

Up to the date of writing Magistrate Kingsford has not given a decision on the Companies Act case.

A few days after the Companies Act case was begun, Law & Company started proceedings against the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL for libel and prayed for an injunction against us. The injunction was refused by Chief Justice Meredith. Whether the suit against the JOURNAL is or is not proceeded with is immaterial. The present result amply justifies our position.

The principals of Law & Company now stand charged with fraud in connection with the flotation of Silver Bird, Blue Bell, Lucky Boys and Highland Mary. The Crown Attorney possesses all essential documents.

For the benefit of the public we give the following facts: Frank Law, the head of the firm of Law & Company, was, about four years ago, a barber in Montreal. Graduating from life insurance he started his present business in Toronto not more than a year ago.

With these qualifications for guiding the public in mining instruments he, or his firm, has abstracted a goodly number of dollars from innocent victims.

The above is a mere skeleton of the history of our efforts to bring Law & Company to justice. In themselves Law & Company need not be mentioned again. We shall be glad to drop the unclean subject.

But the episode has brought into light some important truths.

Foremost of these is this—the Ontario Companies Act is a comprehensive and sufficient piece of legislation. Second and, of as great importance, is the consideration that the Ontario Government can and will administer that Act as it should be administered. Of even greater future significance is the fact that the Government, in taking criminal action against Frank Law, shows that it is determined to stamp out improper mining flotations.

Ontario is no longer a breeding place for wild-cats. The Provincial Government has created a precedent that will swiftly and surely kill the entire breed. It is true that the Government did no more than its duty; but it is not every Government that will cheerfully accept its moral responsibilities.

Ever since the first days of Cobalt's boom the mining fakir has waxed fat. The Canadian public has swallowed tales of treasure-trove, compared with which the Arabian Nights are anemic and Captain Kidd's history but a pale anagraph. The bait has been taken. Latterly the barb has made itself felt. We hope, we believe, that the lesson has been taken to heart, for a time at least.

And now for the inevitable moral. If Canadians, with money to invest in mines or prospects, wish to go about it in a sane, profitable way, there is but one course. In Canada there are now a large number of especially trained, honest and capable mining engineers. McGill, Queens and Toronto are graduating some dozens every year. These men have made it their business, their life-work, to learn about Canadian minerals, how

they are found, how they are won and how they are made into commercial products.

The services of these men are procurable. As mining engineers they practice a profession at once honorable and arduous; a profession demanding broad mental development and more than average physical stamina. They have spent years of preparation. They must, from the nature of their work, undergo hardships that no other professional men are called upon to endure.

The title of mining engineer, properly won and properly worn, implies high technical skill added to scrupulous honesty.

These then are the men, products of our own universities, or of universities of equal standing, by whom the Canadian public should hereafter be guided in mining affairs.

One word on a delicate subject is necessary before concluding. There is a vague, though general, impression current that when a mining engineer asks a substantial fee for making an examination of a mining property, he is setting an exorbitant price upon his services. A little thought will correct this error.

The independent mining engineer is the product of an expensive education and of a more expensive practical training. Work with him is not usually continuous. There are long idle periods to be reckoned upon. This is one controlling factor.

Another is that the examination of a mine, or even a prospect, is almost always an expensive thing in itself. More especially is this the case in Canada. The taking of samples, the making of plans; the collecting and co-ordinating of data geological, mineralogical and metallurgical; the investigation of conditions of labor, market, transportation, fuel supply, water supply, are responsible and laborious work. A favorable report from a good engineer transforms commercially worthless ground into a negotiable asset. This must be kept in mind by the owners of mineral lands. The advice of a mining engineer at the right time may save much useless expenditure; also, the imprimatur of his approval may multiply the value of a claim many times.

As a corollary to its wild cat campaign THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL intends to begin at once a series of sketches of the leading mining engineers practising in Canada. Whenever possible portraits will accompany these articles. Neither sequence of seniority nor alphabetical order can be followed. But we hope to cover the whole field.

We have chosen this course deliberately as a constructive antidote to the mining fever and as the best preventive of a recurrence of a wild cat plague.

That Cobalt has lived through over-capitalization and manipulation is evidence of the camp's solid worth. The total output of 1907 will be gratifyingly larger than that of previous years. The present depression is forcing upon managers and directors the necessity of curtailing expenses. The attitude of the American smelters compels shippers to look around for other markets and to