

I don't know that there is much to say in reply to the second article of the *Spectator* respecting weights and measures. That article, as well as the more recent ones, give, as far as they go, a reasonably fair definition of what the functions of the Government should be in dealing with this branch of the service. But there are two or three other legitimate functions which the writer has not mentioned, but which are of even greater moment than some of those which he has enumerated.

It ought to be, and probably is, well known to scale manufacturers that the "infallible old balance," to quote the *Spectator*, can be, and frequently is made so as to be very fallible indeed, and that the scales which, to quote the same authority, "it has been proved through long years of experience can be made to weigh accurately," can also be made to weigh very inaccurately. As a matter of fact there are makers who have made both for the purpose of facilitating false weighing.

It is the duty of the Government to prevent as far as possible the use of such fallible articles. To that end the regulations have been so framed as to exclude from verification, scales &c., that whether intentionally or otherwise might become the instruments of injustice. The Government stamp should be a guarantee of justice, a voucher of honest construction, but the *Spectator* would have it attached to whatever weighing machine is offered so long as it appeared to give correct results at the moment.

The law legalizes both avoirdupois and Troy weights, it therefore becomes necessary to provide that there shall be a well defined distinction in the forms of the two descriptions. Heretofore weights of both kinds have been in use of the denominations of 4lb., 7lb. and 14lb. and of exactly the same form and of similar metal and with similar inscription. There is too much reason for believing that in villages, especially in Lower Canada, the Troy weight has been substituted for avoirdupois, the buyer thereby losing two-sevenths of the weight he pays for. This therefore is another instance in which it becomes necessary to eliminate the means of fraud, and the regulations provide that Troy weights shall be of a specified form with their denominations inscribed in ounces, while a variety of other forms are specified for avoirdupois weights, their value being inscribed in lbs., &c.

One more instance ; the *Spectator* objects to the regulation which requires that the weights used with platform scales shall be equal to the pound or to some multiple, or authorised sub-multiple of the pound, and that they shall be either in a decimal or binary ratio to