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Portland, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1909.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF LAND.

The letter printed yesterday about the land policy of New Zealand, from the London Spectator, liberal weekly, contained matter of enlightenment on a subject about which much has said among us by those who have little of the facts.

What is called the land policy of New Zealand is only in the incipient and experimental stage. In proportion to the whole area of the country the nationalization of the land has not proceeded far.

The rural lands of the country can be bought from the government for cash. They can also be held on "lease in perpetuity" (999 years) at a 4 per cent rental on the capital value, or occupation with right of purchase for 25 years at a 1 per cent rental on the value.

The New Zealand writer says: "The chief object of the government is to nationalize the land at any cost, and create an army of state dependents who shall be at the beck and call of the party in power."

It is wrong to discourage the pursuit of truth, even when there is no prospect of its attaining anything else and a most prospect of attaining even truth.

"INAPTITUDE."

It has been noted that a number of students have recently been dismissed from the Naval Academy at Annapolis for "inaptitude."

"Inaptitude" is not a vague term. Specifically, according to the Standard Dictionary, it means "not suitable or fit for a specific purpose or use."

in it somewhere. Why waste his time and the Nation's money by attempting to fit him into a profession for which he shows no aptitude?

Men are discharged from business houses, from railroad service, from even the common vocations every day for the same reason. An employe who does not catch on, who in mental or physical attainments does not measure up to the requirements of his work or who is not amenable to the discipline of the house or the employing force is discharged for the same reason given by the superintendent of a factory.

TAFT AND THE ROOSEVELT POLICIES. The more the country sees of Mr. Taft the firmer grows the impression that there is going to be no radical departure from the so-called Roosevelt policies regarding corporation abuses and privileges.

Another influence that has caused some mistrust regarding Taft's policies, is the internal strife which has been waged by some of his subordinates in the way of punishing law-breakers and correcting accumulating evils was attended by so many spectacular effects that a man possessing the calm, judicial temperament of President Taft, in endeavoring to follow his would naturally attract less attention.

It is inconceivable that one of the first and most important consequences of the perfect change of demeanor in such people as Nicholas. When it is very clearly no longer possible to rule by violence and cruelty, they may be thought themselves toward the corporations and just as hitherto every invention of world-wide importance has limited the authority of consecrated rulers. The airship is not likely to be an exception to the rule.

SOME REMARKS AS TO SAVINGS. The little book on "How to Invest Your Savings," which has just come out, deserves a more comprehensive title. It treats of other subjects besides investments. It tells one how to accumulate savings, for one thing, an art which, in most cases, most unhappily precede investment. It also warns the simple-minded how to shun the temptations of the mad and the foolish who would relieve them of their savings easily, quickly and without return.

Mr. Morcoason inculcates the desirable notion of thrift without taking the trouble to tell us just how to make it practicable. He cites the admirable savings bank laws of New York and Massachusetts, but omits to mention that in most of the other states money deposited in a savings bank is utterly at the mercy of the officials who are at liberty to speculate with it as they please.

The so-called poetry which the spirits themselves profess to transmit through the medium is always the most depressing gibberish. Not a single line of it has ever been worth remembering. Although spirits are supposed to live a larger and freer life than we and are said to know all the secrets of nature, they have, nevertheless they have not told us one truth about electricity, aviation or any other significant subject of human interest.

At any rate, they call it investing. In reality they make the sleek solicitor a present of their hard-earned money. Of late years the business of swindling the poor people out of their savings has developed into an extensive and almost respectable calling. It provides an elegant livelihood for a whole host of smooth gentlemen who would probably have to clean stables for their bread if this resource had not been invented.

THE CZAR AND THE AIRSHIP. The news that the Czar of Russia has forbidden airships to come nearer than ten miles to St. Petersburg raises the interesting question how he expects to enforce his order. For some time the airship has been flying at two or three hundred miles an hour and has, indeed, been used for military purposes. It is not likely that the Czar will be able to enforce his order.

Figures on the profits of the North Bank Road, in a report filed with the Washington Railroad Commissioners and printed in The Oregonian recently, ought to be explained. It was stated that the road had proved a paying investment from the start, and in proof the fact was cited that the operating revenues for the year were \$1,155,545 and that the operating expenses were \$733,299, leaving an apparent profit of more than \$360,000 for the year ending June 30.

NEW-OLD IDEA IN TEACHING. Instructor Who Believes in Less Text-Books and More Teachers. Cleveland Leader. The veteran superintendent of the public schools of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has just spent three days in Cleveland, Ohio, in the company of teachers who have just spent three days in Cleveland, Ohio, in the company of teachers who have just spent three days in Cleveland, Ohio.

Citizen Foote, who, in the indiscriminate use of his law tackle, was one of the most industrious workers of the World, has been sentenced to six months on the rock pile. Mr. Foote was one of those professional agitators who have abandoned his soap-box pedestal on the Portland street corners and hastened to Spokane to aid the Great Unwashed Army of Neverworks in violating the laws of the City of Spokane.

Another aviator was killed in France yesterday, the motor of his aeroplane exploding at a height of 1450 feet. This is the third fatality of the kind since the aeroplane came into prominence a little over a year ago, the victims being Lieutenant Selinger, who was killed at Fort Mifflin, and Lefebvre, a French aviator, killed about two months ago. When this death-list is considered in proportion to the number of aeroplanes in use, it is easily noticeable that the new means of travel afford greater possibilities for fatalities than any other ever invented, not excepting the dirigible balloon.

Mr. Morcoason would use the same blaudishments as women do when seeking husbands. They would get the ballot without trouble, but that may be the reason so many of them have no husbands.

The Oregon State Dairyman's Association will meet in Portland next Thursday, but not at the wagon hour, because sleep-loving milk inspectors are invited to attend.

EXPECTS TO "POUR" HOUSES SOON. Edison's Proposed Cement Buildings Not an Idle Dream. Allen L. Benson in December Munssey's. Some of the big builders, the kind who erect New York skyscrapers, told me the other day that a cement house could be poured. Impracticable! A dream!

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OLD-TIME VIRTUES STILL POTENT. Non-Money-Grabbing Millionaire Wins by Industry and Loyalty. Holland in Wall Street Journal. The directors of the Ford Exchange Bank have adopted a resolution expressing their high admiration for the character, ability and personal qualities of one who had been for some years a director, but who recently resigned, Mr. J. C. McGovern.

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Life's Sunny Side. When Senator Dick of Ohio stopped in to chat a bit with President Taft, the other day, he had occasion to illustrate a point with an anecdote called from his own rich life's experience.

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