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A CASE OF CONTRACT.

In the case of *The Hercules Iron Works vs. Dugan*, it was held by the Kentucky Appeal Court, that in an action to recover the value of plaintiff's services as a machinist and expert in discovering and remedying the defects in an ice plant which defendant had sold to an ice company, it was competent for the plaintiff to prove by the president of the ice company that by reason of defendant's failure to put the machinery in condition to make good ice, a loss of several thousand dollars had been sustained, and that a loss was continuing to be sustained, up to the employment of plaintiff. This, for the reason, that as the ice company had the right to the abatement of the purchase price to the extent of the loss sustained by the failure of defendant to furnish the character of machinery the contract required, the loss prevented by the skill of plaintiff was a fair criterion by which to determine the value of his services.

WEST INDIA CABLE.

West Indian advices show that there is a pre-  
valent feeling in favor of better cable service  
for those islands. The present undertakers,  
who are handsomely subsidized, are universally  
allowed to be very slack in their service, while  
it is admitted on all sides, says the *Trinidad  
Daily News*, that it would be a good thing for  
the West Indies if another company could re-  
place the present purveyors and give quietus to  
the old ladies of Dashwood House. It appears  
that the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company  
have lately shown an inclination to come into  
the field and oust the West India and Panama  
Company.

The *Jamaica Gleaner*, too, expresses the view  
that a more satisfactory cable service ought to  
be secured throughout the West Indies. Lord  
Ripon's colleagues had under consideration the  
matter of granting a subsidy to the Halifax  
and Bermuda Cable Company, to enable it to  
extend its line to Jamaica, but held back in  
view of more pressing claims from other parts  
of the world. Mr. Chamberlain has given the  
subject some attention since he assumed office,  
and possibly, on account of the Venezuela diffi-  
culty, has resolved on an early settlement of  
the question. "Whether that settlement will be  
satisfactory to the commercial interests of the  
West Indies," the *Gleaner* thinks, "is another  
matter. If the idea of the colonial office be  
followed out, we believe it will not. This idea  
is to allow the West India and Panama com-  
pany to lay the connecting cable from Jamaica  
to Bermuda. It will be seen that this com-  
pletely alters the situation."

The present company has not, it is said,  
shown a proper disposition to meet the re-  
quirements of those colonies, and the Jamaicans  
are resolved to have the Halifax and Bermuda  
company, which has guaranteed a maximum  
three shilling rate, an efficient private service,  
and a large supply of daily news. The fear is  
expressed that the wants and desires of the  
commercial public of the Islands will be sacri-  
ficed to the imperial military service, and this  
Jamaica paper boldly says the Colonial Office,  
cares nothing for the relative interests of two  
companies as news mediums so long as an un-  
broken British line is established. "It is,  
therefore, necessary that Jamaica should give  
decided expression to her wants, and should  
demand what will be to her greatest benefit.  
It is a purely business matter, and business men  
have made up their minds without prejudice or  
sentiment on the subject; they maintain that  
the proposed extension from Bermuda south  
will be the only concession of value." On the  
other hand, be it observed, Sir George Baden-  
Powell strikes a note of alarm in the *London  
Times* at the alarming absence of all British  
cables to the West Indies, Australia and the  
Cape. He urges prompt imperial and colonial  
action to complete the Pacific cable and extend  
the same to the Cape and Mauritius, and also  
extend the Halifax-Bermudas cable to the West  
Indies.

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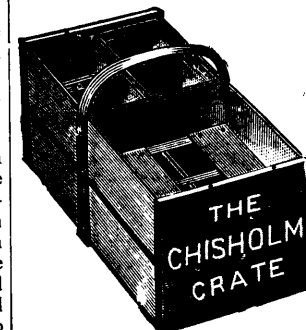
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