

In 1879, when Messrs. W. E. C. Eastis, H. M. Howe and R. M. Thompson, of Boston, in conjunction with Major R. G. Leckee (now in charge of the Sudbury nickel mines) formed the Orford Nickel and Copper Company to work the nickel deposits of Orford County, Que., and the Crown Copper Mine of Copletan, Mr. Thomson was engaged as superintendent. It was during the following year, 1880, that the Orford Company, under Henry M. Howe as engineer and Mr. Thomson as superintendent, produced the Orford ratchet blast furnace for smelting copper ores.

Prior to that time the output of the small square or round copper blast furnace universally in use had not exceeded 40 to 50 tons per day but, under Mr. Thomson's management, the new furnace soon had records of 100 to 150 tons per day. This radical change from a square or round furnace of four feet in diameter in the shaft to a furnace having a rectangular shaft 3x11 feet inside was the turning point in the history of copper smelting and made the Orford Company famous the world over.

The idea once started, other metallurgists followed it out until as much as 300 tons of copper ore per day have been regularly run through one furnace and the end is not yet.

The brick walls of the old Orford furnace, chilled by means of water pipes built in, have given way to the water-jacketed walls of the modern copper smelter in metallurgy.

About 1881 Mr. Thomson was moved to New York, where he assumed the superintendence of copper works which the Orford Company had built there the previous year.

In 1883 Mr. Thomson went to Butte, Montana, having charge there of the Garrat smelter, one of the pioneer smelters of that great camp. Here he became associated with W. A. Clark, now the multi-millionaire United States Senator, and was instrumental in obtaining for that gentleman the United Verde copper mines, the source of the Clark millions.

Mr. Thomson later returned to the Orford Company as superintendent in New York and, while in this capacity, he devised the Thomson (patented) process for the smelting of nickel, thus rendering available and enabling the Orford Company to treat the magnificent deposits of nickel ore at Sudbury, Ontario, and at the same time giving to this company the command of the nickel markets of the world.

The influence Mr. Thomson has had on the smelting practice of this continent may be seen in the foregoing and that Canada and especially British Columbia have been directly influenced by his life's work is indicated by the fact that among those who have acted as his assistants and profited by his sound practical sense are Mr. W. F. Robertson, the Provincial Mineralogist; Mr. Robt. R. Hedley, Superintendent of the Hall Mines smelter; Mr. Thos. Kiddie, Superintendent of Van Anda smelter; Mr. Paul Johnson, Superintendent of Greenwood smelter; Mr. J. E. Leckie, M.E., of Rossland and others.

VERBATIM EVIDENCE IN THE IRON MASK-CENTRE STAR LITIGATION.

HAVING been requested by many of our readers throughout the Province to publish in these columns a verbatim report of the evidence in the Iron Mask-Centre Star litigation, Mr. H. F. Evans, our Rossland correspondent, was enabled through the kindness of Mr. J. B. Hastings to carry out our in-

structions to copy the official report of the proceedings and evidence taken, and which are in consequence enabled to publish in serial form.

(Continuation of Counsel's Argument, from last month's issue.)

Mr. Davis—Your Lordship will see by the time we open just what the real issues are. I do not think we shall disagree very much as to what the real issues are.

The Court—Yes, your title is disputed.

Mr. Davis—As I said, when we got down to the bottom of this winze, he again met the top of the so-called flat fault which runs across there. The Iron Mask people again applied for an injunction on the ground that this so-called flat fault destroyed the continuity of the vein, claiming again that that flat fault, as they called it, was of such a nature as to destroy—necessarily destroy—the continuity of any and all veins that it encountered on the further ground which they then raised for almost the first time—at any rate a ground which had not been raised in the application for the first injunction—that we had not anything in the No. 3 shaft anyhow, and that we had not any apex on Centre Star ground.

The Court—What is No. 3?

Mr. Davis—What is the No. 3.

The Court—That No. 3 is familiarly known between you as the inclined shaft.

Mr. Davis—The inclined shaft. The form of that injunction was very general, and really covers the whole ground in dispute in this action, or ground of dispute, rather, I should say, outside of the question of damages. The form of that injunction, is such as to prevent us anywhere crossing this so-called flat fault, and the injunction is worded in a very proper way, following the argument advanced by the other side. They said the flat fault cuts you off, not only cuts you off but cuts off any and every vein it goes through, therefore, even if you have a vein above that flat fault you ought not to be allowed to pass through that flat fault and they got an injunction from the Court on those terms. Now, there are several issues, as my learned friend pointed out to you the other day, in connection with this question. Of course, I am only referring now to the mining part of the suit. But there are, I think, only three that your Lordship need pay any attention to, because there are only three which I think my learned friend will press seriously or that there is any ground of contention at all. The others, I think, are more formal, that is as to the course of the Centre Star vein as to where it crosses the boundary lines of the Centre Star claim. Those three are: Is there an apex of a vein on the Centre Star ground at the post where we claim it? The second is: Is there a vein continuing down from that apex (assuming there is an apex) continuously into and through Iron Mask ground, or as it was put in the affidavits, is there a continuous vein, or any vein whatever in the No. 3, that is the inclined shaft? The third point is: Assuming the apex and the vein is that vein as all other veins which meet the flat fault cut off entirely, and is its continuity destroyed by the so-called flat fault? These are really, I think, the three fighting points in the—

The Court—Case.

Mr. Davis—The mining branch of the case, the case outside of these questions of title. The only other question in the case, which will not take up any time at all is the question of damages. It will probably clear up that matter, if I refer at the present time