

recommendations of the superintendent. But the competent manager, upon whose shoulders falls the whole responsibility of failure, must be allowed to choose his own supplies, both of men and machinery.

One feature of life in Cobalt that obtrudes itself unpleasantly upon the visitor is the prevalence of the "blind pig." A moderate estimate places the number of these illicit liquor shops at thirty-five. In open defiance of the law the vilest liquor is sold day and night. As a consequence the proprietor of the "blind pig" usually a "fence" for the "high grader."

There may be difference of opinion as to extent to which "high grading" obtains in Cobalt. Those who have studied the question claim that large amounts of silver are daily disposed of. Whether the total is large or small is not our present theme; but it is certain that "high grading" would be practically eliminated if the "blind pig" did not exist.

The onus of these conditions cannot be thrust upon the Government. It behooves the citizens of Cobalt to do a little house-cleaning.

No reference to mining in Cobalt would be complete without mention of the excellent topographical and geographical map issued and distributed by the Ontario Bureau of Mines. It was compiled by Dr. W. G. Miller and Mr. C. W. Knight, and it has afforded untold help in development and prospecting.

MINING FLOTATIONS AND THE PRESS.

The general report of the Grand Jury, which last December returned a true bill against Frank Law, refers in the following terms to the newspaper practice of printing any and all mining advertisements that are offered:

"We have heard sufficient evidence to convince us that the public have been swindled out of large sums of money in the flotation of mining companies. The prospectuses issued by many of these companies are not only intentionally misleading, but oftentimes false and fraudulent in the statements contained in them. The mining industry is destined to assume large proportions in Canada and in Ontario, and it is very much in the public interest, as well as in the interest of private individuals, that it should be conducted honestly and in such a way as to inspire confidence at home and abroad.

"The flotation of wild-cat propositions depends largely for their success on advertising in the daily press, and it is a regrettable fact that the newspapers do not caution the public in regard to ventures many of which are illusory and fraudulent on their very face. If the newspapers cannot be held responsible for aiding and abetting this kind of fraud, the Govern-

ment should at least see to it that the laws are made wide enough to include fraud of all kinds perpetrated by the officers of the companies, and the brokers concerned, and furthermore that such laws are rigorously enforced."

SUMMER EXCURSION OF THE CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.

Plans for the visit of representatives of British technical and scientific societies are being perfected. Delegates have been invited from the Iron and Steel Institute, the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the North of England Institute, the South Wales Institute of Engineers, the Institute of Scotland, and the Manchester Geological Society.

Already a number of these representatives have signified their intention of coming over to Canada in August. Fifty provisional acceptances have been received by the secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute.

The proposed itinerary of the trip is printed on another page of this issue. It is, of course, open to change and has been suggested merely as a working basis. Indeed, the itinerary is now printed in the hope that those interested will give their opinions as to necessary modifications.

THE FRANK LAW CASE.

Anxious enquiries have reached us at divers times regard the progress of the case of Rex. vs. Frank Law. Rumors have been circulated that the case has been settled or dropped. These are utterly unfounded. County Crown Attorney Drayton consented to traversing the case until the June Sessions in the hope that Russell, Law's partner, would be extradited before that time.

The case is now "sub judice" and comment is out of order. The public may rest assured, however, that proceedings have not been and will not be dropped.

The finding of the Grand Jury reads thus: "That Frank Law, at the City of Toronto, in the County of York, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven, did unlawfully, fraudulently, and deceitfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with William Lockard Russell and with other persons to your jurors unknown to defraud the public market price of price and shares publicly sold, and did thereby commit an indictable offence, contrary to the provisions of the Criminal Code."

Contributors who send us photographs will do well to remember that a dull finish is difficult to reproduce. Good half-tones can only be secured from a "burnished" photo.