

company, the Brier Hill Collieries and the Cumberland Coal company required investigation and as I had placed my interests in these matters in the hands of Senator Bailey of Texas, with power of attorney from me to handle them as he saw fit, I wished Mr. Gruet to place himself at the disposal of Senator Bailey and make such investigation into the interests mentioned as Senator Bailey desired. Mr. Gruet readily assented to my suggestion and returned to St. Louis within a day or two, where he met Senator Bailey and received instructions from Senator Bailey in regard to the investigation which Senator Bailey desired made at Nashville, Tenn., which was the headquarters of all these companies." Mr. Pierce went on to explain that Gruet put in several months in Nashville making investigations under the direction of Senator Bailey, and then went to New York to make a report to Pierce. Mr. Pierce continued: "Senator Bailey expressed the opinion that Gruet's examinations at Nashville had been without value. It was subsequently proved that Senator Bailey's impressions were correct and that Gruet had simply gone to Nashville and copied the books and come back here and gone to New York and did not even turn in his report."

REFERRING TO THE Pierce testimony, Senator Bailey says that the Standard Oil company has no interest or connection with the Tennessee properties for which he is the attorney. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald quotes Senator Bailey as saying: "My employment in this instance, as well as in all other instances, was such as any honorable lawyer is glad to accept, and my clients are entirely satisfied with the manner in which I have protected their interests. We, perhaps, have reached a time when the public is unwilling for a man engaged in its service to be at the same time engaged in any other business, however legitimate and honorable it may be; and it may be that hereafter our senators and representatives are to be made up of men who are wholly dependent upon their public salaries for their living. If the public chooses to dismiss men of affairs from its service and to employ only professional politicians it has the right to do so, but, as for my part, I have no intentions of sacrificing my right to earn a competence for my old age, so long as I can do so in a perfectly honorable way and without neglecting my public duties. If I choose to work while other senators rest or travel, intelligent men are not likely to make that a ground of complaint against me. Not only do I intend to use my own time in the legitimate practice of my profession, but I do not intend to humor what seems to be a morbid state of mind which demands an explanation for everything a man does, no matter how entirely proper it may be. The next thing you gentlemen of the press know the men who happen to dislike you will be declaring that you are paid for what you write, and that declaration will be made with an air of mystery which will be expected to impress upon certain minds that in making a living with your brain and your pen you are guilty of something wrong."

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, the London author of several hotly criticised plays, was recently invited by a New York theatre management to visit America and was promised a "royal good time." Mr. Shaw replied in this way: "It is just that royal reception that makes it impossible for me to come. If I could come quietly, without convulsing America, without delivering a hundred addresses to enormous crowds, without a salute of 101 guns, without the risk of being forcibly naturalized and elected president, and subsequently seized and imprisoned by Mr. Comstock, then I might come. As it is, I prefer the quiet and retirement of London. Besides, I am writing a new play—an astonishingly good one. I had no idea I had so much good left in me. It has delayed my reply a little; but you will forgive me."

WHILE ADMITTING that prohibition figured in the Maine campaign, the Springfield (Mass.) Republican says that prohibition was not the only cause of the republican weakness, but that for years there have been accumulating "minor causes of dissatisfaction with the machine for so long in the control of the state's affairs." The Republican adds: "An oligarchical rule had arisen within the republican lines and a little inside ring had left the rank and file but little share in the actual government of the commonwealth. That there was more or less dissatisfaction with this condition of affairs is well known to those

who have had the opportunity to test sentiment among Maine voters, and that this feeling manifested itself yesterday, much as the same feeling was manifested in the heavy vote for Mr. Clement in Vermont the week before, is altogether likely. Indeed, the whole northern tier of New England states have lately exhibited marked signs of restlessness under the political dominion to which they have long been subjected. Coming to Congressman Littlefield's case, which has attracted more attention in the country than the state contest itself, it must be admitted that Mr. Gompers has 'made good.' Of the national significance of the tremendous reduction in Mr. Littlefield's plurality there can be no possible doubt. The comparative success of the laborites in this opening battle against some fifty republican congressmen is calculated to cause a panic in republican congressional circles and at one stroke to make the complexion of the next national house a matter of grave doubt. In the Maine election, national republican leaders like Secretary Taft and Speaker Cannon burned their bridges, so far as the demands of organized labor are concerned, and Mr. Cannon's somewhat irascible defiance of Mr. Gompers will echo throughout the autumn campaign. It must finally be observed that the cry, 'Stand by the president,' proved futile in Maine to hold the republican strength up to its normal level, and to this fact we may concede a certain ominous significance, while refusing to read into the result national implications that are obviously not there."

