

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXX.

TORONTO, February 1, 1909

No. 3

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada

Published fortnightly by the

MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office - Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Branch Offices Montreal, Halifax, Victoria, and London, Eng.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for the issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

CIRCULATION.

During the year ending with March 1st, 1908, 91,750 copies of "The Canadian Mining Journal" were printed and distributed, an average of 3,822 per issue.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post-office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

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JUSTICE.

Whatever delays and dallings there may have been in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the Highland Mary-Lucky Boys-Blue Bell group of swindlers, there is satisfaction in recording that the integrity of the law has at last been vindicated. On Saturday, Jan. 16, 1909, Frank Law, one of the chief promoters of these swindles, was adjudged guilty by the jury of the Court of General Sessions. Later, on Jan. 26th, he was sentenced to five years in Kingston Penitentiary by Judge Winchester.

Here, so far as we are concerned, the history of Frank Law closes. We derive no satisfaction from the fact that a fellow citizen has brought disgrace and suffering upon himself and his family. But we are convinced that the whole sordid story will act as a deterrent upon others who may look upon the flotation of bogus mining companies as a legitimate source of wealth.

In considering the history of mining company promotion there are two features that obtrude themselves most unpleasantly. The first is that, almost without exception, the worst of these schemes were those that advertised most extensively in several of the daily newspapers. Looking over the columns of the Toronto World for 1907 we notice thirty large advertisements (including those of Law & Company). Five of the promoters of these concerns are now fugitives from justice. The shares of not one of the thirty companies are worth purchasing to-day. This is indeed a startling indictment.

The second feature that demands remark is the aid given to all of the most unsavory fakirs by members of the legal profession, a profession whose honorable traditions are out of all keeping with this discreditable practice.

It is fair to argue that a promoter's legal adviser has more than usual opportunities of acquiring inside knowledge of the moral standing and business methods of his client. How then can there be justification for a lawyer lending his own or his firm's name to the most egregious schemes for robbing people who happen to have confidence in that name? Has the lawyer no duties as a citizen? Do his legal attainments necessarily place him beyond the pale of the moral code?

Frank Law was not the only malefactor in the case that has just been brought to a conclusion. Equally guilty were Russell, and, probably, Abendroth. But the history of the case reveals the fact that there was an intimate connection between the office of Lennox & Lennox, barristers, and the operations of Frank Law & Company. One member of the former firm was president of Silver Bird. Another was discovered to