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THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

A HISTORY AND A MORAL.

When the CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL began its open attack upon fraudulent promotions, a speedy victory was not expected. But, owing to the prompt and most creditable action of the Ontario Government, the situation has been cleared and a precedent of extraordinary significance has been established.

It was recognized from the first by those chiefly concerned in conducting the anti-wild-cat campaign, that the offending companies were organized for the especial purpose of evading the letter of the law.

Also it was recognized that human ingenuity could not construct a law that dishonest persons could not evade. It was then concluded that since the Ontario Companies Act is as clearly expressed and carefully constructed as can well be expected, and since this Act was being both evaded and disregarded, therefore it was necessary to see that not the letter alone, but the spirit of this Act be respected and observed.

The firm of Law & Company was chosen as the first point of attack for two reasons—it had erected already one monument of falsehood, "Silver Bird"; and its advertisements were fast becoming a public nuisance.

For several reasons it was thought wise to begin proceedings by laying information against Law & Company for breach of the provisions of the Companies Act. A criminal action for fraud could even then have been instituted. This, however, would have entailed delay and trouble and would not have served our purpose so directly.

The Provincial Secretary's Department at once acted upon the information laid and commenced proceedings against Frank Law. Law's associates, Russell and Abendroth were served with subpoenas. Russell promptly left for England.

After frequent hearings in the Police Court, during which most damaging evidence, bearing on Law & Company's methods, was heard, the Government decided to institute criminal proceedings. Accordingly on Monday afternoon, November 18, Frank Law was placed under arrest. The arrest was made in the Police Court just as an adjourned session of the trial under the Companies Act was beginning.

All relevant papers, and documents were immediately removed from Law's office. Law himself was given freedom on ten thousand dollars bail, exclusive of his personal securities. Meanwhile Russell, who is included in the indictment, is supposed to be on his way back from England.