

DOMINION WILL NOT INTERFERE.

Out of this "Good thing gone wrong" the Cobalt Lake controversy grew. Its final quietus has been administered by the Dominion Government, according to the following item which appeared in the Toronto Globe on April 29th.:

"Ottawa. April 28th.—It is understood that the Government, on the advice of the Minister of Justice, has decided not to disallow the Ontario statute passed last year to validate the mining rights given by the Provincial Order-in-Council to the Cobalt Lake Mining Corporation. An appeal for the disallowance of the statute was made by the Florence Mining Company, about a year ago. * * * *
After careful and full consideration of all the constitutional aspects of the case the Justice Department, for reasons that will be made public in a few days, has found that the Act is constitutional."

And why, it may be asked, was it necessary to validate at all by statute the title of the Cobalt Lake Company? The answer is simple. The Florence Mining Company, notwithstanding the flimsy nature of its claim, could and did attack the Cobalt Lake Company in the Courts and through certain newspapers, and the Cobalt Lake Company was being injured by the doubt which was thus set up with regard to its title, even though there was no justification for any doubt whatever. The Government had, as it had a right to, sold the claim to the Cobalt Lake people for over a million dollars and naturally felt bound to do what it could to place the Company's title beyond question or peradventure. They did so, believing they were quite within their rights, and the decision of the Department of Justice now upholds the constitutionality of the Ontario Government's action.

