



A Most Significant Reference Document: A List of Nails and Spikes Required for the Service of the Office of Ordnance. 17 March 1813

Author(s): Martin E. Weaver and S. Bugey

Source: *Bulletin of the Association for Preservation Technology*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (1976), pp. 88-91+93-118

Published by: [Association for Preservation Technology International \(APT\)](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1493576>

Accessed: 31/12/2013 16:05

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Bulletin of the Association for Preservation Technology*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

A MOST SIGNIFICANT REFERENCE DOCUMENT: A LIST OF NAILS AND SPIKES
REQUIRED FOR THE SERVICE OF THE OFFICE OF ORDNANCE. 17 MARCH 1813

Mr. Richard Byrne of the Canadian Conservation Institute in Moncton, New Brunswick, recently told me that he had seen a copy of a most interesting document which he thought should be published in the *Bulletin*. As he went on to describe the illustrated list of nails and spikes I realized that he was talking about a document which the Restoration Services Division had used for reference purposes some years ago. After a short search in the records of the office's architectural components collection I found the copy which we are now publishing.

Your Canadian editors feel that this unique document could be of great value to preservationists in North America and we are grateful to Richard Byrne for reminding us of its existence and potential value to our membership.

The original document in the Public Archives of Canada (see below for Susan Buggey's background paper) has a page size of approximately 12 inches by 9 1/4 inches. All the nails and spikes are accurately illustrated full size, and since some of the large spikes are on larger sheets there was a risk that we would have to resort to reduction to get them in the *Bulletin*. However, by turning pages, by using double-page spreads, and by omitting blank edges from sheets it has been possible for us to reproduce the whole text and illustrations of the document in its original size. No original written or drawn material has been omitted. Readers will notice faint notations and comments which have been added to the document at various times by people who were using it for working purposes in Halifax. "A good nail" is a frequent example of this type.

Martin E. Weaver
Ottawa, August 1976

SUPPLYING BUILDING MATERIALS TO THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE
COLONIES: AN ILLUSTRATED DOCUMENT

by Susan Buggey

Founded in 1749 largely to offset the French fortress at Louisbourg, Halifax was early dependent upon the presence, and consequent expenditures, of the British army and the Royal Navy for the backbone of her economic life. Her first half century was dominated by the Seven Years War, the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, and each period saw large scale military construction in the town. By 1800 British military building in Halifax had included three citadels on the hill and numerous blockhouses, batteries and forts at other positions in the vicinity, as well as barracks, storehouses and magazines.¹

Such construction was carried out on behalf of the Board of Ordnance by a locally stationed detachment of the Corps of Royal Engineers. As authorization and, technically, responsibility for such building rested with the Board of Ordnance in London, a large correspondence was generated between the Board, the Inspector General of Fortifications through whom all military construction was coordinated in London, and the engineering officers stationed in the colonies who initiated, supervised and maintained the works. Large segments of this correspondence are still to be found in the Public Record Office, London (War Office 44 and 55) and the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa (RG8 C series and microfilm copies of WO 44 and 55).

By the early years of the 19th century certain policies for obtaining authorizations in London and supplying building materials to the stations had gradually been established. At Halifax, specifications, plans and estimates were forwarded in advance for approval in London, and construction began, season permitting, as soon as authorization arrived. Thus a large portion of the building materials were obtained by the Ordnance Storekeeper in Halifax from local builders and merchants; these included, in 1805-6, lumber, stone, bricks, lime, paint and oil, ironmongery and sundries.²

When the storekeepers's accounts were examined in London in 1809, the Board objected to charges in the Engineer's Office at Halifax for articles which were usually exported from Great Britain rather than purchased on the spot, and noted that such purchases were contrary to existing, and oft repeated, Board orders. The officers at Halifax attempted to justify the local purchases on grounds that if work did not commence until stores could be obtained from England, "the Service would suffer much more than the difference of Price in the Articles purchased." The Board ordered, nevertheless, that the Inspector General of Fortifications arrange with the Commanding Royal Engineer at Halifax, as elsewhere, to reduce as far as possible the local purchase of materials which the Board had directed to be obtained from England.³ Thereafter, while timber products, stone, lime and sand were agreed to be purchased in Halifax, lists of articles recommended to be sent out from England constantly included ironmongery of various sorts, paint and oils, and glass.⁴

A comparison of the lists of purchases of local goods in 1805-6 and 1811-12 suggests, however, that wartime circumstances permitted only a limited implementation of the Board's order. Although nails and spikes and oil and white lead were regularly supplied from ordnance stores in 1811-12, substantial purchases of sundries continued to be made locally.⁵ Under wartime conditions the discrepancy between the Board's orders and the practical situation in Halifax remained.

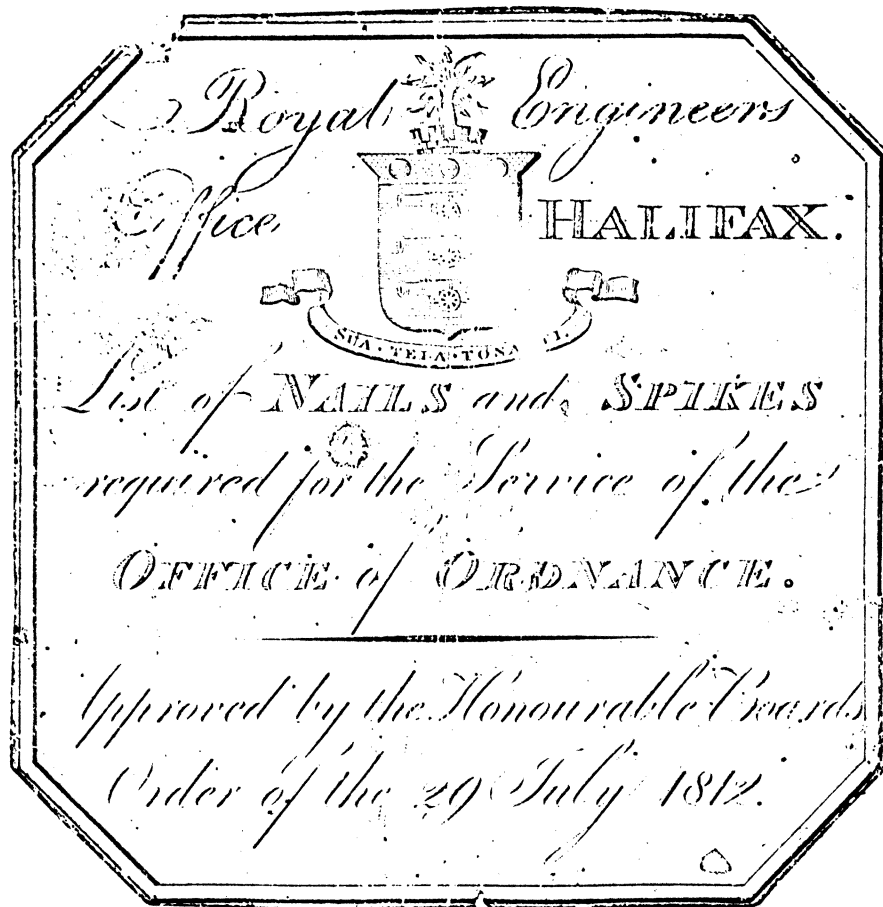
The document reproduced here constitutes Public Archives of Canada, Record Group 8, C series, volume 1433. Its preparation may be seen as one stage in the process of rendering more efficient the supply of building materials to Royal Engineers stationed in widely separated regions of the British Empire. Moreover, its transmission to Halifax in 1813 may be specifically regarded as a further step in the effort to regulate the supply of building materials on that station. Its present interest lies particularly in the definition it affords, through its clear illustrations, of items detailed in the prolific estimates of Royal Engineer departments in the early 19th century.

