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turning the tables. But that is a matter for New Zealanders to settle. There is Public Life Insurance, and employers are liable for accidents. All persons who have reached the age of sixty-five and have been for twenty years resident in the country are entitled to an Old Age Pension large enough to secure them against want. That is to say, those with less than \$5 a week may receive a pension to make up that figure. Even criminals and drunkards are not excluded, though they are not entrusted with cash.

THE VOTING SYSTEM.

The suffrage has been extended to all responsible persons, whether male or female. Further, every voter who does not exercise the franchise is struck off the register unless he or she gives in court a good reason for not turning up. This arose gradually. There was no woman's suffrage movement, properly so-called. The male voters as long ago as 1877 voluntarily admitted women to the local education committees. Also in municipal affairs the vote was given to the ratepayer without distinction of sex. When the question arose as to extending this right to the Parliamentary vote there was a considerable difference of opinion. But the matter never degenerated to prejudice. Some held that women would be withdrawn from their homes; others that they were physically weak. Against this was cited their experience as municipal voters. In the end the franchise was given to all men and women over twenty-one years of age. There was no rioting, neither strenuous demand nor stubborn refusal. As to the results, Mr. Lusk informs us that the proportion of women using their votes is almost as high as that of the men. Indeed, nearly 80 per cent. of those entitled to vote in New Zealand go to the polls.

STATE SOCIALISM.

The New Zealander does not call his government system State Socialism. But, viewed practically, in all the detail supplied in this book, that is a fairly good name for it. What we have said above concerning the gradual, unimpassioned solution of great problems, is confirmed by this passage:

All that is claimed is that by a very natural process of development the point of view of the people of New Zealand became a really social one, and the benefit and advantage of all the members of the community, and especially of those who, for the time at least, seemed to have the fewest advantages, should be the first consideration in the law-making of the young country. It had been the dream of some of the founders of the colony, indeed, at first to reproduce the old social and political conditions of England in the new colony; but circumstances had within a few years shown conclusively that it was only a dream; and New Zealand became perhaps the most entirely democratic in feeling of civilized countries.

It has not come about as a result of revolution, nor as a philosophic or poetic dream. But the people, being eminently practical, having come out of the old countries without too much reverence for the forces that kept them down, have been sturdy and independent in their political and social views. They have a fine country (rather less than England and Ireland); 48,000,000 acres are suitable for farming. They have tried to do their best to live comfortably, the tendency being for the worker (often his own capitalist) to have a better time than he who is capitalist alone.

THE NEW ZEALANDER.

Mr. Lusk tells us that by the end of 1890 there were 625,000 white inhabitants of the country, of whom at least three-fourths were New Zealand born. At that time there were but four cities in the two islands with populations of more than 20,000 each. The tale of their development occupies the second part of the book. By 1910 the population had reached about a million, excluding Maoris; 26,000 held national land. In 1890 there were 41,000 farms; in 1910 there were more than 80,000. The value of the pastoral and agricultural produce had risen to £14,900,000. In the same time the wealth per head of the population had almost doubled. There must be well over 30,000,000

sheep in New Zealand to-day. The manufacturers are growing, and there is scope for skilled workers, especially upon the land. The professions are recruiting themselves from the people of the country. The outsider is not wanted unless he has either ability or capital, but the expansion and vitality of the country is enormous. Otherwise the huge demands of Labor would have brought things to a standstill. We have seen in a previous article that New Zealand has its national railways. Those interested in public development of utility companies such as rails, banks, etc., will find a study of considerable value. Indeed, the social reformer should add this volume to his library, reading warily between the lines. We doubt whether New Zealand be perfect. Certainly she is strong where the older countries are weak, strong both in character and industry.—T. P's Weekly.

Competition in Agriculture.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The act of endeavoring to gain what another endeavors to gain at the same time, is the definition of competition given by Dr. Johnson. The results of agricultural competition prove that it is one of the greatest factors toward the advancement of better farming that we have at the present day. It has been said that competition is the life of trade, and the farmer who realizes that his farm is a business, and that he must compete with his neighbor if he is going to become a successful farmer, is the one that is going to get the top price for his products.

The judges are busy at the present time awarding the prizes for the Standing Field Crop Competitions carried on throughout our country. To win one of these prizes the farmer has found that he must make a study of the particular crop with which he is striving to win a prize. The competitions have raised the farmer out of the old rut, "that any old way, or any old kind of grain will do." Instead, if he is going to keep in pace with his progressive neighbor, he must get the best and cleanest seed, fertilize and prepare his land in the best possible way, treat his seed, and keep his crop clear of weeds.

In the competition just completed in the County of Middlesex, I have been told that many a good crop of oats had to be scored down because of smut, rust and weeds. The smut could have been largely prevented by treatment before the grain was sown, and the cost would have been small as compared to the much larger yield per acre where the grain was treated. I experimented with treating oats in the spring myself, and in a square yard where untreated seed was sown there were over one hundred heads of smut, while, where it was treated, you would not find two heads in a hundred square yards. This is proof enough that it pays to treat, not only for larger yield, but also for cleaner straw for fodder purposes, and cleaner threshing. Think of what would have been saved had the thousands of acres of grain sown in Canada last spring been treated for smut. At the present time the country is asking that we produce more, and at the same time calling the boys and men to serve their king at the front. We cannot increase the acreage with fewer men to harvest it. Would it not be better to increase the yield per acre? Would it not be better to grow ten acres of oats yielding sixty bushels per acre than twenty acres yielding thirty bushels? The results would be the same, with ten acres less to work, which could profitably be turned into pasture to increase the dairy and beef products of our country.

What has competition done for our dairy industry. In the year 1860 we read that the first cheese factory in America was built in the State of New York by Jesse Williams. No one in those days believed that in the 20th century a cow would produce 25,000 lbs. of milk in 365 days, but this has become a reality owing to the competition of different dairymen, who have kept records of what each cow they own can produce. Competition has taught the dairyman what kind of feed is best to supply the greater number of pounds of milk. It has also taught him that the

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