

how is it to be proved? The Kentucky Court allowed the evidence of the party to the suit and two others who heard the telephonic conversation and agreement, although the terms of agreement were denied by the defendant. The Supreme Court decided this to be competent evidence. It compared the operator to an interpreter. Where two persons communicate through an interpreter, the Court explains, the communication may be proved either by the interpreter or by persons who were present and heard the statements made by the interpreter. The interpreter is the agent of both parties. "It is true that in communicating by telephone the parties cannot see each other. But the statements of an interpreter between blind persons could be proved by third parties without calling the interpreter as a witness; and by telephonic means persons are as much together for all purposes of conversation and actors in what may be occurring, as if they were immediately present with each other."

A novel use, says an Eastern paper, is being made of oyster-shells by a Hartford, Conn., man, who is coining money in his new enterprise. The shells are placed in a patented mill and ground. It has a capacity of five tons a day. By an ingenious arrangement sieves are kept at work assorting the dust into fine, coarse, and insufficiently treated. The fine and the coarse are taken by elevator belts to the floor below, where, through canvas chutes, regulated by wooden slides, barrels are rapidly filled. The product is sold for chicken feed. Twenty tons and more are sent yearly to San Francisco, orders are filled from Western States, and Bermuda and the Sandwich Islands have been supplied. The business has been doubled since last year.

The Welland Canal will be open for navigation May 7. Extensive repairs are to be made on the Erie Canal before its opening on the 11th instant. Bridges are to be constructed at Medina and Gasport. In many places there are bars formed, and these must be removed and the canal bottomed out sufficiently to prevent the stranding of the largest boats. The Erie canal has opened twenty-eight times in May, but never before on the 11th. In April the opening has occurred thirty-three times, and in March once, in the year 1828. The latest day of resumption since 1824 was May 18, 1875, and that year was also the shortest of navigation, the season lasting 196 days. The longest season—269 days—was in 1828.

The *Commercial Advertiser*, of Honolulu, advises planters on the Islands to pay greater attention to coffee growing. It says:—There is money in raising coffee. The world's market is open to us. Why not ship it to New Zealand and Australia, instead of compelling those countries to buy Java coffee from the Dutch factories? We have a monthly line of steamers between Honolulu and the colonies available for freight, but our production is too small to be counted upon as an export. Large fortunes may not be made at it, but a great deal more than expenses will be earned, which was not the case generally in the sugar business last year.

THE TIMBER TRADE.—Representatives from Quebec who have visited Europe this winter have returned with an amount of business obtained far in excess of last year, and more than

they anticipated. Deals have sold fairly well, also some descriptions of timber. In this connection the decrease in the production of white pine in the Ottawa district will, it is stated, be about one-third less than last year. The demand for white pine square timber has not, however, rallied in the home market. A considerable quantity of this timber is reported still in first hands. On the whole, a good spring trade is anticipated.—*Chronicle*.

A MONSTROUS bakery is about to be erected in Moscow, which, it is stated, when in working order, will reduce the present price of bread in that city by something like 25 per cent. This enterprise is in the hands of a company disposing of a capital of 400,000 roubles, raised in shares of 1000 roubles each. The cost of building the necessary premises, together with the requisite steam appliances for the company, is estimated at 250,000 roubles. The quantity of bread to be baked daily is set down at 65,000 kilos. Rye as well as wheat bread will be baked and daily dispatched to forty different commodious shops in the city to be sold.

THE fall in prices consequent upon the large production of beet sugar has put cane sugar manufacturers on their mettle, and it is claimed to have been discovered that the simple expedient of shredding the cane into small fibres before pressing it increases the production 40 per cent. It was recently stated in New Orleans that unless the cost of production could be reduced a cent a pound the cultivation of the cane would have to be abandoned, and if the shredding process fulfils the promises made for it the cheapening will be one and a half to two cents.

A CIRCULAR issued from Lubeck, Germany, last month, addressed to American lumber exporters says the *N. W. Lumbermen*, calls attention to the intended increase of the German duty on lumber. It states that sawed timber will probably have to pay a higher duty than hewed timber and warns exporters against shipping logs slayed with the saw only. It slyly hints that, if sawed timber is shipped, it should be disguised by the use of the adze.

THERE are five Russian vessels in the port of New York, the ships *Equator*, 1273 tons; *Europa*, 991 tons; *Vanadis*, 1146 tons; the banks *Tolvo*, 944 tons, and *Curonia*, 387 tons. None of these vessels is now loading, and no orders are to be given for cargoes for them at present. The Russian corvette *Strolok* and the British corvette *Garnet* have reached New York and appear to be keeping a watch on each other's movements.

A BUILDING is being put up in Chicago, the walls of which will be plate glass, and when completed the structure will be composed principally of glass, cement, and red slate. The building is to be used for offices, and it is expected that 75 per cent of the entire space can be made available, whereas in ordinary buildings the amount is only from 42 to 54 per cent, so much more being taken up by walls, halls, &c.

LONDON, ENG., advices state that a committee of English holders of stock in the New York, Ontario and Western Railway have obtained the unanimous assent of the English holders

in that Corporation's shares to the scheme proposed by the London and Amsterdam committees for securing control of the property of the road; provision is now being made for its floating debt.

THE *Waterloo Chronicle* says:—Thos. F. Mitchell, a cheesemaker who has lived near New Hamburg all his lifetime, committed forgery a few days ago by signing the names of four different parties on two different notes to the amount of \$111. The notes he sold to Mr. Jacob Ratz for \$100. Having pleaded guilty he is now in Berlin gaol awaiting sentence.

ALTHOUGH it has been estimated that the area of oil-producing territory in Russia measures 14,000 square miles, the field at Baku, the Ancient City of Fire, is the only one worked, and this covers a space of three and a half square miles only. Its output is said to be sufficient for the requirements of the whole world.

THERE has been a brighter outlook in the copper market lately. Notwithstanding the decline of Chili bars in London, the N. Y. market has been firm at 11 3-8 to 11 1/2 for lake ingot. The pool contracts have now expired, and consumers have but little surplus. Calumet and Hekla stock is quoted at 161.

THE Indianapolis Car Works have begun on an order for 100 furniture cars for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. These cars are described as warehouses on wheels, being 40 feet in length, and as high as they can be and pass through tunnels and under bridges.

THERE has been a good demand for India rubber and rubber goods at Boston, and prices are firmer. Fine Para is quoted principally at 63c to 64c, though a 50,000-lb. lot might be obtained at 62 1/2c. For some old lots in store as high as 66c is asked.

THE English mint is said to be suffering by the importation or manufacture of French copper coin. This coin is intrinsically worth but one-fourth of its nominal value, leaving 75 per cent of profit for the people who are flooding the English market with it.

THE aggregate production of coal in the United States in 1884 is reckoned at 98,651,807 gross tons. The production in Great Britain in 1884, according to an official statement, was 160,044,175 gross tons, a decrease of 3,693,152 tons in comparison with 1883.

IT is said a stock company for the manufacture of liquid cheese is seeking incorporation in New York. The product will look like maple syrup, and have all the pungency and other good qualities of American cheese.

A FOREST tree in Georgia was recently cut down at 6 o'clock in the morning, made into pulp at a factory and into paper by 6 o'clock in the evening, and at 6 o'clock the next morning was distributed as a printed newspaper.