

the time at which the Wine and Winchester measures should cease to be tolerated, it became necessary, in view of the probability of the use of the Wine measures being largely continued, for the protection of the public, to require that both should be so marked that the buyer could without difficulty see what measure he was served with; hence the rule that the characters used for marking them should be in height equal to one-tenth the height of the measures.

I feel that I have already discussed this matter at too great a length and must have wearied you. I confess too that I am somewhat discouraged as regards your city, by the fact that nothing in connection with the inspection is *publicly* discussed upon its merits. The opposition papers stick at nothing to make a case against the Government, and care only to stand well with their friends the manufacturers. The Ministerial paper, either because it is not sufficiently well acquainted with the subject, or because it desires to hit the late Government, are afraid to endorse what its own friends are doing, even though it can be shown to be in the interest of the public. Of course the few who have a selfish interest in maintaining the old state of things can make a good deal of noise, just as a dozen claquiers, in a theatre can get up a good deal of applause; but I have reason to know that the general public are beginning to understand their interest in the matter, and if the threat suggested by the *Times* has any foundation, it will speedily happen that the buyers will resist being again placed at the absolute mercy of the seller.

I think in my last I expressed some surprise that the great mass of the people—the buyers—had no share in the sympathy of the *Spectator*, who is so anxious for the interests of the seller. On second thoughts I am not surprised—the seller advertises. The buyer does not.

Yours truly,

A. BRUNEL,

Ottawa, October 25th, 1877.