

A Bureau of Standards

Unique Functions of the Government's New \$50,000,000 Department.

UNCLE SAM'S new Supreme

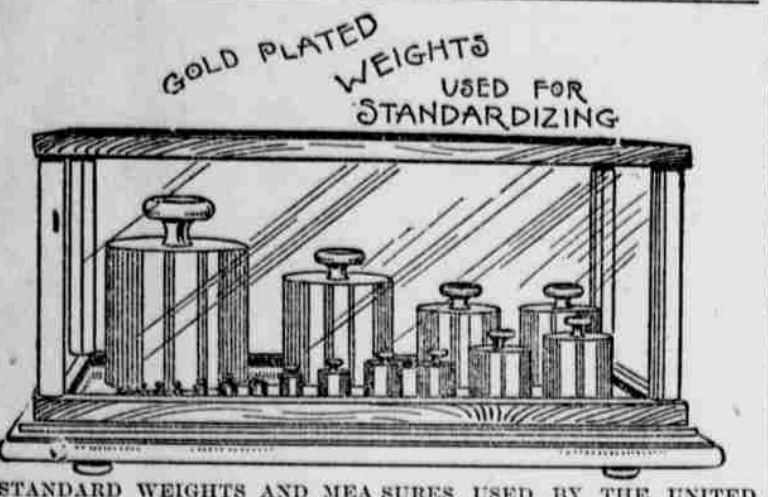
Court of weights and measures, for the building of which Congress just gave Secretary Gage a quarter million dollars, is the largest bureau added to the Government for many years. You have seen it referred to in the news dispatches as the National Bureau of Standards. That is its official name. It might be more properly called the Supreme Court of Weights and Measures, because it really will be the tribunal of last appeal, where disputes as to the accuracy of weights and measuring instruments can be finally settled.

This new bureau will save millions of dollars a year to our great industries. It will make the researches of scientists more accurate, will enable the surveyor to stake out our buildings and farm lots with greater precision.

The bureau will also establish a standard electric cell, measuring standard volts; indeed, electric standards of many kinds. Although applications of electricity represent a rapidly-growing business with investments of \$2,000,000,000, there are in this country no facilities for testing meters and other instruments used in electric measurements.

A standard thermometer will be another of the many instruments to be stored in this bureau. With this will be compared for correction the millions of thermometers used by physicians and surgeons, by scientific laboratories and the great industrial establishments.

For a long time Uncle Sam has had an office of weights and measures for giving out, mostly to its scientists, standards of weights, measures and capacities which have been adopted for convenience, but not by law. It has always been a part of the coast and geodetic survey, but is now merged into the new bureau of standards. What is practically our standard for measuring length at the present time is to be found here. This is known as the "standard meter," a bar of metal, kept in three or four cases for its protection.



STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES USED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

will give the common people better measure of dry goods, groceries, gas and electric light. This bureau of standards will correct our weights and measures, that they may all be equally uniform. It will test yard sticks, meter sticks, peck measures, litre measures, pound weights, kilogram weights, thermometers, steam gauges and all kinds of delicate measuring devices. It will stamp each with a Government stamp certifying its truthfulness or error.

A representative of each measuring

invention. This bar cost \$2500, and the metal alone in it is said to be valued at \$1500.

The United States standard kilogram, which was similarly obtained from Paris, is a duplicate of the world's standard kilogram, installed in that city. It is a small cylinder of the same metal used in the construction of the standard meter. This metal, by the way, is an alloy of platinum and iridium, selected because it cannot be destroyed by heat. It cost \$1000. Two bell jars, one fitting over the other, protect it from the dust. It is handled only by a pair of forceps with chamolite skin ends.—Philadelphia Record.

Fiftieth Anniversary of Bloomer Costume

Exactly half a century has passed since Mrs. Bloomer immortalized herself by suggesting that skirts be discarded in favor of a more rational style of dress, and now some of her warm admirers in England and Germany are saying that this notable event in modern history ought to be commemorated in some fitting manner. With the object of interesting the public, they are telling all they know about this remarkable woman, and have published a portrait of her, the original of which appeared in The Lily, a monthly magazine, which was edited by Mrs. Bloomer.

