the matter settled at the short session.

The Philippine tariff bill seems also to be smothered so far as this session of congress is concerned. That is another matter that gives the administration people much concern. They had virtually promised the Filipinos there would be legislation in their interest long before this, and reports from the Orient are to the effect that new troubles are likely to arise in the archipelago on account of the misleading information that has been given the natives. Secretary Taft is said to be much worried over the failure of the senate to report the bill.

Ex-Senator William A. Harris, of Kansas, since my last advices, spent about a week here. His former legislative associates gave him a most cordial welcome, and they are decidedly of the opinion that if he does not win the governorship he will give the republicans a lively scare. Mr. Harris himself makes no boasts. He realizes that he has a hard fight on his hands, but the republican administration in the Sunflower state has not given satisfaction to the people. As Mr. Harris expressed it in a conversation the other day it is not so much the acts of commission as the sins of omission that the voters of Kansas complain of. He is not only hopeful but enthusiastic. He proposes to make a thorough campaign, and even if he does not win the governorship his firm belief is that when the election returns are footed up next November the Kansas republicans will find that they have lost ground heavily. Others also incline strongly to the belief that when the votes are counted it will be found that the republicans have lost several of the congressional districts. The Kansas delegation in the present house is solidly republican.

Political pilgrims from Pennsylvania report that the republican managers of the Keystone state are greatly alarmed. If half the stories are true about the big sums of money spent in the republican contest up in Pennsylvania the party is about as corrupt as it was in the days of Boss Quay. Mr. Penrose, the new boss, endeavored to create the impression that the day for heavy money spending in Pennsylvania politics had gone by. A big blow was also made that railroad passes for the delegates and the "whoopers" for candidates was a thing of the past. That part was true. The railroads have at last refused to shell out for the "heelers." That, however, is chiefly due to the fact that the railway officials are mad because congress proceeded with a rate bill—an action that never would have been possible if the democrats in so many of their national platforms had not forced the issue. These officials did not expect much of the democrats, but they did think that their pets of the republican party would stand by them for the many favors that have been granted ever since the combination sent a special railroad representative and organizer to the United States senate in the person of the late General Sewell, of New Jersey.

ALFRED J. STOFER.

A Peoria, Ill., democrat writes to say that there is a fine opening in that city for a democratic newspaper. He says: "There never was a better opportunity than at this time to establish the right kind of a newspaper in this city. I trust you will be able to put me in communication with some one who could start a paper here." Inquiries along this line may be addressed to W. T. Whiting, room 412 Y. M. C. A. building, Peoria, Ill.