

The then Commissioner of Crown Lands, approved of the suggestion, and directed that no disposition be made of the lake bed without further instructions.

### THE FIRST APPLICATION.

The first application for the bed of the lake was made by W. C. Chambers in January, 1904. Mr. Chambers filed plan of survey and paid in the first year's rental, but the Department would not deal with his application because of the lake bed having been reserved for the above purpose and also because all the lands within ten miles of each side of the T. & N. O. Railway in this region had been withdrawn under the Mines Act by Order-in-Council of 11th November, 1903, Mr. Chambers' application, it may be noted, did not allege any discovery of valuable mineral on the bed of the lake itself, but only on mining location R. L. 404 adjoining, within 200 feet of the lake, which he was of opinion would be found to run across the road allowance and into the lake.

In April, 1904 the Order-in-Council of 11th November previous was revoked, and mining locations were restricted to forty acres each.

• On April 5th, 1905, the Temiskaming Mining Division was set apart by Order-in-Council, including the Cobalt District, and brought under the operation of the Regulations for Mining Divisions, but, no further instructions having been given respecting Cobalt Lake, it was still regarded and treated by the Department as withdrawn from disposal.

On 8th June, 1905, Milo H. Bessey filed with the Recorder of the Temiskaming Mining Division affidavit of discovery and application for the bed of Cobalt Lake, which he had staked out as a mining claim on 5th May. This the Recorder refused to accept because of the lake bed having been withdrawn, whereupon Mr. Bessey's solicitors made application direct to the Department, and filed affidavits in support of his claim.

On 13th July, 1905 Recorder Smith was notified that he might now accept and record mining claims on the bed of Cobalt Lake, in accordance with the Regulations for Mining Divisions, but that before doing so he should satisfy himself, as provided in the Order-in-Council of 8th July, 1905, amending the said Regulations that an actual discovery of mineral in place had been made on the land applied for.

On 29th July, 1905, G. S. Strathy, Trustee, applied to Recorder Smith to have a mining claim recorded on the bed of Cobalt Lake,