

COBALT LAKE

MEMORANDUM REGARDING STATEMENTS TO THE LEGISLATURE WHICH SECURED THE PASSING OF THE ACT AFFECTING THE TITLE TO COBALT LAKE.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

In THE EVENING TELEGRAM of April 5th, 1907, the Premier is reported to have said "The Recorder had been present during one of the interviews granted by the Government to the claimants and had emphatically stated that the map showing the Lake to be withdrawn was displayed in his office at the time alleged discoveries were made on Cobalt Lake."

There was only one interview granted by the Government to those interested in the Florence Mining Company. This was when their petition asking among other things that the matter should be considered and investigated was presented. At that interview the Recorder, Mr. Smith, was present and was prepared to give evidence but the Premier stated that while they could swear at Mr. Smith they could not swear him and no such statement as above referred to was made in the presence of that deputation. What statements were made by Mr. Smith and others when the Florence Company was not represented we have no means of knowing but an investigation such as asked for would have given the Florence Mining Company an opportunity of answering, and showing that a map was not displayed in the Recorder's office showing the Lake to be withdrawn. The statement that the map showing the Lake (Cobalt Lake) to be withdrawn was displayed in the Recorder's office at the time of Mr. Green's discovery has now been shown under oath to be quite contrary to the fact.

PERMISSION TO PHOTOCGRAPH THE MAP REFUSED.

An application was made at the time by letter dated 22nd April, 1907, to the Premier asking for permission to make a photograph of the map he referred to under such conditions as the Government might see fit to prescribe. This request was at the time refused. Subsequently, by evidence in the Court proceedings, the Florence Company proved conclusively that at the time referred to there was no map displayed in the Recorder's office showing Cobalt Lake to be withdrawn.

PERMISSION GIVEN AND PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN.

After this proof was given a further application by letter was made to the Honourable the Minister of Lands, Forests and