It was early in 1851 that the number of the magazine containing the portrait appeared, and Mrs. Bloomer, who was then living at Seneca Falls, N. Y., was at once recognized as the champion of a movement in favor of dress reform. The portrait of herself in her singular costume, of course, did much to bring her into public notice, and,



or weighing instrument to be thus tested and stamped will be stored in the new bureau as "the" standard of that particular measure and weight, with which all others of its class must be compared. There will be a standard yard graduated into standard feet and inches; other standards of length, standards of weight, quantity, electricity, heat, light, pressure and so on, with their subdivisions and multiples. To-day we are dependent upon Ger-



many, France and England—which have standardizing bureaus—for these corrections.

It will be difficult to realize the amount of care which will be taken with these standards installed in the new bureau. To properly shelter them from the many disturbing influences which have little effect upon ordinary instruments the new building will cost a half as much again as would a usual structure of the same size. Professor S. W. Stratton is the new director of the bureau. The laboratory, as the main building will be known, will be situated in an open space so large that no other building can be erected within a quarter of a mile of it. It will be far enough from the city to be out of reach of the vibrations caused by electric cars and heavy wagons. Many of the walls will be double, to prevent penetration of hot or cold air and consequent fluctuation of interior temperature.

Compressed air and vacuum pipes will extend throughout the building, as will several systems of electric wires. There will be double windows capable of flooding the rooms with light, also light-proof shutters, making them absolutely dark. There will be fire-proof vaults for the storing of the standards. A separate building, a thousand yards or more away, will install the engines, dynamos and other heavy machinery essential to the work. As a whole, the institution will be a modern temple of science, of which the country may be justly proud.



genetic and rational than the old-fashioned skirt.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

PENSIONS GRANTED

Big Sale of Coal Land in Somerset County. An Alleged Shoplifter Attempts to Break Jail.

Pensions have been granted as follows: Newell Matson, Herley, \$17; Stephen Waters, Mansfield, \$10; Josiah Bowers, Johnstown, \$17; Wesley Reynolds, Rutland, \$19; Ezra Lynn, Lorynsville, \$30; Hiram S. Hunt, Grove City, \$17; Nancy A. Lloyd, New Brighton, \$8; Cella S. Whipple, Westfield, \$8; William D. Abbott, Wickhaven, \$5; Thomas O. Scott, Monongahela, \$17; Josiah M. Hennen, Moravia, \$14; Charles Hoover, Berlin, \$5; David Diller, Marion Center.

Simon Curry was shot and probably fatally injured by Mrs. Hattie Sterrig, a young married woman, of St. Mary's Elk county. Two stories of the shooting are told. One is that it was done while the woman was in a jealous frenzy. The other is that she did it to protect herself from Curry, who is reported to have been drunk. The woman is in the Ridgway jail.

The Red Lion Match Company, of York, went into the hands of a receiver as the result of a petition presented to Judge Rittenger alleging its inability to meet its financial obligations. The assets are estimated at from \$5,000 to \$6,000, and the total indebtedness, \$8,235.57.

Eva Armstrong, alias Mrs. C. H. Miller, of Allegheny, one of the gang alleged shoplifters, now in the Westmoreland county prison at Greensburg, was detected in a bold attempt at jail breaking. She had sawed off two bars in the hospital department window, and had begun work on the third.

The Blair county auditors' work, just completed, shows that it cost the county last year \$108 for the support of each jail prisoner and \$47.10 for each inmate of the almshouse. The statistics have started theories that the county either treats its paupers too poorly or its criminals too well.

The murder of City Treasurer John Blevins, of New Castle, has been recalled by the arrest of Perry Douds on a charge of obstructing justice, the specific allegation being that he has written defamatory and anonymous letters for the purpose of misleading detectives. He gave bail.

One of the largest coal deals effected in Somerset county was recently made with the W. K. Niver Co., of New York. The sale embraces over 15,000 acres adjoining Berlin. Developments of the new territory are to begin immediately, requiring an expenditure of \$1,000,000.

Misa Duff, the eldest daughter of City Assessor Thomas Daft, of McKeesport, who has been a teacher in the public schools at that place for several years, has resigned to accept a similar position at San Juan, Porto Rico. She is to receive \$65 a month from the government.

The small-pox in Bedford county, along the Maryland border, has assumed such a serious phase, there being 30 cases along the Piney Ridge road within a small radius, that the Maryland state and county officers are taking measures toward establishing a quarantine.