The document below is published by permission of the Public Archives of Canada.

Susan Buggiey
Ottawa, August 1976

Footnotes:

1. Harry Piers, *The Evolution of the Halifax Fortress 1749-1928* (Halifax, 1947), chaps. 1 and 2.
2. War Office 55/858, ff. 321-64, Abstract of Expenses ... between 1 Oct 1805 and 30 June 1806 ...
3. War Office 55/858, f.431, P.A. Ouvry for the Secty to General Morse, Office of Ordnance, [London], 17 July 1809.
4. War Office 44/80, ff. 28 and 157, List of Articles Recommended to be sent out from England ... 16 Oct 1811 and for carrying on the services detailed in the annual estimate for 1811; War Office 55/859, ff. 18-19, 384-96 and 425-7, estimates, 1811.
4. War Office 55/858, ff. 321-64, Abstract of Estimates ... between 1 Oct 1805 and 30 June 1806 ...; War Office 44/81, ff. 81-120, Abstract of the several Accounts of Expenditure in the Royal Engineer Department between the 1st Oct 1811 and 30 Sept 1812.



Memoranda

By the Boards order of 29th July 1812.

It is directed, that The Corps of Royal Engineers, and the Civil Officers of the Ordnance Department, at the several stations, both at Home and abroad, do make out and regulate their demands of Nails Spikes &c in every instance, both as it respects the number, description and weight, as specified in this Book, and which is considered to include every article necessary for carrying on the various services of the Department, no deviation is therefore to be made in any Demand, without the particular Service for which such article may be intended, being specially reported to the Board.

When Nails are demanded the Number of the Nail in this book, as well as the sort, must be given, as for instance,

						Weight required		
						Cwt	qrs	lbs
20.000	N ^o .31	Clasp headed	7 ^{lbs}	P ^r .1000	1	1	0	
10.000	N ^o .29	— d ^o —	12	P ^r .1000	1	0	8	
5.000	N ^o .26	— d ^o —	20	P ^r .1000	0	3	16	
2.500	N ^o .22	— d ^o —	40	P ^r .1000	0	3	16	

When the Nails are received, if in Bags, they will not be found by Tale, quite the number described on the Tally, the bags being weighed therewith, but every separate denominated thousand, will contain Fifty score nails, a few under or over, Thus, 7^{lbs} weight of N^o.31 should contain Fifty scores, and so of all the rest.

Spikes are generally ordered by Weight and Inches, but if any particular Number is wanted that must also be stated.

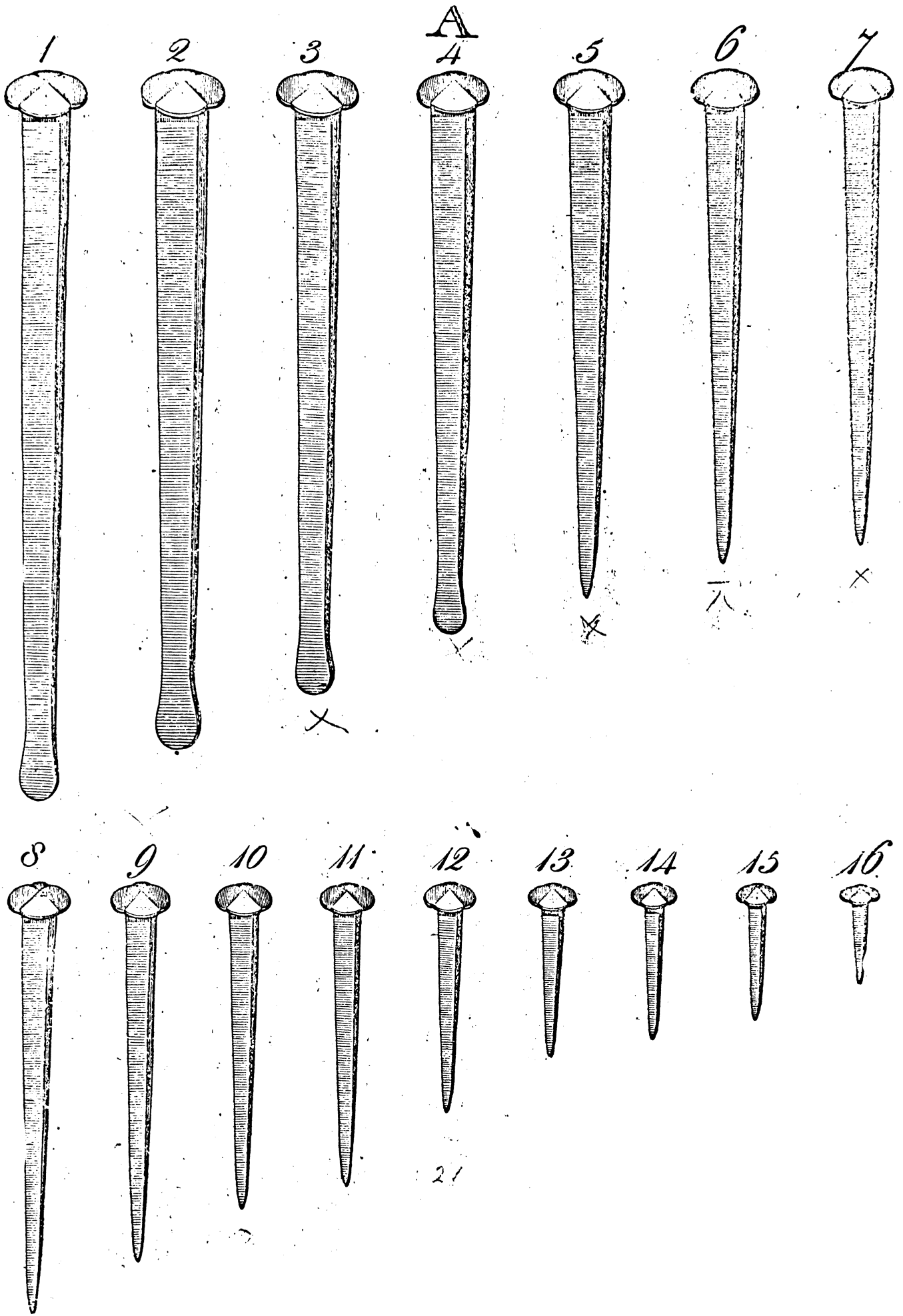
Office of Ordnance

17th March 1813.

