

THE OBSERVER

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WANTS CONGRESS TO REST TEN YEARS.

A man who is connected with some of the large business interests of the country was recently interviewed and gave as his opinion that it would be an excellent thing for the country if congress and likewise all the state legislatures should take a rest for say 10 years.

Constant agitation, he says, is very damaging to business. Capital which is naturally scarce does not know what is going to happen next and therefore waits while business remains stagnant.

There is of course considerable truth in what this man says. There is a good deal of foolish legislation proposed and more or less of it enacted into law. Often the laws of the United States seem to conflict with each other and people who want to engage in some line of business grow timid about making investments. Money is tied up waiting to see what the legislature and congress will do.

This is one side of the case, remarks a western educator. On the other hand, it is in those countries where there is the least chance for popular expression through legislative bodies, where the masses are the most oppressed and the wages the lowest. Stability of condition is apt to be coupled with tyranny and suppression of popular liberty.

If the rich and ruling class would always be fair and just to the masses who have to do the work of the world it might be just as well to have no legislative bodies, but if experience has demonstrated anything it is that the rich and ruling classes cannot be trusted to do the fair thing. In their selfishness they insist on grinding the workers down to the point where life for them is reduced to a struggle for a bare existence.

In proportion as the masses have a voice in the affairs of government just in that proportion is the general level of intelligence and prosperity advanced. It is better to have agitation even if the agitation sometimes works a detriment to business than to have the stagnation of despotism.

The masses are sometimes swayed

by passion. It is true, but a careful analysis of the situation will generally show that the greed of the few seeking special privileges which will enrich them at the expense of the masses is primarily responsible for the popular discontent and demand for legislation that will even up conditions.

If we could be sure that the capitalists of the country would not undertake, if undisturbed, to take more than their share of the wealth of the country, we might readily agree to stop all legislation for the next 10 or 20 years and let the so-called business interests have their way undisturbed, but human selfishness has not yet been eradicated and is not likely to be.

Men thirsting for wealth and the power that goes with it have little concern for the welfare of those who toil. I have heard men boldly declare that labor conditions in Mexico were far preferable to labor conditions here in the United States.

In Mexico the laborer was given a mere pittance, just enough to keep him and his family from actual starvation. Living in degradation, ignorance and poverty he had neither ambition nor independence and was completely subject to the orders of his employer.

These men declared that the Mexican laborer is more contented than the laborer in the United States who gets wages four or five times as great. He is satisfied to be robbed of his labor because he knows no better. That is based on the theory that a very few should enjoy all the really good things of life while the many should toil to minister to their selfish pleasures. Such a theory is contrary to the spirit of democracy, contrary to the spirit of Christianity. Legislation is often foolish. In a democracy demagogues undoubtedly have freer play than in an absolute or even limited monarchy. Often these selfish and unscrupulous demagogues lead the people astray for a time but with all the evils of the kind that may be freely admitted, a democracy is the only place where the masses have anything like a fair opportunity to get what is justly coming to them.

Agitation may do harm sometimes, but agitation is necessary to liberty. The pool that remains long stagnant becomes foul and poisonous.

We have too many laws, says the complainer. Yes. And yet there are laws we need that we do not have. I would rather continue to give the people the opportunity to speak through their legislative bodies even though mistakes are often made, even though business is sometimes crippled as the result of unwise legislation, than to exchange democracy for the more stable and more selfish rule of the few.

TESTING AN OCTOPUS.

The Power of This Repulsive Creature Much Overrated.

There have been made abroad experiments with an octopus, in a specially devised tank of sea water, in order to test the truth of the many stories told of monster cephalopods dragging human victims to the sea bottom, says Harper's Weekly.

In the tank with the octopus there was placed a "dummy" of the same specific gravity as a man, and this was baited with a crab. Attracted by this tempting morsel, the octopus made for the figure, seized it in its powerful arms and tried to drag it under wa-

ter without success. It then urged its body toward the edge of the tank, and, holding the glass with some of its arms, it dragged its prey beneath the surface and crushed the crab shell with its powerful jaws.

