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ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Gas jets burning in the Madrid palace all night now.

That Ohio fire alarm seems to be depending on a worn out battery.

"Pete," the White House bulldog, seems also to walk softly and carry a big bite.

By the way, does Senator Foraker also endorse Secretary Taft's Brownsville policy?

Son of Alfonso XIII and born on Friday. Here's hoping there is nothing in hoodoo signs.

That Columbus harmony meeting was another event that exhausted itself in the advance notices.

Shake, Alfonso! Several millions of fathers of future American sovereigns know just how you feel.

After all the backward spring restricted the opportunities of the brainless joker who insists on rocking the boat.

It seems that Senator Tom Platt once had an "undesirable citizen" in mind, but failed in his scheme to shelve him.

Thank goodness, the backward spring weather will have no appreciable effect on the crop of sweet girl graduates.

The story that Boss Cox has come out in favor of Taft may be only a smooth scheme to discredit the secretary of war.

The drug trust has been slapped on the wrist and warned to be as good as the Northern Securities and packing trusts.

In the language of Mr. John W. Gates, perhaps Boss Cox is putting a "copper" on the support he is giving Mr. Taft.

"Where are your poets?" asks Ambassador Bryce. Most of them are shoveling snow in order to get to the coal house.

Some of Mark Twain's recent jokes sound very much like a man looks who is clad in white flannels in the middle of winter.

Spain's crack matador gets \$500,000 a year for killing bulls. We have paid some senators a pretty fair price for making them.

George Gould says the railroads can not afford to carry passengers for two cents a mile. Perhaps they could if they would fix it so the passengers could make the return trip.

A railroad's "intangible assets" are those upon which rates are based for dividend earning purpose, but not for taxing purposes.

Kansas excuses some of her senators by talking about the "Lane succession." But what about the states that never had a Senator Lane?

New Orleans now proposes holding an exposition in 1915 to celebrate the completion of the Panama canal. There's optimism for you.

Mayor Reyburn of Philadelphia has ordered the pigeons driven from the city hall. The "lame ducks," however, have not been disturbed.

The men who object to the newspaper paragrapher are usually the men who imagine that a bit of courtplaster will disguise the post minus the skin.

"There are other things in spring besides love and poetry," says the Chicago Examiner. To be sure—influenza, grippe, pneumonia and coal bills.

Perhaps you have made note of the fact that while the newspaper gag law of Pennsylvania was in force the state house grafters got in their work.

"Nobody slept in the royal palace the night the prince was born," says an exchange, speaking of the birth of the Spanish prince. They're all alike, are they not?

Just as soon as we can shake the frost off the vines we are going to make the Houston Post's Texas strawberries look like splotches of red ink on a white blotter.

The scientists who are trying to get into communication with Mars may be overlooking the fact that perhaps the Martians are busy trying to ascertain the score.

"Can a newspaper paragrapher enter heaven?" asks the Atlanta Georgian. If he can not it is the first thing the average newspaper paragrapher can not connect with.

Senator Platt says he is sorry he ever boosted Roosevelt. If the senator is sorry for all the things he has to be sorry for he has got a big job of sorrowing on hand.

The Pennsylvania legislature has defeated the child labor bill, which was to be expected of a state that quietly submits to a \$7,000,000 graft on a \$6,000,000 building.

The supreme court seems to have held that the eight-hour law is all right save in the one respect that it does not apply to the men who are engaged in the hardest work.

The supreme court has decided that the dredgemen on the canal work are seamen, not laborers. That sounds like a decision that men who manufacture pumps are dairymen.

The gentlemen who have been selling defective bollertubes to the government are awfully worked up about the dangers of socialism and the initiative and referendum.

We can not at this moment recall the full name of the new heir to the Spanish throne, but we incline to the belief that it will be called "Tootsie Wootsie," just like the rest of them.

Safeblowers raided an Indiana bank safe and made a haul of only \$7.50. Some Napoleon of finance connected with the bank must have worked that side of the street earlier in the day.

Mr. Harriman has just manufactured \$136,000,000 more of securities to sell to the public. This ought to be good for a pretty fair sized assessment when Mr. Cortelyou starts around again.

Queen Victoria of Spain seems much more anxious about the duties of motherhood than she is about her duties as queen, which means that Queen Victoria is a queen worthy of all honor.

Mayor McClellan has vetoed an ordinance that provided that women teachers in the New York schools should receive the same wages as men in similar grades. Approval of the ordinance might have resulted in less money for the politicians on the school board to spend.

If Papa Alfonso will see to it that none of his subjects mentions that unfortunate little matter nine years ago we'll promise that the young prince will remain in ignorance of it for all of us.

Henry Watterson wants less vinegar and more oil—with a drop or two of molasses—in the next democratic platform. Let's see; did we use rather a goodly lot of molasses in the last campaign?

Secretary Cortelyou has been sent to New York to settle the republican quarrel there. Force of habit may lead him to forget his errand and call on the insurance and railroad magnates for a contribution.

Lincoln, Nebraska, a city with a republican majority of approximately 2,000, adopted the initiative and referendum by a six to one vote. The New York Sun and Washington Post are cordially invited to take notice.

A scientist figures out that Mars will have inhabitants only for a million years to come. That's all right; perhaps some Martian will be alive to receive the glad news that the Panama canal job is at last completed.

It seems that the Oklahoma constitution comes so near providing for government of the people by the people that there is danger of its being turned down by a few of the people who are not in favor of that sort of thing.

The lord chamberlain of Great Britain forbade the presentation of "The Mikado," giving as a reason that it would annoy Great Britain's ally. If the firm of Gilbert & Sullivan still existed wouldn't it jump at that opportunity?

Now it is rumored that President Roosevelt will disapprove the Oklahoma constitution because the constitution makers did not leave enough for the legislature to do. When you think of some legislatures can you blame them?

J. Q. A. Ward, the famous sculptor, at the age of 77 says: "I forget the number of my years and keep steadily at work—also keeping my trout rod in order." In addition to being a great sculptor Mr. Ward is a great philosopher.

A Texas man is telling about a bass that seized and swallowed a rabbit that was trying to swim across a Texas stream. Texas is a big state and produces big things. This has no reference to the size of either the bass or the rabbit.

Perhaps that Indiana protest against the approval of Oklahoma's constitution is based upon the fact that the constitution makes it rather difficult to use the Indiana method of campaigning with two-dollar bills and working them in "blocks of five."

The actress who recovered \$35,000 from a railroad company for the loss of a lower limb in an accident did not break the record. Mr. Cortelyou got more than that by extending the pedal extremities of several of the big insurance and trust magnates.

The Spanish heir recently born will miss a whole lot by being of the blood royal. He will never experience the delight of feeling the warm, soft mud squirting up between his bare toes, nor know what it is to sneak off to the ol' swimmin' hole with de gang.

The Harrisburg Telegraph, published within sight of Pennsylvania's capitol dome, demands a city flag. We suggest a \$ rampant and a purchased ballot couchant, with the reverse a field of graft. It would be familiar from the start to all observant Pennsylvanians.

Black Boy No. 1 was abusing Black Boy No. 2 in heated language. When Black Boy No. 1 had exhausted his vocabulary and paused, Black Boy No. 2 quietly remarked: "All them things you says I am you is." The Ananias club is doubtless merely waiting for a chance to say a word or two.

"The American Republic," published by Sidney C. Tapp at Atlanta, Ga., is rapidly forging to the front as one of the foremost publications in America having to do with civic affairs. The forceful and fearless style of its editorials make the magazine interesting and convincing. The country needs such fearless magazines as the American Republic.