meets the spirit of the great populace.

The Collingwood, the most powerful British battleship yet completed, and the sixth of the Dreadnought class added to the navy, was launched on November 7th. Incidentally, the query suggests itself as to whether this tremendous extension of fleets can halt with anything short of the bankruptcy of the nations which indulge therein. Some time ago, Great Britain was willing to consider the question of limitation of armaments, but the movement was blocked by Germany, upon whom, therefore, chiefly rests the responsibility for this ceaseless multiplication of battleships. So long as Germany keeps on adding to her navy, Great Britain cannot stop; peace, indeed, depends upon her "going one better." deed, speaking in the House of Commons, on Nov. 12th, Mr. Asquith stated that the Government intends maintaining the navy at a strength ten per cent. greater than the combined strength of the two next strongest naval powers. And so millions of money must be thus locked up, practically dead, and the heavy burden of maintenance laid upon the people, in order that tragedies more costly, more unbearable still may be averted.

PEOPLE, BOOKS AND DOINGS.

Professor Rutherford, for nine years Macdonald Professor of Physics at McGill, but now in England, has, during his experiments with radioactivity, succeeded in detecting an atom.

Rev. Dr. A. E. Burke, of Alberton, P. E. I., who is well and favorably known among the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate," as well as from end to end of the Maritime Provinces, has been appointed President of the Missionary Society Extension Branch, at Toronto.

Victorien Sardou, the eminent French dramatist, is dead. He wrote many dramas, the most famous of which are "Madame Sans Gene," and "Robespierre."

Dr. James Fletcher, entomologist and botanist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, died last week. Dr. Fletcher was an enthusiastic and thoroughly-competent scientist, and his loss will be great, not only to the large circle of friends which his geniality and manliness won for him, but also from an economic standpoint to the Dominion of Canada.

Count Zeppelin, inventor of the Zeppelin airship, has been decorated by the Kaiser, having had conferred upon him the Order of the Black Eagle.

Dr. William Osler has published a book, "An Alabama Student, and Other Biographical Essays." proves him a literary man and philospher, as well as one of the most eminent physicians of the day.

Czar Ferdinand of Bulcaria, who is said to be in constant dread of assassins, has organized a personal secret police of 430 men and 50 wo-

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THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

By Frank Richards, J. P.

The advocates of old-age pensions heartly appreciate any effort on the part of the Dominion Government to ameliorate the condition of people in the evening of life.

Few persons will blame the Government for being overcautious, by simply bringing in, in the first instance, merely an annuity scheme, to be contributed to by the people. But it is, nevertheless, the duty of those who believe it to be the duty of every person to have the means to exist, to persevere in the demand for an old-age pension measure, as now in force in New Zealand. Every individual man and woman in the Dominion of Canada has an absolute right to participate in the benefits to be derived from the public lands, forests, and mines. Therefore, a portion of the profits should be set Two apart for old-age pensions. million acres of public lands have been set apart in British Columbia for a university. Why cannot the same method be adopted with the Dominion lands for the benefit of the aged?

We have been told that we must not expect more from society than it can give; especially that we must not expect contrary things. But, in protecting the lands, forests and mines, so that a portion of the benefits derived are set apart for the aged, instead of falling into the hands of millionaires, it can hardly be said that we are asking too much.

It is, however, our duty to show: That, by granting, say, a pension of \$3.00 per week to every man and woman in the Dominion, upon reaching the age of 65 years, it is a safe measure to adopt.

2. That the most successful oldage-pension scheme in the world has been in force for ten years in New Zealand, in a colony containing less than one-sixth of the population of the Dominion.

Before doing so, it may be stated that all the progressive parties in England are strongly in favor of oldage pensions, which was passed by a large vote given in the House of Commons.

The British Government is paying, from January 1st, next, \$1.25 per week to men and women upon reaching the age of 70 years. The Earl of Rosebery attacked the measure in the House of Lords, and regretted its pauperizing effect upon the people. Whenever the proposed recipient of sion is other than a an old-age pens statesman, soldier, judge or policeman, the granting of the pension has the effect of making him a pauper, if we may credit the contentions submitted. Are not each of these Government officials paid the full value of their service at the time of their employment? If so, why should they be paid a pension any more than the ordinary citizen, who often works harder for less money? But, to finally and successfully controvert this argument, it may be as well to quote from the tenth annual report of the New Zealand Government on old-age pensions:

"Wealth of Pensioners."—The amount of accumulated property owned by pensioners is as follows:

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Freehold \$1	,689,697.05
Leasehold	142,526.95
Life Interest	97,271.60
Cash	276,018.35
Stock, furniture, etc.	468,615.80
SIOCK, Internet	

\$2,674,159,75

The total annual income earned by pensioners is \$527,281, and by their husbands and wives (not themselves pensioners), 111.253.

The total net property owned by pensioners represents an increase of

the income of pensioners has decreased by \$6,334.

The average amount of property held by each pensioner, after the deduction of mortgages, is \$168.00, as against \$159.00 in 1907, and \$138.00

The average amount of income earned per pensioner is \$38, as against \$40 in 1907, and \$39 in

Of the 13,569 pensioners on the roll, no less than 2,605 have benefited by the provision in the 1905 act increasing the allowance from \$242 to \$727 on property whereon a pensioner resides, and which produces no income.

The effect which the operation of the old-age-pension measure has had on the annual expenditure for outdoor relief in New Zealand has been remarkable. When the act came into force, in 1898, the outdoor relief amounted to 321 cents per head of Within ten European population. years it has been reduced nearly 50 per cent. It is now 171 cents.

