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### STAKING CLAIMS

A subscriber has brought to our notice some irregularities in the staking and recording of claims in Northern Ontario.

In the Diabase Lake District a group of prospectors staked out eight claims of forty acres each, not only before making a discovery upon the territory so staked, but before they had even prospected the ground. The average prospector will not interfere with areas which have been staked. Therefore this particularly vicious form of blanketing practically secures large holdings in defiance of the express and explicit requirements of the law.

In James Township, claims thrown out by the Government Inspectors have been promptly recorded by other parties, who have dispensed with the preliminary necessity of prospecting and have sworn to fictitious discovery. This last practice is far too common.

We quote the above instances because we believe that the honest prospector should assuredly have fair play. There are many men who cannot bring themselves to swear to an imaginary discovery. These men suffer for the sins of less scrupulous persons. A few prosecutions for perjury would clarify the situation.

### PROSPECTORS' MEETINGS

From several quarters has come the request that we should give more of our space to the prospector. The request is fair, but the prospector himself is elusive. His elusiveness exceeds our willingness to comply with his desire. Our columns are always open to the complaints or questions of the prospector. We hold him in especially high esteem, for we know something of him.

His grievances are largely based upon those features of our mining laws which, in his opinion, militate against him. From Ontario we have had many verbal complaints—from Quebec a greater number, couched in language more vehement.

We wish to proffer a suggestion. It would be an excellent thing if, in places like Sudbury, Cobalt, Marmora in Ontario, and suitable points in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia, gatherings of prospectors could meet and discuss the mining laws of each Province. In the laws of every Province there are bad and good features. In Nova Scotia and British Columbia the prospector has, perhaps, the fairest treatment. In Ontario, while the administration of the law is honest, discreet and equitable, yet the law itself gives rise to some anomalous and distressing complications. But the Government has openly professed its willingness, its real desire, to improve and simplify the present Mines Act. The