

Therefore we take it that the *Toronto World* is responsible for its appearance.

Secondly, statements to the effect that Larder Lake gold district is proving the greatest in the world are totally unjustifiable. They are false and they are harmful alike to Larder Lake and to investors. Larder Lake is not "proving the greatest in the world."

Larder Lake is yet and will be for many months a new and unproved camp. The newspaper reports circulated about it have done it vastly more harm than good. Among those competent to express an opinion the district is looked upon as a low grade "proposition" with a possible future before it. The most sanguine of the reputable mining men who have visited the camp do not go farther than expressing their belief that when Larder Lake shakes herself free of wild-cats she will settle down into a steady low grade gold camp.

Therefore nothing could be more fatuously silly than comparing Larder Lake with the established gold camps of Australia and South Africa.

We invite the *Toronto World* or the person or persons who are responsible for the article to give us (in confidence if necessary) the names of the eminent English, German and French engineers who entertain such glowing opinions of Larder. Meanwhile we shall frankly say that we do not believe that any English, French, German, American or Canadian mining engineer of good standing would make any such statements for publication. We are similarly incredulous of the reported statement of "London Engineer," in the third paragraph.

The report that strong English and French interests are to buy stock in the two mines, floated by Law & Company, at considerably above par value, is not given as merely a rumour. It is so placed that the unwary reader will be led to conclude that the deal is about to be consummated. It will therefore require our attention for a moment.

It is very unusual, to put it mildly, for mining engineers commissioned by "well-known mining interests" to advertise their intentions or to allow them to be advertised. The *Toronto World*, after saying that "engineers have gone to examine" the mines in question, implies that, as a foregone conclusion, their report is to be favorable and that English and French capital will be at once injected into the concern. Now this is not only unlikely, but so extremely improbable as to warrant us in calling it fantastic. What decent mining engineers would allow their employers or any one else to take their opinions for granted? If examinations are to be made on these mines by clean engineers, then neither the *Toronto World* nor THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL can have any legitimate means of knowing what their dictum is to be. As it stands then, this portion of the paragraph is unworthy of credence. It follows logically that the statements based upon this rumour, concerning the acquisition of the stock, fall into the same category. It also follows that, contrary to the

*Toronto World's* opinion, the whole business reflects no credit upon Law & Company, brokers, of Toronto, Ontario.

The *Toronto World* is oftentimes the outspoken and fearless champion of right. The publication in its columns of trashy mining advertisements and of inspired mining news can add nothing to the paper's reputation. This applies, in varying degrees, to almost every newspaper in Toronto. We wish for the benefit of the Toronto papers, to direct their attention to the principal British Columbia dailies. Their Western contemporaries publish well-authenticated correspondence in mining matters. Their columns are clean and reliable to a very commendable extent.

### THE PASSING OF THE SCOTT ACT

(Contributed)

In the County of Cape Breton at the present moment the average man "dunno where 'e are" in the matter of liquor laws, and in Glace Bay at least there is "no King in Israel." The fourteenth was pay day, and at night the streets of the town were full of "drunks." The local paper states that the sounds of revelry and blasphemy continued till three in the morning of Sunday. It was presumed that Saturday was the last day of the Scott Act, but the lawyers are not yet quite sure whether the Scott Act is in existence or not, as its repeal has not been gazetted. Samuel Weller said the law was a "hass." He was right. We imagine that the smaller fry amongst the legal fraternity will deplore the passing of the Scott Act into the limbo of things that have been, for it was the cause of much profitable litigation. Peace to its ashes, and may it never be resurrected until our councillors are men of more wisdom than those who represent us to-day. It is stated that under the Provincial License Law no license application can be entertained until December, and no license can be granted until March, 1908, and that further, any person convicted of selling liquor forfeits his right to apply for a license for the space of four years. Hence we are told that for six months we shall get real prohibition. Shall we? The Scott Act was not carried out, and the Nova Scotia License Act will not be carried out. So long as liquor is manufactured in Halifax and Upper Canada it will be drunk in Cape Breton, and the tighter the bands of prohibition are drawn the viler will be the stuff dispensed, and the more flagrant will be the evils of secret drinking in the unmentionable dives that such sumptuary laws encourage. The Mayor of Sydney in a recent speech said "one might as well try to enforce the Ten Commandments, as try to enforce prohibition." Such a remark is not orthodox and its morality is doubtful, but alas, men in general are neither orthodox nor moral, indeed we have it on good authority that men are "deceitful and desperately wicked." The utterly impossible and hopeless attitude of the extreme temperance party on this subject is well illustrated by a remark that was made to the