Further, the relationship existing between the department and the pensioners, on the one side, and the magistrates, whose duty it is to hear applicants for pensions, has been of a harmonious character, and in no case has it been necessary to exact the full penalties by law for misrepresentation respecting means or age.

Finally, to settle the question of pauperizing, it may be quoted that, out of 7,384 males enjoying the benefits of the act, for the year ending March 31st, 1908, there were 6 accountants, 2 architects, 1 auctioneer, 4 bookkeepers, 2 chemists, 4 civil engineers, 2 clergymen, 53 clerks, 8 commercial travellers, 1 creamery manager, 1 dentist, 15 drapers, 1 draughtsman, 403 farmers, 5 plowmen, 1 goldsmith, 10 hotelkeepers, 3 journalists, 1 law clerk, 9 mastermariners, 5 mining agents, 14 musicteachers, 4 phonographers, 1 postmaster, 3 schoolmasters, 3 solicitors, 1 station manager, 5 surveyors, 13 teachers, 5 veterinary surgeons, 1 wine-spirit merchant.

There were represented on the roll 246 different occupations. There were 1,071 miners, 3,353 laborers. Among the 5,528 females on roll at the same date, there was 1 deaconess, 28 dressmakers, 1 governess, 158 nurses, 3 postmistresses, 2 sisters of

mercy, 1 teacher. There were 20 occupations, among which are noted 5,157 persons en-

gaged in domestic duties. Now, in reference to the matter as

it applies to Canada: The population of New Zealand is 937,578, and may be said to be living under similar conditions to that of ourselves.

In New Zealand, on the 31st of March, last, there were 13,569 persons on the old-age-pensions books; 1,740 new pensions were granted, but there had been 1,189 deaths, which, with 239 cancellations, made the total increase in number only 312 over the previous year. The percentage of pensions to the population, eligible by age, is 29 per cent. In the year 1905-6, the pension was increased to \$2.42 per week. The increase of pensioners in that year was 812; in the succeeding year, 675. The total excess of those on the roll on the 31st of March, 1902, is 793. There are 657 Maoris (natives of New Zealand) on the roll. The number of pensioners receiving the full

old-age pension of \$126 per year is 10,774, or 79 per cent. of the whole. Out of 7,487 pensioners who were admitted on the roll in 1893 and 1899, 2,476, or 33 per cent., are still drawing the pension, as against 38 per cent. last year.

Out of 1,189 deaths this year, 337 are original pensioners. There are 1,856 more male pensioners than female. Of the natives, the females exceed the males by one.

The majority of claimants apply at the age of 74 years: next in number, the ages 73 and 75. Eighty of the pensioners are 90 years of age. There are eight of the age of 96 and over. Two are over 100.

Those of British extraction number

the street time hunt- \$173,169 on last year's figures, while 89 per cent.; 538 are of the minimum age, while 18 are 80 years, Since the act came into force, there have been 33.598 claimants, and 25,617 pensions were granted.

In 1903 a new av. tem of investigation was inaugurated, and since that time 11,158 claims have been received, and 2,611 rejected. During the last year, there were 2,327 claims, and 613 were turned down for more definite information as to age and income. Twenty-three per cent. of the total claims lodged have been rejected. Previous to 1903, 78 per cent. of those who applied were granted; since 1903, the percentage has dropped to 72 per cent.

The total cost of administration since coming into force, ten years ago, is \$1.69 per hundred dollars pensions paid out, the gross payment

being \$10,027,210. On March 31st, 1899, the average liability of the Government was \$82.53 per head of 7,443, a total of \$617,497. At the same period in the present year it was \$119.06 per head of 13,569 pensioners, or a total of \$1,616,699.

The increase for past year is only \$35,191, against \$63,370 for the previous year.

It is fortunate that we are in possession of such accurate knowledge regarding actual experience spreading over a period of ten years in New We may, therefore, fairly judge what is likely to be the experience of a country like Canada, a population similar in manners, mode of life and general conditions.

It would be fair to argue that, if the liabilities of New Zealand are multiplied by seven, we would not be underestimating our own, seeing that we have barely six times the population of that colony.

The Quiet Hour.

OUR FATHER'S TREASURES.

The earth is full of Thy riches-Ps. 104: 24. Your Father knoweth what things

ye have need of—S. Matt. 6:8.

When we are inclined to look on the dark side of life, and expect evil to be lying in wait for us, we should do well to read the 104th Psalm, which is a glorious reminder of God's careful and wise provision for each of His creatures. It describes how He sends the water through the valleys for the wild asses; how He provides grass for the cattle and herbs for man, trees for the birds to nest in, and high hills as a refuge for the wild goats. The young lions seek their meat from God, and the leviathan has the sea provided as a great playground "to play therein." All, both small and great beasts, wait upon God in sure trust that He will "give them their meat in due season. And, because they stand with their eyes upon the Great Father, they accept His gifts with the simplicity of little children. "That Thou givest them they gather. Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good." And we hardly need to be told that we are of more value than many sparrows, anv more than a child in his father's house needs to be assured that he is more tenderly cared for than the cattle in the stable. If the animals find special provision made for them, according to their various needs, man finds more than the bare necessities of life. There is not only "bread which strengthened man's heart," but also "wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine." Why should we not be glad and joyous as happy children, growing up in our Father's house, under His wise and tender care? He is rich, His treasury is inexhaustible, and He knows what things we have need of. Of course, He will give us -He is giving us-just those things. and no other. No good thing that He has provided for us can go astray. If we miss it, then it must be because we have taken a road of our own As Mrs. Whitney says: choosing.