GNOMES WERE SUPPOSED by some people to inhabit the inner parts of the earth and to be guardians of mines and quarries. Pope refers to the "gnomes or demons of the earth who delight in mischief." The dictionary describes it as "a dwarf; a goblin; persons of small or misshapen form or features." This introduction will prepare the reader for "the discovery," made by Col. Henry Steele Olcott, chief of the Theosophical society at Chicago. Col. Olcott recently addressed the Theosophists and, according to a Chicago dispatch to the New York World said: "Gnomes, sylphs, undines and salamanders are the spirits of the earth, air, water and fire, respectively, and unless there is an able-bodied sylph in a person's system he will have no success as an aeronaut, slack-wire walker or flying machine inventor. Unless the man who undertakes to control money, oil, diamonds and other treasures of the earth has a few gnomes to pilot him he might as well go into bankruptcy before he lands in a madhouse. If a farmer boy out in Minnesota awakens some morning with an uncontrollable desire to go to sea, he is beset by an undine. Salamanders obsess those who climb fire-escapes, sell coal, members of the fire department and those who conduct fire sales." From this the World correspondent reasons that "gnomes the funny little creatures with round, floppy ears and pointed red caps, are the actual financiers of the world. John D. Rockefeller is said to be simply jammed full of these imps, and every man in Wall street who is successful is simply beset by them."

SOME INTERESTING testimony was given recently before the interstate commerce commission in session at Chicago. A. B. Jacquith, of Omaha, formerly manager of an elevator company, admitted that he knew of an instance where the 1 1/4 cents' allowance to the Peavey company had been divided between the company and the man who sold the elevator company the grain, so that a greater price was paid for the grain than competing companies could pay. He also admitted that with this additional allowance from the railroad the dealer may go into the country and defeat his competitors because he has the allowance to aid him in overbidding the competitor.

A. B. STICKNEY, president of the Chicago Great Western Railroad company, gave the details of the alleged trust formed by the Union Pacific and showed how two men who dared defy the trust were crushed financially. One of these is Ems Leflin, a former grain dealer of Lexington, Neb., who has written the commission that he wishes to testify in the present inquiry. Mr. Stickney did not divulge the name of the other man. The reason given by Mr. Stickney for withholding the man's identity was that he was afraid if he disclosed the name the man would suffer the loss of a clerical position he is now holding

in Chicago. According to Mr. Stickney, this man whose name is withheld, invested \$30,000 in the grain business in Nebraska. He was having a hard time when he received a check for \$5,000 for the Peavey Elevator company. He saw that it was a mistake and asked the Union Pacific, which sent the check, to give him a rebate of the same kind. The man also found a letter accompanying the check addressed to the Peavey Elevator company. The railroad, Mr. Stickney declared, told the man he would be taken care of if he gave back the letter he had received by mistake. The letter and check were then both returned to the railroad. Shortly after, Mr. Stickney said, the man was put out of business and left Nebraska penniless.

WILLIAM F. THOBER, of Trenton, N. J., was married on September 15 to Miss Viola Glover of Newark. Behind this brief announcement is a startling story. Thober was married on Saturday evening at the home of Miss Mary MacDonald, whom he expected to marry on Sunday evening. By merest accident Miss MacDonald learned that her fiancé had jilted Miss Glover sixteen months before. The wedding invitations had been sent out, the bridal dresses were all ready and the minister engaged, and then came the climax. Miss MacDonald summoned Miss Glover and her parents to the MacDonald home on Saturday. She also summoned the minister and a few especial friends and near relatives to whom she told the story. Thober came to the MacDonald home on Saturday evening, prepared to remain there until the marriage on Sunday evening. He was met at the door by his fiancée's brother-in-law, Mr. Griffin. "Anxious and eager for the wedding?" queried Mr. Griffin. Thober said he could hardly wait. "Then we'll have it right now," said Mr. Griffin. The folding doors were thrown open and the astonished young man saw a dozen people standing around, while the minister stood waiting. He stepped forward, and to his surprise and dismay saw Miss Glover approaching him. He was handed a ring, and gently pushed in front of the minister with Miss Glover at his side. In a few brief words the minister pronounced the words that made the jilted and betrayed Miss Glover the wife of William F. Thober. The moment the ceremony was concluded Mr. Griffin escorted Thober to the hall, handed him his hat and said: "You may go." Thober went. Then the guests sat down to a wedding supper without the bridegroom, and the happiest there were the two young women—the one who had escaped marriage with Thober, and the other who had secured a legal righting of her wrongs. Thober has not been seen by any of the guests since the startling wedding.

WINSTON CHURCHILL was defeated in his fight against the republican railroad machine in New Hampshire, but he made some bad wounds on his enemy. A writer in the New York World says. "His supporters in one city ward defeated United States Senator Gallinger, chairman of the republican state committee; Samuel C. Eastman, who was slated to preside at the state convention; James O. Lyford, naval officer at the port of Boston, slated to be chairman of the committee on resolutions; Frank S. Streeter, counsel for the Boston and Maine railroad and member of the republican national committee, and other prominent state politicians. It was a big killing for a beginner. Senator Gallinger's scalp alone would have been a big prize."

WRITING TO THE New York Evening Post, Joseph S. Wood of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., criticises Mr. Roosevelt's "spelling" decree, and says that it presents a very serious situation. Mr. Wood explains: "When congress passes an act it is engrossed, and it must be printed as it is engrossed. If congress adopts one style of spelling for the laws it enacts, and the president adopts another, which is to be the standard? Again, the United States courts have reporters who are appointed by them to look after the printing of the reports of the decisions rendered. If the judges of these courts spell their words not in accordance with the edicts of the presidents or with the laws of congress, we may have an executive English, a legislative English, and a judicial English. Again, what is true of congress and the United States courts is equally true of the legislatures and courts of the several states. Who can say whereunto this will lead?"