

2150 42-100 cubic inches, according to special understanding between the buyer and seller, and the ratio which these bear to the standard is six wine gallon equal five standard gallons, while 1.031 Winchester bushel equals one of the Imperial.

The cental system has by this Act been adopted. The "hundred-weight" and the ton are by it declared to consist of one hundred pounds averdupois, and two thousand pounds averdupois respectively, instead of the "English hundred" one hundred and twelve pounds, or the "long ton" of twenty-two hundred and forty, which it was previously optional to use. The hundred pound weight with its multiples and parts are now the standard for heavy goods. And it is provided that any duties or tolls legally imposed shall be levied on the ton or hundred weight thus established. Public weighers and measurers are required to use the standard of weight here laid down under twenty dollars penalty; and the amounts of all contracts or sales of goods sold by weight must be expressed by centals and parts of the cental.

Grain, vegetables, and fruits, however, when sold by the bushel, have the weight of each regulated according to the following table; and contracts for these articles will be held by law to mean not a bushel by measure, but by weight, unless otherwise agreed upon, as under:

Wheat, sixty pounds.  
Indian Corn, fifty-six pounds.  
Rye, fifty-six pounds.  
Peas, sixty pounds.  
Barley, forty-eight pounds.  
Oats, thirty-four pounds.  
Beans sixty pounds.  
Clover Seed, sixty pounds.  
Timothy Seed, forty-eight pounds.  
Buckwheat, forty-eight pounds.  
Flax Seed, fifty pounds.  
Hemp Seed, forty-four pounds.  
Blue Grass Seed, fourteen pounds.  
Castor Beans, forty pounds.  
Potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips, beets and onions, sixty pounds.  
Salt, fifty-six pounds.  
Dried Apples, twenty-two pounds.  
Dried Peaches, thirty-three pounds.  
Malt, thirty-six pounds.

The twenty-sixth section of the Act, as amended, provides that "within two months of the expiration of one year" from their first verification and stamping, and so on year by year, all measures, weights and weighing machines are to be again inspected, and a new certificate obtained. This may seem troublesome, and one naturally remarks, must be expensive, but it is provided that the subsequent inspection will cost only one fourth the regular fee, so long as

no deficiency be found in the merchants weights or measures. Makers of scales or measures do not require to have them stamped so long as they are lying in his warehouse unsold or unused.

The penalty for the use of unstamped measures is from five dollars to fifty dollars for each offence, and the confiscation and breaking of the measures. Any one found with unstamped measures or weights in his possession is liable to fifty dollars fine for the first offence and one hundred dollars for the second; while any person aggrieved by the use of any measure or weight which has not the inspectors stamp, may recover treble damages and costs.

#### EXPIRATION OF THE AMERICAN SEWING MACHINE MONOPOLY.

On Tuesday last the American Sewing Machine patents expired, and with them a great monopoly, the profits of which have been counted by millions. Henceforth the makers who have had a monopoly will have to meet the competition of whoever may think proper to enter the field as rivals. Every possible effort was made to secure an extension of the patents, but all to no purpose; and now the question will be, who can produce the best machines for the least money. Of one machine the patent had been twice extended before, to the great profit of the monopolists. Out of one patent covering the "continuous feed," four millions is said to have been made. And yet the profits of the makers were small in comparison with the prices the public paid. The ultimate price paid for a machine which cost \$15 to make was \$70; and here is where the money went: Cost of manufacturing a \$70 machine, \$15; proportion of expenses of distributing offices on each machine, \$10; commission paid to canvassers, 30 per cent., \$21; cost of collecting quarterly payments, \$7; two years' interest on same, \$3.50; margin of profit, \$13.50. Total, \$70. No doubt the machines were worth to the purchasers all that was paid for them, the saving in labour being very great; but that does not alter the fact that the price paid was excessive. Still if the business was to be done by agents, perhaps it could not be less. Perhaps a majority of the purchasers would never have possessed sewing machines if the agent had not sought them out and forced the boon upon them at an enormous price. The amounts were often made payable in quarterly instalments, and the collector had to call for it four times a year, besides making many calls for nothing. For this work the agents got seven or eight times as much as the inventor,

Already, some of the leading makers have stated their intention to sell for half the old prices. They are willing to give the buyer for \$30 a machine for which he was hitherto paid \$60; but how this is to be done is the puzzle. If the travelling agent can be dispensed with, the thing can easily be done. Competition is sure, in some way, to bring down prices; though it is singular how they have been maintained in Canada, in the absence of Canadian patents. But, when the price comes down in the States, it will have to come down in Canada.

It may not be generally known that the original inventor of the sewing machine stitch was Dr. Beaumont, who practised many years in Toronto, and died only recently. His object was to find a better means of sewing up wounds. It need not be added that the invention brought him no profit. The same remark would be nearly true of the inventor of metallic sound-board of the piano, the late Mr. Thomas, also long a resident of Toronto. The fact that inventors so frequently derive but little profit from the fruits of their genius is an argument with those who contend that no patent should be granted at all. Without entering into this question, we think that patents which confer a monopoly might be granted only on condition that the Government should in some equitable way fix the price of the monopolist's products. Perhaps the first great change in the patent law will be in this direction.

LA BANQUE NATIONALE.—Within the next two months most of the banking institutions in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec will hold their annual meetings. No doubt the Banks have all found it difficult to make money for their shareholders, and we presume there are few, if any, that will be able to make as good an exhibit as they did the year previous, which was considered to have been a very trying one. However we know of only one sure way to manage in difficult times, and that is to meet losses squarely, even should they trench upon the "reserve." It is folly to attempt to put a good face on matters of this sort at the annual meetings. Stockholders might as well know the worst and be prepared to meet it. From the report of the Nationale which we publish in another part of this paper, we should judge that a thorough pruning has been made in its assets. All apparently doubtful accounts appear to have been written off. The management has found it impossible to earn sufficient to pay dividends and meet the losses anticipated a year ago. Consequently \$100,000 has been taken from the rest, which is left at \$300,000, being equal to fifteen per cent. of the capital of