

not only does this metal meet the requirements of the Mint, but it is more than ordinarily free from alloys.

The Mint is now in operation, and we predict that not the least distinguishing feature of Canada's history in 1908 will be the fact that Canadian silver is being mined, smelted, refined and coined by Canadians in Canada.

"HIGHLAND MARY."

In this season of annual returns and estimates it is hard to give up space to the admirable Mr. Law or to the retiring Russell. Yet, as many of our readers are awaiting news, a prapagraph must be spared.

Law now awaits jury trial. He is charged by the Crown with conspiring to defraud. His bail was fixed at \$20,000. As Assistant Crown Attorney Price pointed out, Law and his confreres have milked the country of about \$300,000. The evidence adduced in the preliminary Police Court hearing was of a nature so damaging that a much higher bail would not have been amiss.

Amongst other evidences of fraud was the sworn testimony of the mining engineer employed to superintend work on the "Blue Bell" claims. Law & Company publicly announced that Blue Bell assays ran from \$200 to \$20,000 to the ton. Their engineer swore that he had only made two assays that showed gold at all. One of these was reported as showing \$2.50 to the ton, and the other \$1.50 to the ton.

This instance is typical. It were profitless to mention others. One incident, however, is interesting. It developed during the conspiracy trial, that the "Ontario Mining News" owed its existence to Law & Company. On one occasion Russell took 10,000 copies of that sympathetic sheet to England with him.

So much then for the conspiracy case. Law & Company stand disgraced and dishonored.

The Companies' Act case is still dragging along. It served a very useful purpose in eliciting evidence sufficient to prompt the Crown to prosecute Law for fraud.

Russell, Law's very silent partner, is reported to be in Lima, Ohio.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

Enquiries reach this office every day from all parts of Canada as to the merits of particular mines. It is obviously out of the question for THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL to attempt to answer these questions.

To formulate a reliable opinion of a mine it is necessary to visit and inspect that mine. This costs money and can only be adequately done by a trained mining engineer.

The holders of small interests in mining properties are often unable or unwilling to stand the expense of engaging an engineer to get information for them. But, often also they are unable to get satisfactory information from the officials of the company.

When this is the case there is a remedy. If a group of shareholders, whose holdings represent at least one-fifth in value of the total stock, arrange to act together they can secure from the courts the right to have the mine examined and reported upon. The expense of engaging a properly qualified man will then fall lightly upon many shoulders; or may, under certain circumstances, be referred to the company itself.

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL will be glad to assist and advise any persons who find themselves unable to obtain information. Finally, it is necessary first of all that these persons help themselves. But we shall willingly help persons interested in the same mine to come together.

WARNING.

In the Toronto newspapers there has appeared of late a copious advertisement. One L. W. Spear invites the singed, but forgetful, public to join him in an effort to develop groups of mines in various districts.

We notice that Mr. J. F. Lennox, barrister, of Toronto, is vice-president. Mr. Lennox's name was associated with the Larder Lake Proprietary Gold Fields. Last autumn a number of this company's employees were met on the way out from Larder Lake. They claimed that they had not been paid for some months and that they had not been decently fed. The JOURNAL mentioned the circumstance at the time.

In cases like these a reputable officer of a company resigns or demands and receives an explanation.

Taking Mr. Lennox then as a sample of those associated in this scheme, Spear's Canadian Mines Development, we rise to remark that Mr. Lennox must clear his name of several smirches before he has any right to appeal to the public for money. For instance, he might tell us something of Silver Bird and its aerial flight.

Further, the mining proposition that needs a large fraction of a page of newspaper space where to spread its is already damned.

Referring again to the advertisement, we notice that the promoters of this co-operative plan recognize that guady language is no longer desirable. It would, mayhap, be as salt upon the wounds of those who have gone in for "permanent" investments of the Silver Bird variety. Realizing this, Mr. Spears delivers himself in tones dulcet and moderate, but insistent. His is an appeal to reason, not a play upon the sinful thirst for shekels. And yet we must (were we not requested to by Mr. Lennox and others last winter?) watch Silver Bird!

The possible investor must bear in mind the fact that in putting his money into heavily advertised mining schemes he is not merely purchasing problematical mining shares, but is buying an interest in a large advertising debit account, running up to thousands of dollars and chargeable in all cases, directly or indirectly, to capital outlay.