It is believed that these experiments afford proof that the octopus can only drag its victims far below the water near rocks to which it can attach its suckers. There is one spot in the bay of Naples where these creatures attain a large size, and now and then a fisherman is reported missing. It is thought that such disappearances are due to the unfortunate man being caught by the leg by a concealed octopus and dragged under water. In the case of such a repulsive and powerful creature as the octopus it is difficult to separate fact from fiction.

A VACATION IN BED.

Twenty-four Hours' Sleep Versus a Week's Holiday.

If you want to obtain complete rest and recuperation equal to a week's vacation in minimum time sleep the clock around twice is the advice of a physician who holds a high place in medical circles in England.

"To spend twenty-four hours in bed," he said to a friend, "instead of rushing away for a few hours' change of scene when you are run down physically and mentally is worth a week's holiday. The night before, having gone to a theater to take the mind off worries and having supped wisely and well, instructions should be given that the morning calling shall be omitted.

"Then sleep. On waking turn over and sleep again. On waking again ring for some hot milk. Drink it and sleep again and keep on sleeping. Have nothing in the intervals more substantial than soup. Do not read. Keep the eyes shut constantly. Have a warm bath in the evening and sleep again.

"When you are tired of sleeping sleep again for the night. Nothing calms the nerves more than resting the eyes."—New York Herald.

Remember the Baker.

At the court of assizes in Venice when sentence of death is about to be passed a man clothed in a long black robe enters the court and, advancing to the bench, bows profoundly to the judges, saying, "Remember the baker!" Then he bows again and retires. Here is the explanation of the custom: Three centuries ago a baker was executed at Venice for a crime of which he was not guilty. When his innocence was fully proved the judges who had condemned him invested a sum of money, the interest on which served to keep a lamp perpetually lighted in the palace of the doges, this being called the "lamp of expiation." In addition, their fatal mistake has for 300 years been held up as a warning to their successors on the bench when they are about to inflict the extraordinary penalty of the law.

The Box Tortoise.

Though the tortoise is slow of foot it is quick to make the best of all its available modes of defense. The box tortoise possesses a singular defensive apparatus. The plastron or shell covering the under part of the body is so formed that its front segment can be drawn upward to protect the animal's head, the head meanwhile being drawn back under the carapace or shell on the back of the tortoise. The upper and under shells then meet in front, forming a kind of box in which the creature is unassailable. When the danger is passed the reptile relaxes a muscle and the raised part of the plastron falls, allowing the head and fore feet to come forth. This movable plate is fastened to the plastron by a strong hinge of elastic ligament.

FOR YOUR HAIR.

Here Are Facts We Want You to Prove at Our Risk.

When the roots of the hair are entirely dead and the pores of the scalp are glazed over, we do not believe that anything can restore hair growth.

Rexall "93" Hair Tonic acts scientifically, destroying the germs which are usually responsible for baldness. It penetrates to the roots of the hair, stimulating and nourishing them. It is a most pleasant toilet necessity, is delicately perfumed and will not gum nor permanently stain the hair.

We want you to get a bottle of Rexall "93" Hair Tonic and use it as directed. If it does not relieve scalp irritation, remove dandruff, prevent the hair from falling out and promote an increased growth of hair and in every way give entire satisfaction, simply come back and tell us and without question or formality we will hand back to you every penny you paid us for it.

We lend our endorsement to Rexall "93" Hair Tonic and sell it on this guarantee, because we believe it is the best hair tonic ever discovered. It comes in two sizes, prices 50 cents and \$1.00. Remember you can obtain it only at our store—The Rexall Store.

Hill's drug store

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60 ladies' tailored suits exactly one half price

Entire line ladies coats Pongees, Slipons Silks wools, reduced 25 per cent

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Entire line of men's and boys clothing reduced 25 per cent

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Boys' Knickerbocker pants reduced 25 per cent

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