A

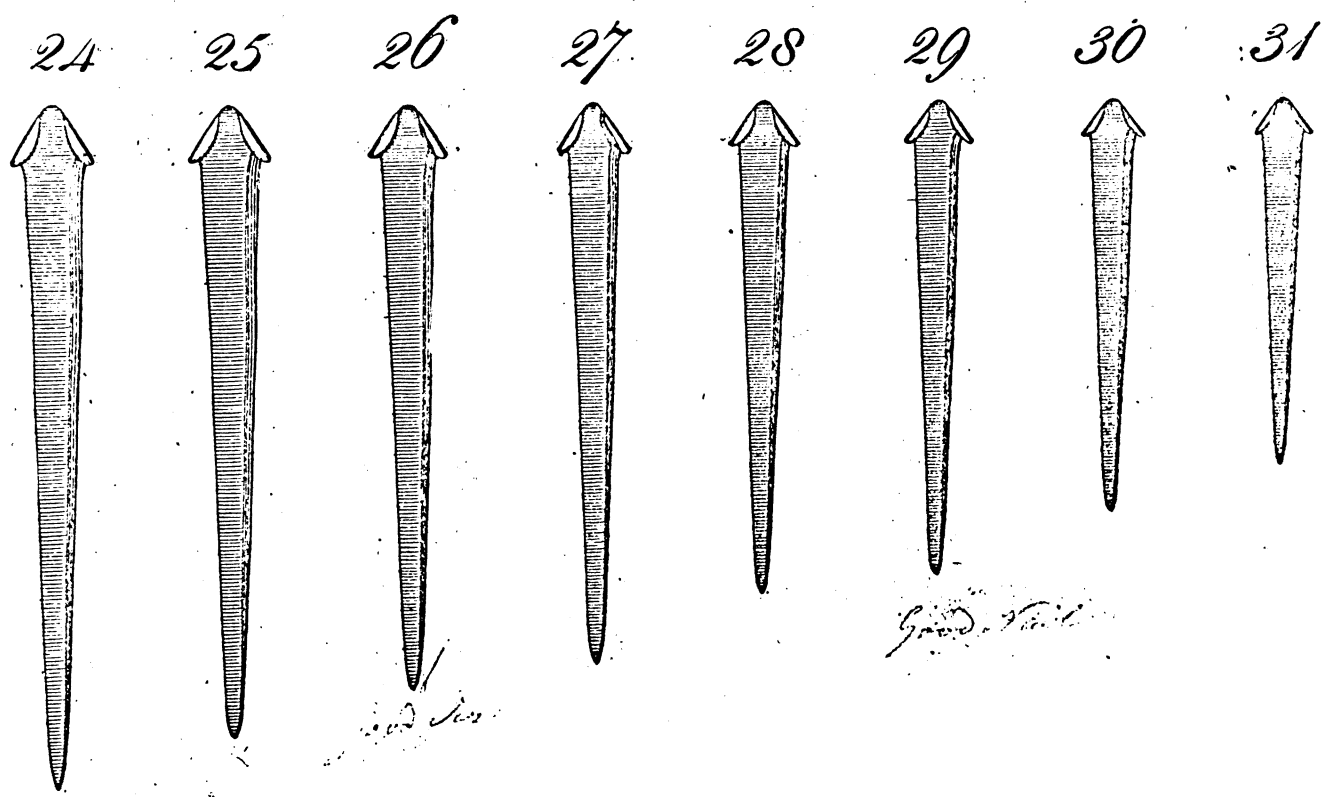
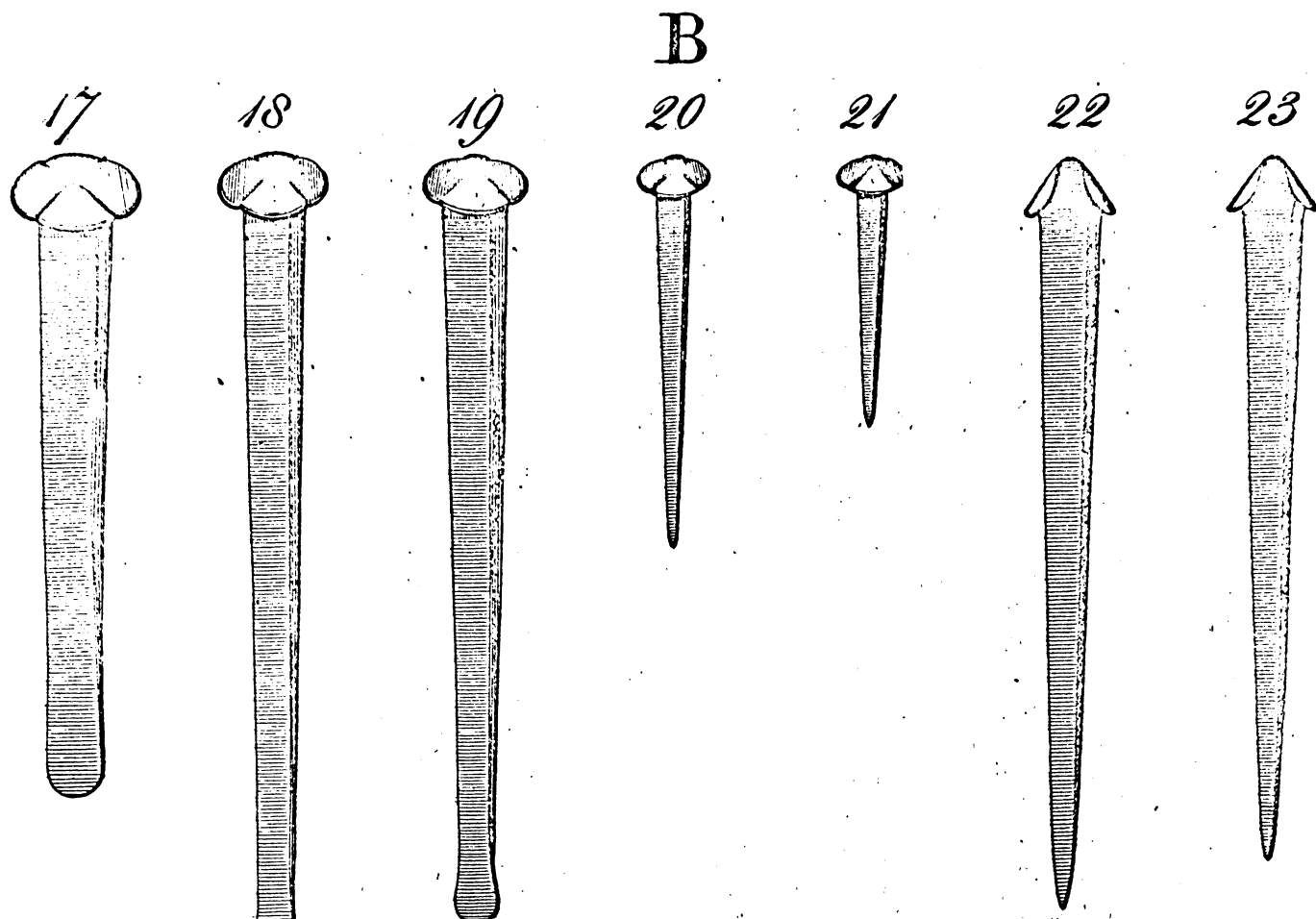
Description of the Nails placed on Twelve
Cards marked A to M & Numbered 1 to 163

No.	Description	Weight
1	Rose headed flat-points Fine drawn $5\frac{1}{2}$ Inches	80 ^{lb} 0 ^{pr} 1000
2	do Strong 5 Inches	91 ^{lb} " " "
3	do do $4\frac{1}{2}$ Inches	65 ^{lb} " " "
4	do do 4 Inches	50 ^{lb} " " "
5	Rose headed Sharp-points $4\frac{1}{2}$	36 ^{lb} " " "
6	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	32 ^{lb} " " "
7	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	28 ^{lb} " " "
8	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	20 ^{lb} " " "
9	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	16 ^{lb} " " "
10	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	12 ^{lb} " " "
11	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	10 ^{lb} " " "
12	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	7 ^{lb} " " "
13	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	4 ^{lb} " " "
14	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	3 ^{lb} " " "
15	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	2 ^{lb} " " "
16	do $4\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ ^{lb} " " "



B

N ^o		
17	Best Rose headed Chisel point flattened Barge 3 Inches	32 ⁶ / ₁₀₀ 1000
18	Fine drawn Rose headed	45
19	Flat points d°	40
20	Fine Shingle d°	7
21	d° d°	4
22	Clasp headed	40
23	d°	36
24	d°	32
25	d°	26
26	d°	20
27	d°	18
28	d°	14
29	d°	12
30	d°	10
31	d°	7



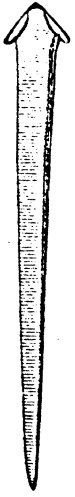
Good. Fair.

