

asserts that they are utterly ignorant of the business, and ought not to interfere in anything relating to forms or arrangement of parts.

We are told that the objection to a particular kind of scale, and the remedy proposed by the Department for removing the objection, has caused much merriment among scale makers. An attempt is then made to describe the part objected to, and the proposed substitute, but this is done in language which conveys an entirely erroneous idea of both. The person who prompted the writer of the article knew the reason why the objections, to the kind of scale were taken, but he carefully suppressed it, and I am willing to believe that if he had stated it to the writer of the article, that gentleman would have seen that it was taken in the interest of the public.

The *wrought iron bar* is not used as a means of strength, but as a means of countervailing slovenly work. The adjustment of the scale is effected by bending this bar in either direction, which is easily done; but after the scale leaves the maker's hands it can be tampered with so easily, and can be so readily made to serve fraudulent purposes, that it would be almost criminal to admit it to use under the sanction of a Government stamp, especially when the remedy is so simple.

For the ductile bar of iron it is proposed to substitute a block of cast metal, either forming one piece with the frame of the scale, or riveted to it so that it cannot be tampered with without the use of such a degree of violence as might be readily detected by the Inspector. To do this it becomes necessary to drill a small hole about one-tenth of an inch in diameter, for the centre pin, in a definite place, instead of drilling it at random in the wrought iron bar, and afterwards forcing it into its place by bending the bar.

Why the *Spectator* should imagine that the metal cast solid with the frame would be less substantial than the small piece of wrought iron less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch square, which has heretofore been used I cannot understand.

If we are to believe the *Spectator*, no trader would on any account knowingly use a false weight, measure or balance, and, if by accident he did do so, his customers would speedily discover the error. Unhappily, the Department has abundant evidence that all traders are not so accurate in their weights as the *Spectator* would have us believe; and, to the assertions as to the ease with which errors are detected by buyers, the fact that we have a number of cases where the platform scales of wholesale dealers have been erroneous to the extent of from five to ten per cent., is a sufficient reply.