

Mr. Abrey—That same question came up in the meeting in Ottawa. I think the way we are now fixed the decimal system is the best.

Mr. Gibson—I use the system Mr. Sankey talks of. In length measures I reduce them at once to decimals, and the same in acres. In using this system on the construction of a viaduct I had some difficulty; the trouble was, all the mechanics had their rules divided into 1 inch,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, etc.; they did not understand the hundredths. It required the greatest accuracy in building a viaduct. When you hand your profile to the foreman it is in tenths, and you have to reduce it to sixteenths. There are tables prepared by Buchanan for finding areas. We all use the decimal system. If we could get the mechanics to use the decimal system we would not have so much trouble. We ought to have it taught in schools.

Mr. Sankey—In answer I would say the mechanics are just as well educated in dollars and cents, and when you put the new rule in their hands they will easily learn it. This matter is one of public importance, and as manufacturers are generally the first people to move in such a matter I think it would be advisable to send round a little treatise to the manufacturers, etc.

Mr. Aylsworth—I have had some experience. Good mechanics have used the rule divided into eighths and you cannot make them use tenths.

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