C

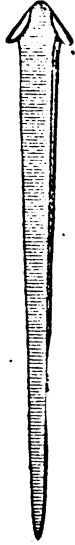
N ^o		
32	Fine Clasp	10. ^{Upr} 1000
33	d ^o	14
34	d ^o	18
35	d ^o	6
36	d ^o	5
37	d ^o	4
38	d ^o	3
39	d ^o	2
40	Best Countersunk Blout	45
41	d ^o d ^o	36
42	d ^o d ^o	24
43	d ^o d ^o	20
44	d ^o d ^o	18
45	d ^o d ^o	12
46	d ^o d ^o	10
47	d ^o d ^o	7

C

32



33



34



Goodell's

35



36



37



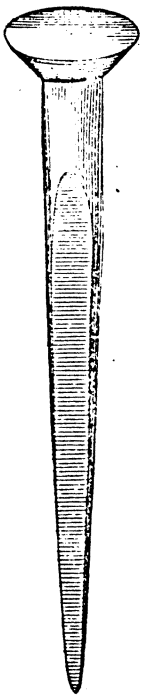
38



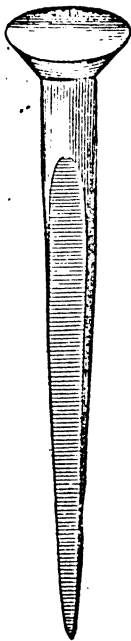
39



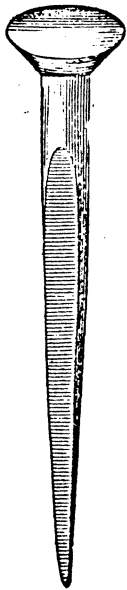
40



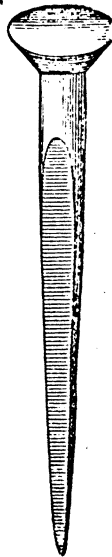
41



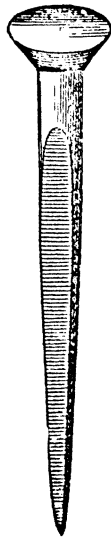
42



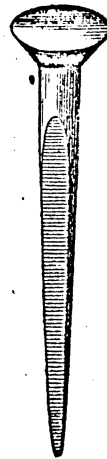
43



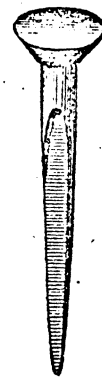
44



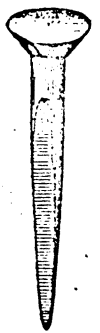
45



46



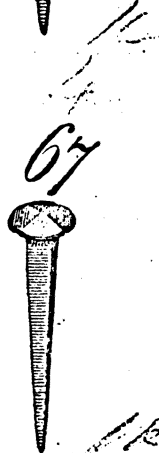
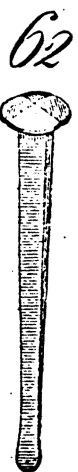
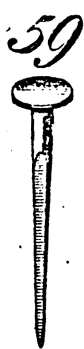
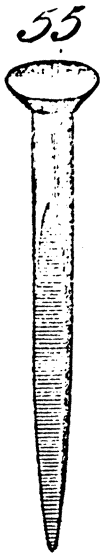
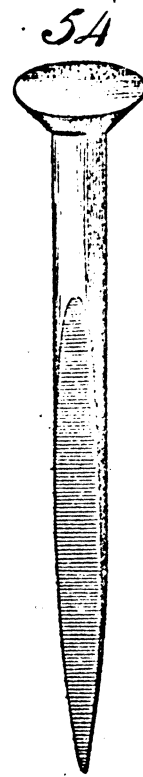
47



D

N ^o .		
48	Best Countersunk Clout	5. ¹¹ / ₁₆ " 1000
49	d. ^o d. ^o	4 " "
50	d. ^o d. ^o	2 ¹ / ₂ " "
51	d. ^o d. ^o	2 " "
52	d. ^o d. ^o	2 " "
53	Best Black Tacks	1 ¹ / ₂ " "
54	Best flatted Dog for Handcrow Levers 3 ¹ / ₄ Inches	
55	d. ^o d. ^o 2 ¹ / ₄ Inches	
56	Fine Clout Best for Coopers	1 ¹ / ₂ " "
57	d. ^o	1 ¹ / ₄ " "
58	d. ^o	2 " "
59	d. ^o	3 " "
60	d. ^o	4 " "
61	d. ^o	5 " "
62	Trunk	5 " "
63	d. ^o	2 ³ / ₄ " "
64	d. ^o	1 ³ / ₄ " "
65	d. ^o	1 ¹ / ₄ " "
66	Lathing	7 " "
67	d. ^o	4 " "
68	Long Scupper	5 " "
69	Sprigs best fine pointed for Canister Shot Case	10 ⁰ / ₈ " "

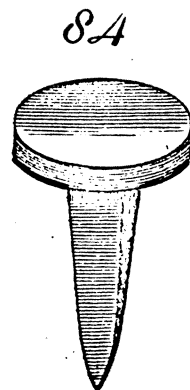
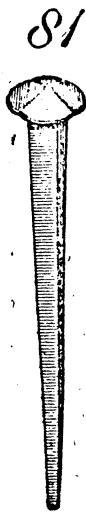
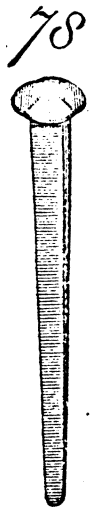
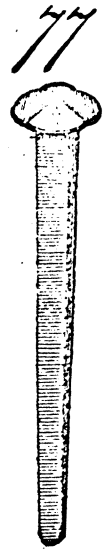
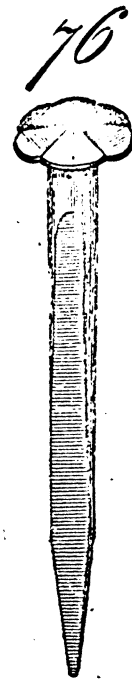
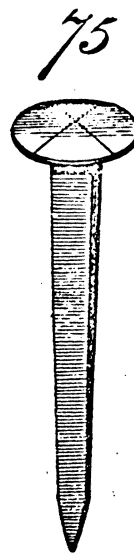
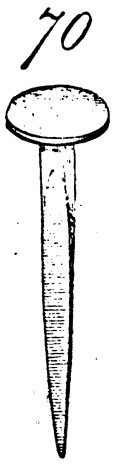
D



E

N ^o		
70	Slating Broad headed	12 ⁶ / ₁₀₀₀ .. 1000
71	d ^o Fine Broad headed	6 .. "
72	d ^o .. d ^o	4 .. "
73	Best Broad headed Flats	1 ¹ / ₂ .. "
74	d ^o .. d ^o	2 .. "
75	Round headed Flats .. 2 Inches	
76	Broad Dog for Bars Brimstone Tubs 2 ³ / ₄ Inches	
77	Chest Large .. 2 ¹ / ₈ Inches	
78	d ^o Small .. 2 Inches	
79	Box .. 1 ⁵ / ₈ Inch	
80	Best Slender Boat	16 ⁶ / ₁₀₀₀ .. 1000
81	d ^o .. d ^o .. 2 Inches	11 .. "
82	d ^o .. d ^o .. 1 ¹ / ₂ Inch	6 .. "
83	d ^o .. d ^o	4 .. "
84	Filling Flat-headed .. 1 Inch	

