

IN THE CRUCIBLE.

had to get into society, and when the modern English novelist desires a vulgar character, he almost invariably takes the stock broker. In "Milestones" Arnold Bennett puts into the mouth of one of his characters the words, "dirty stock broker."

It is hard to understand why the place and station occupied by the stock broker in Canada. He is looked upon as a wizard, one endowed by Providence with an acumen for making money. On the point I believe my opinion to be of value, and that is to the effect that brokers and financiers don't make their money by stock market speculation: their mode is stock market rigging—not the same thing—and promoting, watering stock and like tricks of the trade. The ignorant and confiding invest their money through a wealthy stock broker in the idea that he will show them the way to fortune: these people are victims of misplaced confidence. The wizard is, most often, a plain crook, playing with other people's money.

REFORM.

That there is a public demand for stock market reform in this country is evidenced by the incipient legislation advanced by Mr. Lucas, Attorney-General, at the last meeting of the Legislature. A potent lobby was effective in passing this over, futile as blue laws are known to be. What is needed is an investigation, and the more this idea is opposed the stronger should be the public demand: does the honest man care who searches his house?

In closing this narrative, I will express the wish that all honest men who desire that their sons may have a chance for comfortable existence in our land shall read "Other People's Money," a book written by Louis D. Brandeis. This is a very able dissertation on the power of money, and its conclusions have been drawn on the basis of information gleaned by the Pujo Commission. All the evils of interlocking directorates are there shown up. The ways of the financier of the United States are the ways of our financiers. If the people of the United States are less subservient than our people, and are able to learn the ways of the money-lords, so should we play the X-ray on our banks and stock brokering offices. If a returned soldier may not enter our courts and trust to justice, if one such may be cheated as I was cheated, then is our country open for anarchy; for, while it is the duty of the good citizen to protect the state, it is the duty of the state to protect the citizen.

The charge that religion and patriotism are being used by the capitalists as the basis of appeals to the maintainance of a form of government especially plastic under their influence, has much ground. And the plea that if our present form of government is replaced by some other, it would mean that ravishing hoards would carry rapine and murder through the country, is merely token of capitalistic dishonesty. Anyone who would suggest that the returned soldier would be less liable to uphold justice in his own land than abroad is a creature of ingratitude. But if our money-lord living in Montreal or Toronto shows that his heart is that of the erstwhile war-lord whose habitat was Berlin, then we might be excused if we sought the same methods of eradicating the other as we did the one. One may not believe in Socialism, which calls for the division of property and is in antagonism to the scheme of the Universe, and yet maintain that the game of life should be played within the laws of decency.