Home made spring tights nearly killed A. Jetheridge, aged 71, and his wife, a year younger, at their home south of Erie. They were found unconscious and physicians had a hard time to revive them. They have used the biters for 20 years.

Daniel J. Kehoe, alias Frank Major, and at one time in the Western penitentiary at Allegheny under the name of Joseph Jenney, was hanged at Meadville, Tuesday for the murder of Chief of Police McGrath in Titusville, November 11, 1890.

Peter Leonard, a deaf mute, of Williamsport, rode on a bicycle to death. A dealer recently received a wheel with a 300-gear and the mute took it out for a trial. He rode up and down the street several times and then fell off the machine, dead.

At Shonfield, Erie county, five children drank some crude wool alcohol, and as a result John Sworski is dead. The children, whose ages ranged from 8 to 12, were playing on some logs, when they found the liquid. The other four will recover.

At Erie, John Ziegler, a machinist, made a desperate attempt to kill his wife, but failing, ended his own life with a pistol shot through the brain. There had been some trouble over a legacy left by Ziegler's mother to his children.

While Miss Emma McClelland, 16-year-old daughter of Andrew McClelland, at Uniontown, was baking, a spark blew out of the stove and ignited her dress. In an instant she was all aflame. She is not expected to live.

The Rev. George B. Reeser pastor of the Emanuel Reformed church at Hanover fell 40 or 50 feet from the scaffold of a new church edifice which his congregation is building and died in half an hour. He landed upon a stone pile.

With a piece of macaroni as a weapon, Deminio Augustine of Hillsville, Mahoning county, stabbed Angelo Sosisto. The strange stillito entered Sosisto's ear, piercing the drum and rendering him deaf.

Mrs. Cora Redfield, an aged woman living near Titusville, was savagely attacked by a cow and but for the timely arrival of a neighbor would have been killed. Her condition is very critical.

J. V. Thompson, of Uniontown, has purchased the Shelds farm, two miles south of Washington, comprising 270 acres, for \$110 per acre. It is underlaid with coal and partly covered with timber.

WORK will be commenced at once on the erection of a glass plant by the Pittsburgh Window Glass company on a 13-acre tract given by the Canton Land company at Washington.

Governor Stone has appointed J. W. Carpenter, Esq., of Scranton, to succeed Judge Archibald, who has been appointed Federal Judge. The senate approved the nomination.

The Star-Match Company decided to build a factory at Latrobe to employ 500 hands. The company will be capitalized at \$500,000.

Four children were poisoned near New Castle by eating pork root, which they mistook for parsnips, but prompt medical attention saved their lives.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

TUESDAY.

A bill which would abolish the company stores that have been condemned by labor organizations generally was introduced in the house by Representative McWhinney, of Allegheny county. This measure would prohibit mining companies and other employers of labor from having any direct or indirect interest in any store where merchandise of any kind is sold, and would prohibit the use of store orders, checks or coupons. The order of business was local and special bills on third reading.

The following passed: Validating official acts done by burgesses holding offices under irregular elections and appointments.

Making taxes assessed upon real estate a first lien.

Providing that the district attorneys in all counties whose population does not exceed 100,000, shall be paid a salary in lieu of fees.

Licensing the manufacture of "boiled" or "processed" butter and requiring it to be labeled.

Lieut. Gov. Gobin in the senate signed the Philadelphia revision of taxes bills.

The Palm resolution, which passed the house last week, and which provides for the appointment of a commission to investigate the effect of capital punishment in the various states, was defeated by the senate. These bills were passed finally:

House bill amending section 13 of an act providing for the support of the poor, so that all moneys in the hands of poor overseers or uncollected taxes can be paid into the borough.

House bill amending an act relating to the regulations of public schools so that a teacher's certificate shall not be given to persons who habitually use opium or any other narcotics.

WEDNESDAY.

After a spirited debate the senate defeated, by a vote of 21 to 20—five less than a constitutional majority—the new capitol bill introduced by Senator Fox. The vote, however, was reconsidered and the measure given a special order for next Wednesday.

Mr. Fox's bill for the construction and completion of the state capitol building, appropriating \$5,000,000 therefor and creating a commission consisting of the governor, State Treasurer Barnett, Auditor General Hardebaugh, President pro tem Snyder and Speaker Marshall.