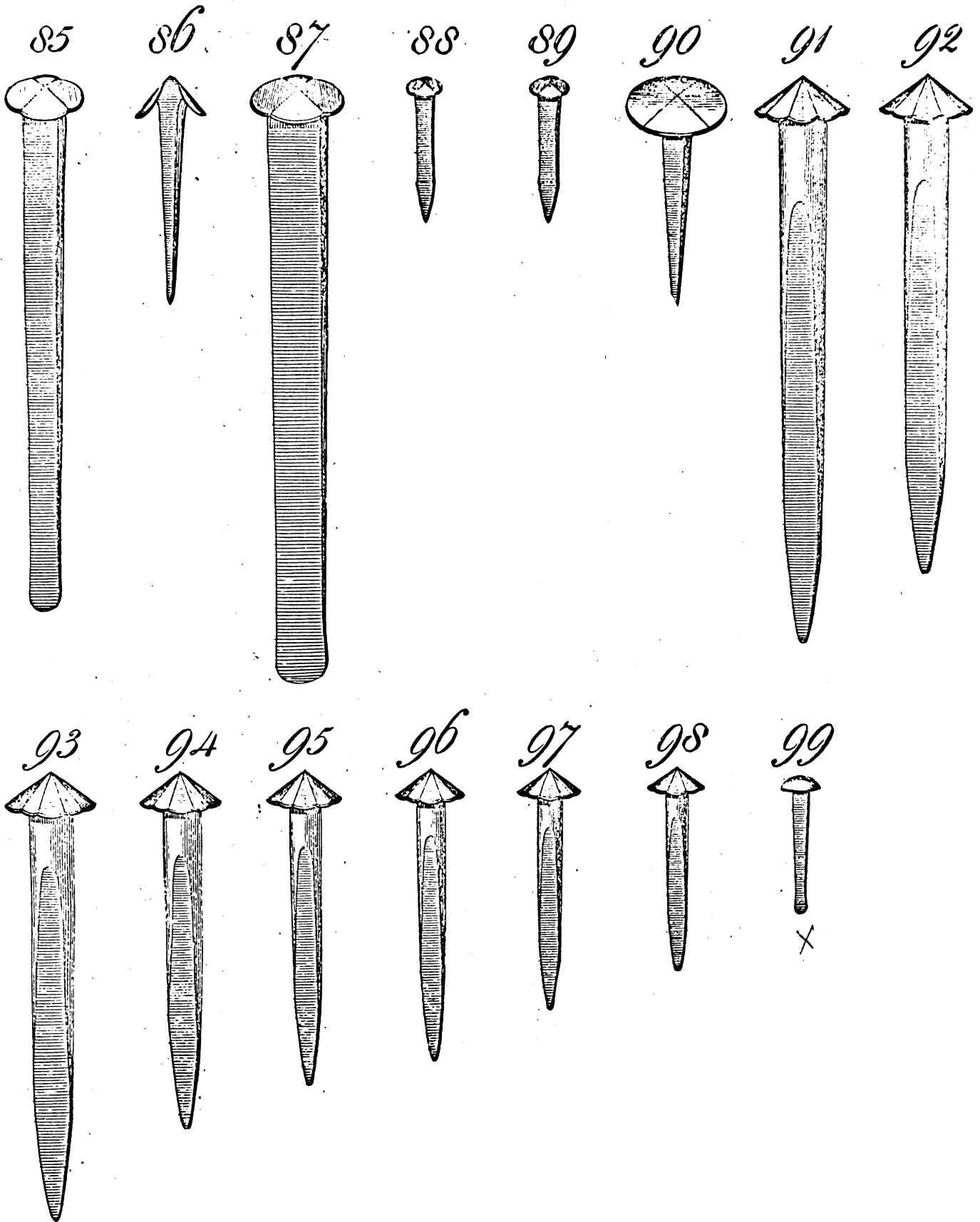
E



F

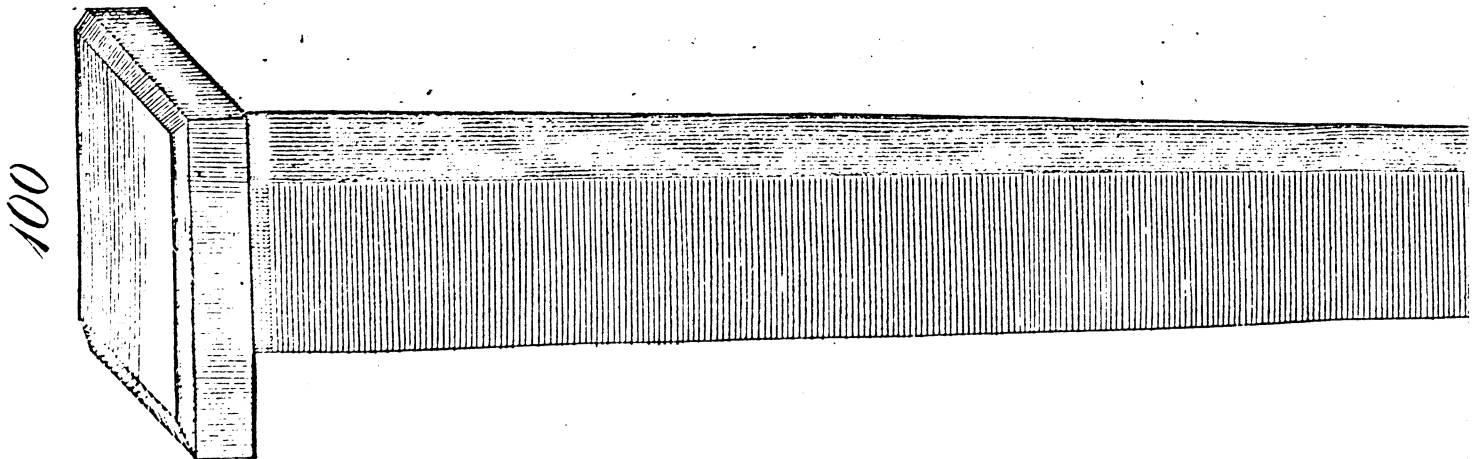
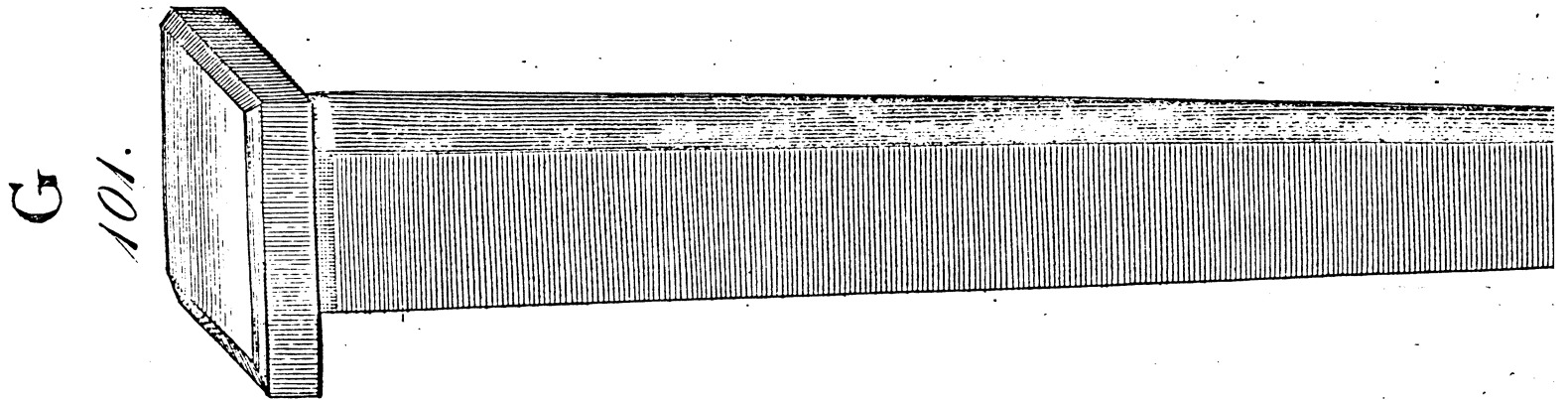
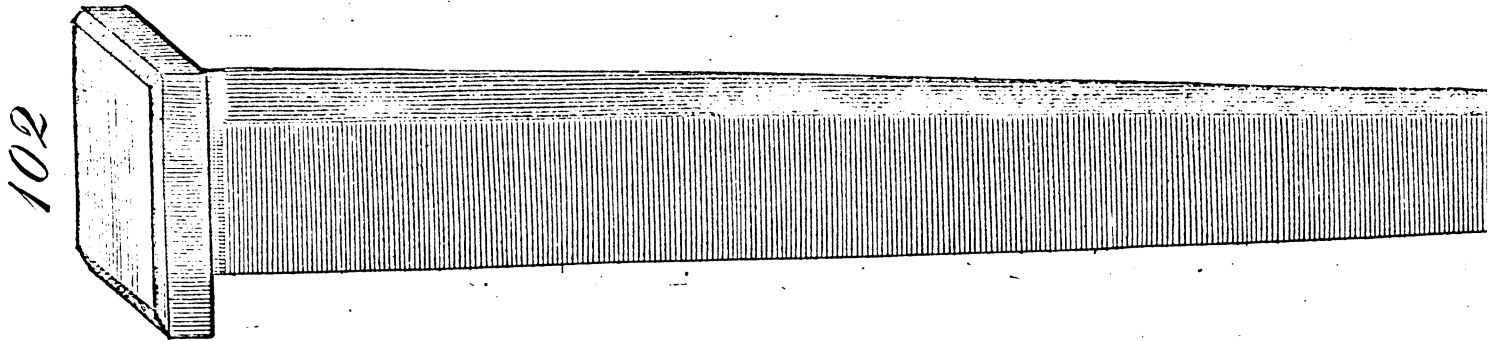
N ^o .		
85	Fine Drawing	3½ Inches
86	Best T-headed	1½ Inch
87	Best Back	4 Inches
88	Best Scarf Fine	1½ ^u P. 1000
89	d ^o Stout	1½
90	Best Bellows	9
91	Best Dog	84
92	d ^o	60
93	d ^o	52
94	d ^o	28
95	d ^o	20
96	d ^o	16
97	d ^o	9
98	d ^o	6
99	Tinned Round-headed	1¾

