

When the writer in the *Spectator* condescends to specific statements as to what he objects to in the regulations, there is no difficulty in answering him. Let me refer you to what he says about measures of capacity. He says: "The regulation requires a peculiar kind of seam in the construction of tin measures of capacity." Of course, he cannot point to such a regulation as he refers to, for there is no such regulation and never was. It is true that one of our officers, who professes to possess some knowledge of that branch of mechanism, took a fancy to a particular mode of putting the work together, and in that way caused some annoyance. But the minute it came to the knowledge of the Department, he was instructed that the regulations gave him no authority to interfere in matters of that kind, and he has ceased to do so.

The whole scope of the regulations in reference to measures of capacity, is to insure that they shall be made of material of such strength that they cannot be readily put out of shape, and that their form shall be such as to facilitate verification. How necessary the first condition is, may be ascertained by an inspection of the measures which have been seized; and as to form, it was believed that as the adoption of the Imperial measure would lead to the early and general construction of new measures, a fitting opportunity was afforded for introducing the cylindrical form, which can be verified by the special gauge, constructed for that purpose, thus saving the necessity of carrying the standard's of capacity through the country, and saving a large share of what the cost of inspection would otherwise be.

The sensational story about the manufacturer who sent barrels full of measures to a distant place to have them stamped because they could not pass muster in Hamilton, if true—which I doubt—only proves that one of the Inspectors is incompetent. I may suggest that if the manufacturer instead of sending his "*barrels full*" to the distant Division had sent one of the measures here, he might have obtained a final decision, possibly in his favour, at much less cost.

What are the alterations in the regulations as to these measures of which complaint is made? There has been but one alteration from the outset; that is in the direction of restriction. The original regulations required that the denomination of the measures should be stamped on them in legible characters. Availing themselves of the vagueness of this rule many manufacturers stamped them in characters so small that they could only be discerned on rigid examination. This would have been of comparatively small consequence if there had been but one description of measures, but when Parliament by the Act of last Session indefinitely deferred