The house bill regulating and defining the boundaries of public schools and the senate bill regulating the naval militia of the state, were reported from committee with negative recommendations.

Mr. Wentz, of Montgomery offered a concurrent resolution providing for final adjournment of the legislature on May 15. It was referred by a vote of 21 to 25.

The following bills were among those reported from the house appropriations committee: Cottage State hospital, Conellsville, \$21,650; publication of Pennsylvania archives, \$7,500; Western State penitentiary, \$128,300; National guard, \$775,000; Huntingdon reformatory, \$92,773; Soldiers' and Sailors' home, Erie, \$125,000.

THURSDAY.

The order of business in the House was Senate bills on second reading. These bills passed finally: Providing for the commutation of sentences for good behavior.

Providing for the refunding of the tax collected under the act of April 11, 1890, taxing bicycles for the construction of side paths along highways in townships.

Amending the renovated butter act of May 4, 1890, to provide that nothing except the words "renovated butter" shall be printed on the wrappers of such articles.

Senator Stiles introduced a bill relating to insurance companies which, if it becomes a law, will produce \$600,000 a year in revenue for the state. The revenue clause reads: "And provided, further, that hereafter, the annual tax upon the premiums of insurance companies of other states, or foreign governments shall be at the rate of 4 per centum (it is now 2 per cent) upon the gross premiums of every character and description received from business done within this commonwealth, within the entire calendar preceding."

FRIDAY.

This was the last day for introducing bills in the house without securing unanimous consent. As a result a number of legislative propositions were put in.



Have a Variety of Grasses.

Cows will fall off in yield of milk if the food is suddenly changed, or if forced to drink very cold water. In the grazing season they will sometimes fall off in milk if changed from one pasture to another. The appetites of cows differ, and they will travel over a large area in order to secure some favorite grass. The pasture should consequently contain a variety of grasses, in order that each animal may more easily select its food.

Weeds on Highways.

It is the duty of every farmer to exterminate the weeds on the roads along his farm. Some of the most troublesome weeds have traveled from one end of the country to the other along highways. Every farmer should make it his business to see that no weeds go to seed on the highway adjoining his farm. The Canada thistle is traveling all over the country, at no mean rate of speed, and as long as farmers will not keep it down along the highways there is no use of doing so on other parts of the farm; and the same may be said of many other of the vegetable pests.

Market Squab Raising for Women.

There is no good reason why women should not engage in raising squabs for market. They succeed with poultry and the work is not near as hard producing squabs as chickens, or broilers. The most objectionable part of the business would be killing the squabs and cleaning out the pens. This, however, is not as hard as the same work in the poultry business. Besides feeding her stock she has one day in the week for killing day, which is Tuesday. It is not a hard task to kill six dozen and hang them in the cellar to cool until the next day, when they are ready to ship.

A woman can easily care for 400 pairs of pigeons and the net income should be at least \$400. If they were kept in well arranged buildings it would require not more than one hour morning and evening to feed and water the flock. If the building used for the purpose was heated above the freezing point in winter and water piped to each pen a great many more birds could be cared for in the same time and with less labor. A continuous building with an aisle or walk at the back of the pens is the best style so that it would not be necessary to go through the pens in feeding and caring for the birds.—E. F. Barry, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Cooking Feed for Cows and Hogs.

Seven years ago I bought a feed cooker that I have used ever since for cooking feed for hogs and scalding feed for cows. For the hogs I take six bushels small potatoes, apples or pumpkins, run them through a root cutter so they will cook quickly and when they are done mix one bushel cornmeal and one bushel bran. This makes 100 gallons of feed. When it is all mixed well together I take the feed out of the cooker and put it in barrels that are packed in sawdust, which keeps the feed warm until it is fed up. I feed the hogs all they will eat of this three times a day. Having never weighed the hogs for a test, I cannot tell exactly how much gain there is from cooking the feed over feeding it uncooked, but should think about one-fourth.

One bushel cobs and an armful of old ralls split up for wood will cook the 100 gallons feed. For cows I put one peck barley sprouts in a galvanized bushel basket, heat water in the cooker to the scalding point, fill up the basket with water at night, and in the morning I have a basketful of nice, thick, lukewarm feed. I give four quarts to each cow in milk, which I think increases the flow of milk at the least one-quarter. Another advantage in cooked feed is that all the foul seeds are destroyed so that none goes back on the land to sprout and grow weeds.—E. M. Van Dyne, New England Homestead.