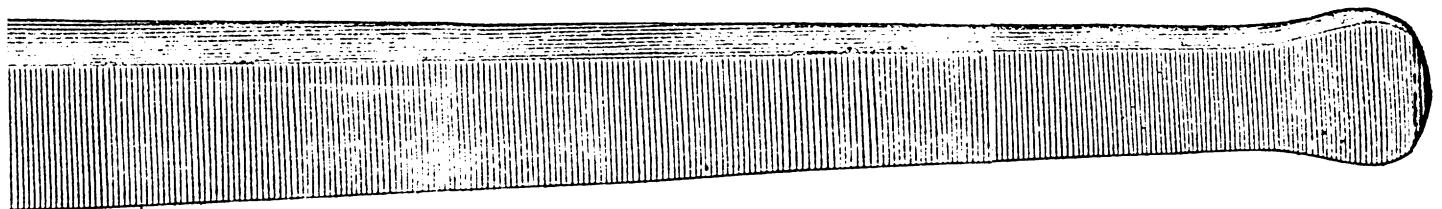
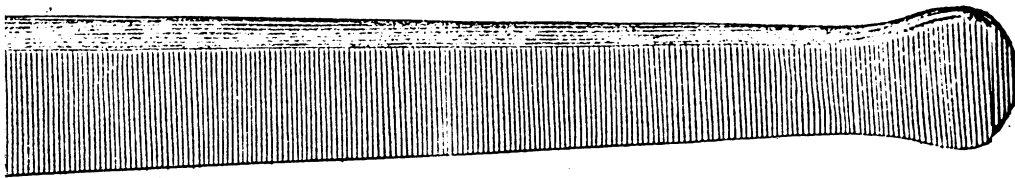
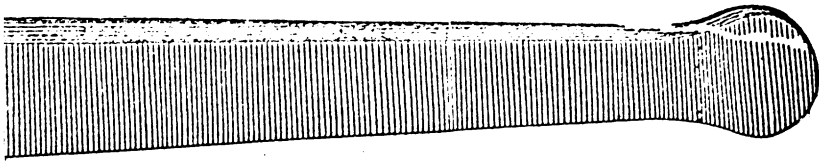
F.



G

N ^o .		
100	Spikes Die-headed	14 Inches
101	d ^o	12 Inches
102	d ^o	11 Inches





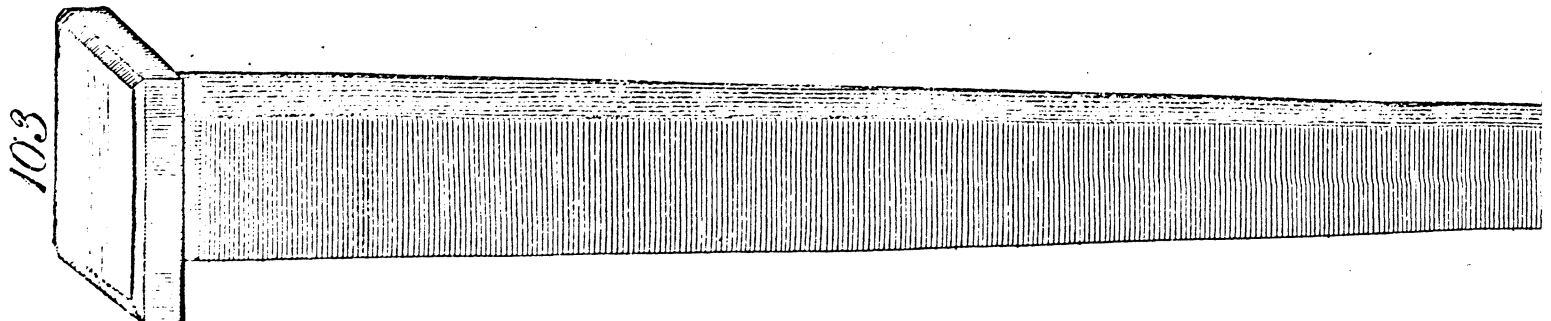
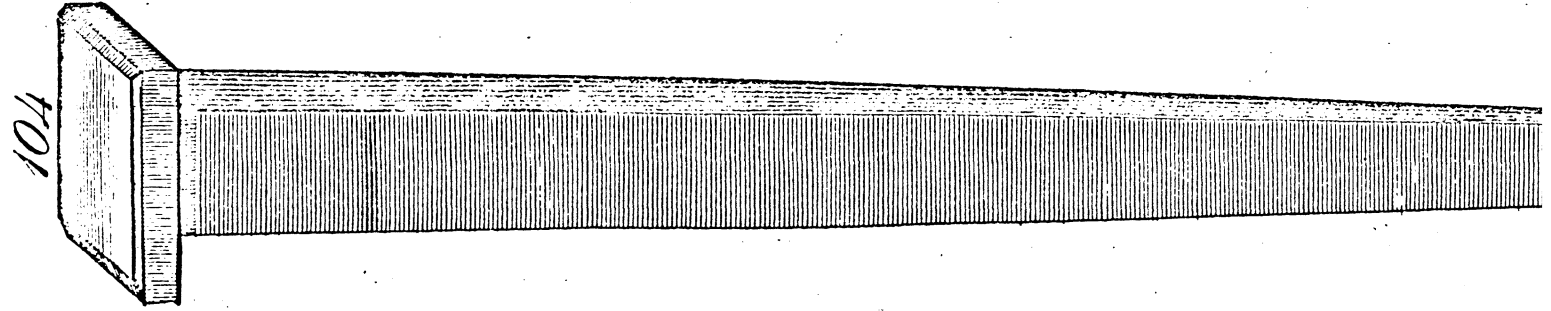
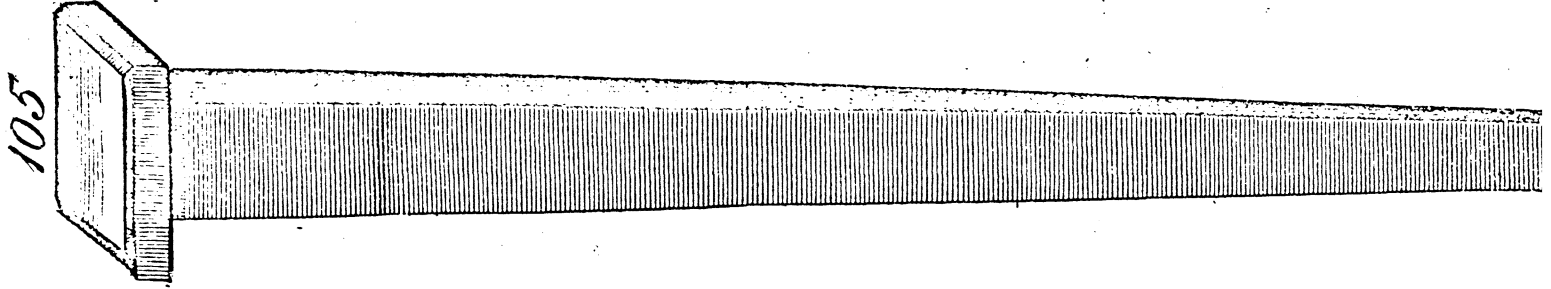
H

