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THE OLEAGINOUS MR. HENSHAW MADDOCK.

Mr. Henshaw Maddock occupies Suite 9, 10, 11, No. 205 Yonge Street, Toronto. Also he occupies a great deal of advertising space in our dailies. From his portrait, of which he is justly proud, we judge that Mr. Maddock is a person of engaging manners, and of convincing speech.

Mr. Maddock is promoting the sale of shares in the California-Alberta Oil Company. Some time ago we filed away for future reference, a copy of his prospectus. It is quite possible that this prospectus would have remained innocently in the file, had not our correspondent drawn our attention to one or two inaccuracies contained therein.

After pursuing the California-Alberta Oil Company prospectus, and comparing it with our correspondent's letter we are led to believe that Mr. Maddock does not know what he is talking about—or does not care to know.

For instance, on page 7 of the prospectus, a quotation from a report, dated 1898, is credited to Dr. G. M. Dawson. The report was written by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell.

Another quotation, page 8 of the prospectus, is attributed to the Summary Report of the Geological Survey of Canada, 1905, page 7. No such statement is made in the Summary Report. Indeed, any official of the Survey making such a statement would lose his usefulness at once. The quotation reads thus: "The same oil belt was traced into the Athabasca regions, 250 miles north of Egg Lake, showing vast deposits of asphaltum, or tar sands in the Athabasca region." If Mr. Maddock does not realize that he is talking nonsense, we must seize this opportunity of informing him that such is the case.

On page 8, moreover, the reader is told that the Canadian Government pays a bounty on crude oil. This is perfectly true. Unfortunately the Canadian Government, in its blindness, insists that you must first get your oil.

In many other respects the prospectus before us is a network of silly exaggeration. We may be pardoned if, since Mr. Maddock has seen fit to misquote Dr. Dawson, we reproduce here exactly what Dr. Dawson did write of the Egg Lake district. Here it is:—

"It does not follow however, that this would be a specially favourable locality in which to test the beds of the lower Cretaceous by boring, for on the contrary our knowledge of the geological structure of this part of the country indicates that the depth at which these beds lie, is here very great, probably, at least 2,500 feet, and possibly much more" Our correspondent continues thus: "After this was written the well at Victoria had