remaining being the validity thereof. In this connection the learned judge remarks on the indefinite nature of the affidavit prescribed by the Placer Act, which simply requires the locator to swear that he has "reason to believe" that on the claim applied for, "there is therein a deposit of placer gold." In this case there could be no question at all that the Shamrock location was not a placer claim in any sense of the words, and that "in the circumstances no sensible man could have thought that the claim was placer ground." But, to quote again from the judgment as delivered, "the difficulty is that the belief required is not that of a sensible or an honest man; the insane delusion of a criminal, under the Placer Act being just as efficacious." Thus by this decision, the locator of a mineral claim, if he would protect himself from molestation at the hands of men of Tanghe's stamp, must necessarily stake the ground twice, as a quartz and again as a placer claim—a vexatious and costly expedient. An amendment to the Mineral Act by which the locators of mineral lands would be entitled to the surface rights, would undoubtedly be an exceedingly popular measure.

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Another recent decision, also delivered by Mr. Justice Martin, is of general interest. In this case title to certain mineral claims was claimed through a bill of sale dated February 23rd, 1903, but not recorded until May 22nd, 1903, the plea being that as the person to whom the interest in the claim was deeded, was in the Yukon at the time, and two thousand miles from the mining recorder's office having jurisdiction over the interest in question, he had 215 days in which to record the instrument on the assumption that the same privilege accorded to a locator of having one day for every ten miles of distance from the Recorder's office in which to make his record, was equally applicable in a case of this kind. The Court, however, ruled that Section 49 of the Mineral Act states that conveyances "shall be recorded within the time prescribed for recording mineral claims." Section 19 fixes the time as dependent upon the distance of the claim from the Recorder's office, not of the locator himself therefrom.

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Press dispatches sent out from Ottawa last month relative to the return from Europe of a Commission sent by the Federal Government to that country for the purpose of ascertaining whether iron ores can be directly smelted economically by electricity and whether steel can be produced from pig iron and scrap by electrical process, show an enthusiastic ingenuity on the part of their author in anticipating the "great things" that may come to the Dominion as a result of the discoveries made by the Commission. They also indicate a surprising belief in the credulousness of the people of the "wild and woolly West." It so happens, though, that even in this benighted (?) section of the Dominion there are men who know something of metallurgy, and who, whilst too appreciative of the wonderful possibilities of electricity to assert that it will never be an active agent in the economic smelting of iron on a commercial scale, naturally ask how it is that the big iron-masters of Great Britain and the United States have been so blind to their own pecuniary interests as to ignore such opportunities for sweeping reductions in the cost of iron-smelting and steel-manufacturing? Surely, if electro-thermic processes, or any of them, are capable of so considerably reducing the cost and, as well, of being applied on a large scale necessary to be a commercial success, such enterprising and thoroughly practical men as those expending enormous sums of money every year in smelting and manufacturing would not have left it to professionals, however learned in theory they may be, to make such an important discovery as that suggested by the irresponsible Press correspondents, who, we fear, are more concerned about getting "copy" than about the practical feasibility of the suggestions they so lightly scatter broadcast.

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An English company claims, after prolonged and intimate experience of its capabilities, that its Morison High-Speed Stamp Mill is superior to any other mill. It states that a battery having 1,400-lb. stamps gave such excellent results as to induce it to build one with 1,800-lb. stamps, which latter was sent to South Africa. After working there from April to October of last year under the supervision of the owning company's managing director it was turned over to the staff of the mining company at whose property the test had been made, with the following stated results:

"Since October the battery has been under the sole control of the Meyer and Charlton staff, and the crushing rate has been increased to fully 10 tons per head per day. The all-important question of reliability, wear and tear, and crushing capacity may be regarded as definitely and satisfactorily settled; so that we may now justly claim to have placed at the disposal of the mining world a gravitation stamp mill far ahead of any other in existence. Our present output of 50 tons per day per five heads is double the output of the average cam stamps on the Rand; but convinced that further economies are to be gained by still heavier stamps, we have decided to increase the standard weight to 1,800 pounds, and this battery will have a crushing capacity fully 100 per cent. greater than the latest cam stamps installed on the Rand. In addition to a reduction in capital expenditure, the high speed mill shows up to great advantage, both as regards cost of labour and also of shoes, dies, and screens. Briefly summarized, the sources of saving labour costs are as follows: (1) Half the number of battery tables to be dressed and scraped; (2) half the number of shoes and dies to be dealt with; (3) no transference of partially worn shoes to longer