



REMARKS UPON SOME STRICTURES IN RELATION TO  
INSPECTION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WHICH  
APPEARED IN THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR.

by A. Brunel

DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for directing my attention to the two editorials which have appeared in the *Hamilton Spectator*, in relation to weights and measures.

I regret the political character of these articles as I do the obnoxious epithets they contain. Not on personal grounds, but because I think the public interests would be served if the subject to which they refer were temperately and judiciously discussed, while I am persuaded that no good can come of exaggerated statements or unfair aspersions.

I have no difficulty in knowing what manufacturing firm is referred to in the article which appeared in the *Spectator* of the 28th ultimo. In July, 1876, I had a long interview with the practical member of that firm, who admitted the cogency of the reasons upon which the regulations, then in force, were based, even to that which related to the balance ball, which he admitted could be used for fraudulent weighing, though he contended that it is a necessary convenience.

The regulation as to this appendage to the platform scale has been modified, and in its original form had been allowed to remain in abeyance before I had the interview above referred to, but there is no difficulty in defending that regulation as necessary in the interests of the general public. The modification was made in deference to custom and prejudice, not in deference to reason. That such an appendage is unnecessary is proved by the fact that tens of thousands of platform scales made to weigh from 20 tons down to 100lbs. are in use without it, and I venture to say that when the uses to which it may be made subservient come to be fully understood by consumers and the public generally it will have fewer friends in Canada.

It is not necessary to go outside the City of Hamilton for a case in which the balance ball of a platform scale had been systematically used for fraudulent weighing, and did time permit, I believe I could refer you to evidence in the files of the *Spectator* that farmers and others have not always been justly dealt with by the weighers of *Hamilton*.