

A LETTER TO SIR JAMES.

MR. DREANY PROTESTS AGAINST RECENT STATEMENTS.

Resents the Allegations Made in Respect to Earlier Applicants of Cobalt Lake—Urges That Courts or Arbitration Decide.

A copy of an open letter written to Sir James Whitney was furnished to The Globe yesterday by Mr. H. Dreany, 15 Earnbridge street. The letter is as follows:—

"I notice in reports of the papers this morning quotations of an address made in Parliament yesterday by yourself, regarding the Cobalt Lake case, in which you apply the terms 'swindlers and adventurers' to the first applicants of Cobalt Lake. As Messrs. Chapin, Lamarche, Bessey and myself were the original applicants for this property, I would like to know if you intended that term to apply to us. You also state some of them are thousands of miles from here, and I am at present within a few miles of you, and prepared to defend any actions that are taken in regard to Cobalt Lake.

"Although you are well aware of the facts, and they are on record in your Crown Lands Department, I wish to again repeat to you a synopsis of the statement of our claim.

"In the spring of 1905, through my prospector, Mr. Bessey, I staked Cobalt Lake on the 5th day of May, on what we considered, as mining men, legitimate discoveries. After pressing for our application to be received at Haileybury, it was received and recorded to us on the 8th day of June, 1905. In the meantime, Messrs. Chapin and Lamarche had become interested as part owners. I then proceeded to prepare for development work by building camps, clearing off part of the shore, cutting wood and in other ways preparing for general development. During the fore part of the month of June, about the 16th, Mr. Lamarche arrived in Cobalt, and informed me that your Minister of Lands and Mines was very desirous that our title should be perfected, and that in case there was any question of the lake not being opened for staking, an order in Council had been passed, and was being sent up to the Recorder at Haileybury authorizing the Recorder to accept applications for Cobalt Lake. We were also advised to stake the road allowance. We proceeded in accordance with this direction to restake our discoveries, and had the same recorded on the night of the 17th of July, 1905 (on the arrival of the instructions from the Minister of Lands), and for which we have our recording receipts. I then, at considerable expense, continued prospecting the property, and did open up some of the discoveries, until I was notified by Mr. Chapin that Cobalt Lake had been withdrawn from operation. In the meantime I was informed that a Government inspector had inspected Cobalt Lake and reported that we had made no discoveries. We had never been notified that this inspection was going to take place, which was contrary to the customs your inspectors had followed, as they had always given seven days' notice to other parties when inspecting their claim. We appealed against this inspection, as we claimed Mr. Corckle had not seen our discoveries, and in accordance with this the Minister of Lands and Mines sent on Inspectors Mickle and Robinson, and if you will look up their reports you will find where they state that two of our veins qualified as bona fide discoveries under the meaning of the mines act.

"I wish to call your attention to a statement made recently on the floor of the House, that a paragraph had been incorporated in your special act of Parliament to confirm the title of Cobalt Lake, which protected applicants prior to withdrawal of Cobalt Lake. On the other hand, you have refused to consider our applications. I wish to call your attention to a statement also made that there were no applications for disallowance of the first act of 1906. If you will look up Mr. Masten (our solicitor's) communication to the Attorney-General's Department at Ottawa on December 11, 1906, printed on page 8 of the Provincial Legislature's report 1904-1906, you will see where

we made an application, and if you also look on page ten of the same report (I submit you an extract from a reply to the Hon. Attorney-General from Ottawa):—

"Extract from report of Minister of Justice, dated 21st of May, 1907, approved by order in Council, 28th of May, 1907. The undersigned is not satisfied, however, that it could have been intended by this act, or that the act operates, to affect private interests actually acquired, existing or vested at the time of the passing of the act. Such an effect cannot be attributed to the act unless unmistakably appearing, if not by express words, at least by clear implication and beyond reasonable doubt."

"I would also call your attention to the ruling of the Hon. Chancellor Boyd, in which he stated my case was against the Crown. Ever since we became involved in this dispute I have pressed for an adjustment of this claim. The Government have refused us a fiat, or to consider it in any way.

"I again ask you to grant us a fiat, or to arbitrate this matter for the purpose of adjustment. No doubt you are as honest in your conviction as I am in mine, but there is an unbiased public who have become interested in this matter. We think it only fair that the matter should be cleared up through the regular channels of the courts or by a fair arbitration.

"Am free to admit my weakness as an individual with a small purse to fight the Cobalt Lake Mining Company and the Government, but I must protest against the terms which you availed yourself of by your privileges as a member of Parliament that were used towards us yesterday.

"Also in the debate of this matter at Ottawa, Mr. Boyce, M.P., used the term 'grafters.' I do not know where any graft ever came in, unless it was where I paid money out of my own pocket to help the Conservative party while out of power, but for this I expect no return nor any favors, but want simply justice.

"Yours truly,

"(Signed) Henry Dreany."