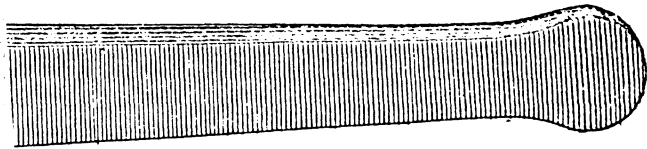
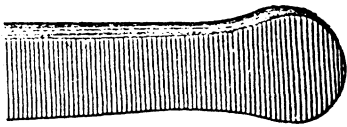
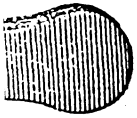
N^o

103 Spikes Die-headed _____ 10½ Inches

104 _____ d^o _____ 9 Inches

105 _____ d^o _____ 8 Inches



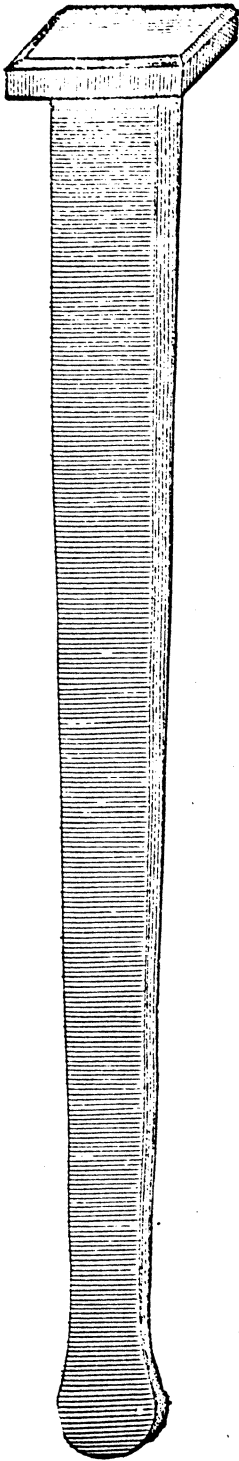


I

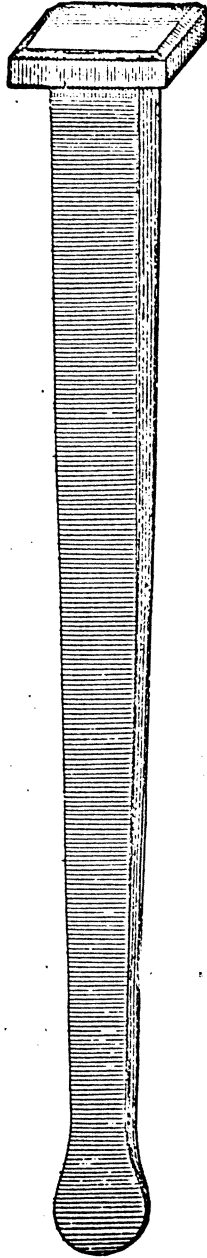
N ^o	
106	Spikes Die-headed _____ 7 Inches
107	_____ d ^o _____ 6 Inches
108	_____ d ^o _____ 5 Inches
109	_____ Broad Deck _____ 7 Inches

