

COBALT LAKE CASE

Bold and Persistent Attempt to Force From the Government Mining Rights Which had Netted a Million to the People of the Province — A Good Thing That Went Wrong

To secure a million of dollars for the people of the province from any mining claim, let alone from the bed of a small lake, was certainly contrary to general Liberal practice and it is, perhaps, not to be wondered at that a section of the Liberal press and certain members of the party have lent themselves to an endeavor to harass the Whitney Government over the sale of the bed of Cobalt Lake.

The most persistent of the number who felt they had rights therein, has been The Florence Mining Company, and as statements have been made in that company's propaganda which are the contrary to the facts, a brief summary of the case will be of interest.

On the discovery of silver in the Cobalt District in the fall of 1903, Professor W. G. Miller, provincial geologist, was sent to examine and report upon the deposits, and one of his recommendations was that the bed of Cobalt Lake should be at any rate for the time being, reserved by the Crown from sale or disposal, with the view of providing a site and supply of water for reduction works which might be erected on its shores, and also for the possible use of the mining camp and community which it was foreseen would be likely to come into existence in the immediate neighborhood.