I

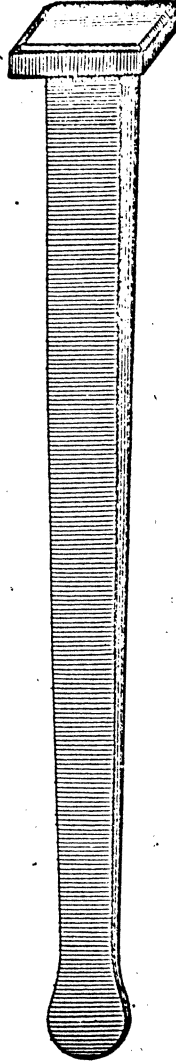
106



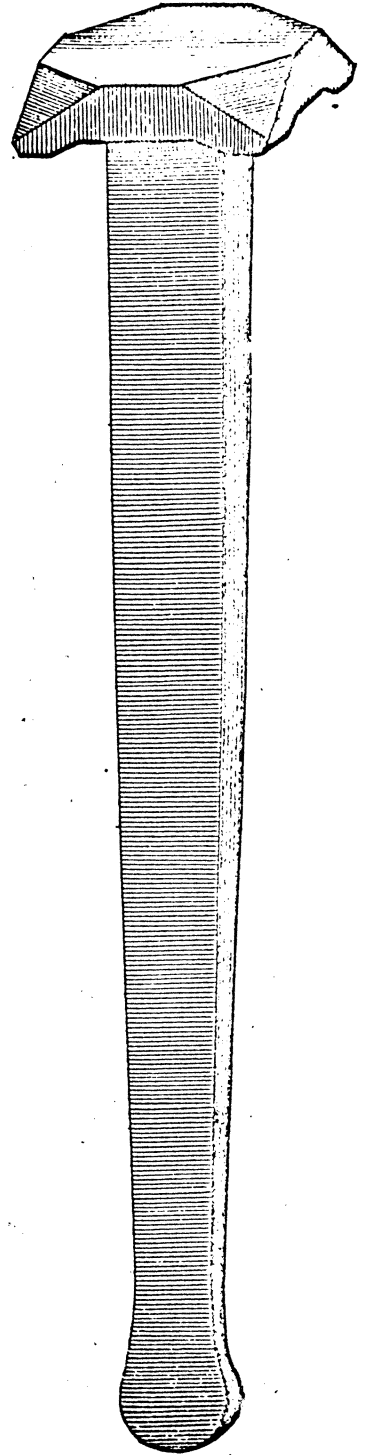
107



108



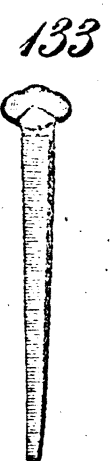
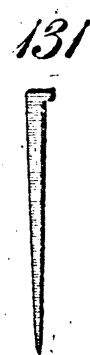
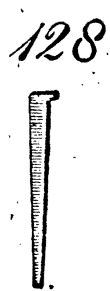
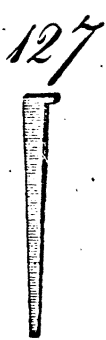
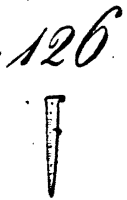
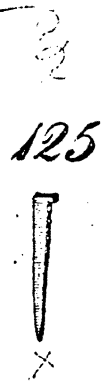
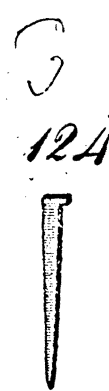
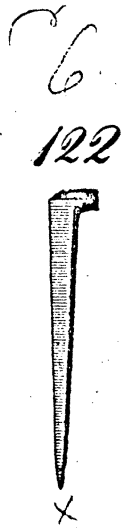
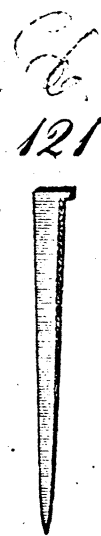
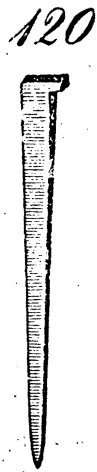
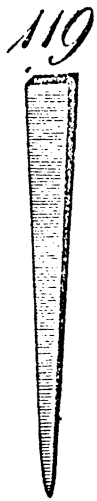
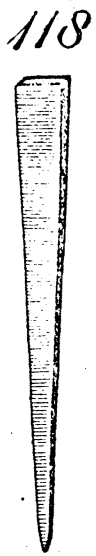
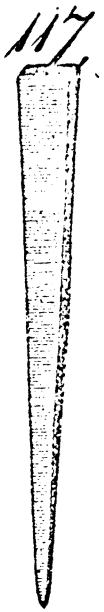
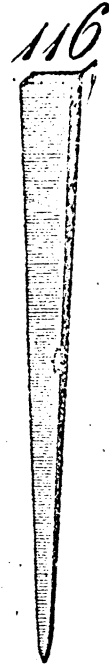
109



K

N ^o		
110	Tacks Best Flemish	14 ^{oz} P ^r 1000
111	d. ^o Round Tinned	11 " "
112	d. ^o Flat Tinned	13 " "
113	d. ^o Best Flemish	8 " "
114	d. ^o d. ^o	6 " "
115	d. ^o d. ^o	4 " "
116	Brads	20 ^{lb} " "
117	d. ^o	17 " "
118	d. ^o	12 " "
119	d. ^o	10 " "
120	d. ^o	5 " "
121	d. ^o	4 " "
122	d. ^o	2 ³ / ₄ " "
123	d. ^o	1 ³ / ₄ " "
124	d. ^o	14 ^{oz} " "
125	d. ^o $\frac{3}{4}$ Inch	12 " "
126	d. ^o $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch	8 " "
127	Cut Brads $\frac{1}{4}$ Inch	
128	d. ^o 1 Inch	
129	d. ^o $\frac{3}{4}$ Inch	
130	d. ^o $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch	
131	Best Brads Fine for Modellers	12 ^{lb} P ^r 1000
132	d. ^o d. ^o	12 ^{oz} " "
133	Best Clench	8 ^{lb} " "

K



L

N ^o		
134	Die Dog	16 th p. 1000
135	d. ^o	20
136	d. ^o	39
137	d. ^o	56
138	d. ^o	76
139	Clout Chisel pointed Countersunk	39
140	d. ^o d. ^o	52
141	d. ^o d. ^o	63
142	d. ^o d. ^o	81
143	d. ^o d. ^o	5
144	d. ^o d. ^o	14
145	d. ^o d. ^o	20
146	d. ^o d. ^o	20
147	d. ^o d. ^o	36

L

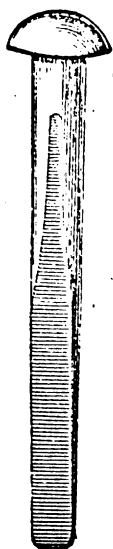
134



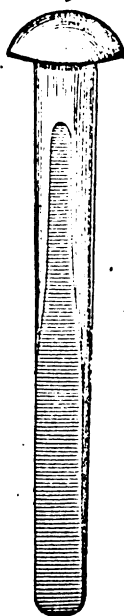
135



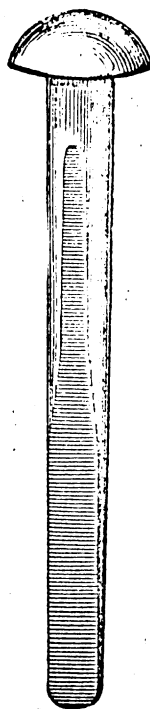
136



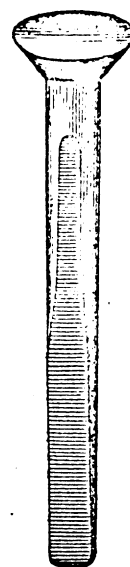
137



138



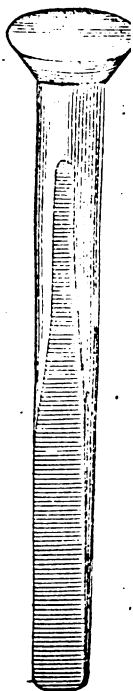
139



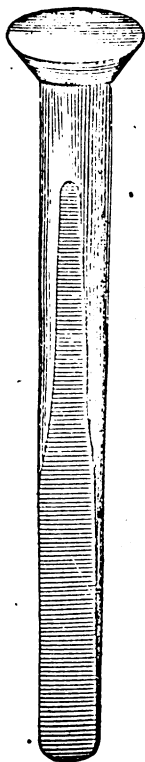
140



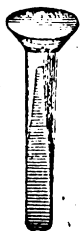
141



142



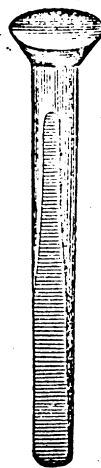
143



144



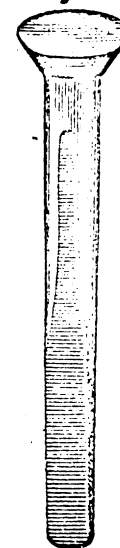
145



146



147



M

N ^o			
148	Barge	4 Inches	56 ^{lbs} P ^r 1000
149	d ^o	3 Inches	32 ..
150	d ^o	2 Inches	18 ..
151	Knee	6 Inches	60 ..
152	d ^o	4 Inches	40 ..
153	Rooves	Large	..
154	d ^o	Small	..
155	Sprigs	Glaziers	14 ^{oz} ..
156	d ^o	Sash	4 ^{oz} ..
157	Brads	3 ³ / ₄ Inches	
158	Broad Dog for Brimstone Tubs	4 ¹ / ₂ Inches	
159	Rivets		36 ^{lbs} ..
160	d ^o		24 ..
161	d ^o		16 ..
162	d ^o		8 ..
163	d ^o		3 ..