Long-Lived Trees Are Being Planted.

The division of forestry, through its section of tree planting, has succeeded in arousing widespread interest in the subject of tree growing on the plains of the upper Mississippi valley. An agent of the division has recently returned from that region, and reports that the farmers in the territory west of the Mississippi and north of the 40th parallel of latitude are awaking to the importance of planting trees, especially for economic purposes. The planters of this section are anxious to avoid the mistakes made during the operation of the timber claim act. The groves now being planned are designed to be permanent features on the homesteads.

To that end the farmers will use a greater proportion of long-lived, slow-growing species than formerly. The demand for such hardy, drought-resisting species as the hackberry, green ash, white elm, bur oak, red cedar and western yellow pine (bull pine) promises to be greatly increased during the next few years. The greatest present difficulty with which the prospective tree planter has to contend is the fact that commercial growers of nursery stock are not supplied with this kind of material. The nurseries still carry large quantities of the short-lived kinds, such as boxelder, cottonwood, maple and willow, but are short on the most valuable species.

The planting of conifers on the prairies of the west during the past has not been attended with general success. This is owing to the use of

eastern and introduced kinds that are not adapted to the country. There is abundant evidence, however, that the red cedar and western yellow pine (bull pine) will thrive throughout this section. The desirability of evergreens for wind-breaks on a bleak prairie should lead owners to turn their attention to these hardy native species.—United States Department of Agriculture.

Farming That Tends to Failure.

Although we can earn a livelihood with less hard manual labor than our fathers of 30 or 40 years ago could, if we keep up with the manner of living today, we must manage more methodically and skillfully than was required by their simple and less luxurious manner of living. They had broad acres of rich, virgin soil, from which they skimmed their crops much to the impoverishment of their descendants, we think. But now we must contract, concentrate and intensify our labor, to increase the productiveness of our fields, to do which successfully, requires knowledge of the supplying needed elements of productiveness. Successful farmers are those who understand these principles and practice them. Those who do not know, or regard them as many ways of mismanagement, which cause the rapid exhaustion of the fertility of the farm. To manage in such a way as to produce paying crops, and not unduly exhaust the soil, requires judicious management. Not everyone who says he is a farmer is one. He may pursue the business after a manner, but in point of knowledge and skill, he is wanting, and, at best, he is merely an imitator. There are many of this class of farmers. Most of them fail because they do not understand or properly adopt the best means of maintaining the fertility of their land. They also often cultivate more land than their force warrants, giving only indifferent cultivation; and as the drain upon the farm goes on about the same whether large or small crops are grown, and as poor crops usually follow poor cultivation, such farming makes a sterile farm.

Then there is the widely practiced method of raising grass and stock to be sold off the farm. This when rightly conducted is very profitable, but the practice of sowing the farm to grass, clover and other forage crops and stock raising, neglecting cultivation and manuring, is anything but profitable. The crops are harvested and either sold or fed to stock, and the stock sold off the farm; and as the prevailing idea about this sort of farming is that grass and stock raising keep up the land, little if anything is returned to the soil to replace the heavy annual drain upon it, required to produce crops and build up the expensive animal frame. Innumerable farms are run down under this ill-managed system of farming.—J. I. B., in Agricultural Epitome.

A Good Compost Heap.

On my seed farm I make a great deal of waste vegetable matter, such as buckwheat straw, rye straw too much broken up in threshing by machinery to be marketable for bedding, and a large quantity of the mixture of forest leaves and meadow hay that after two seasons of use as covering for 30,000 or 50,000 seed cabbages has become too fine and broken for future use. These, if left in heaps, in the course of a few years, become, at the bottom, the blackest of humus, the rye straw being by far the slowest to decompose.

At the close of the planting season of 1899, having two or three carloads of stable manure and about half a ton of ground bone, nitrate of soda and muriate of potash to spare, I concluded to utilize more or less of the waste by making a compost heap in the cellar of one of the stables. It was made with manure as a foundation, then a layer of the half-rotten, strawy material, over which we scattered one of the fertilizing elements, care being taken to place the most strawy material nearest the bottom of the heap. About half way up I dumped in and spread evenly some four cords of half rotten corn cobs. With alternating layers we built up the heap to the depth of about five feet.

This was in early summer. It was left untouched until planting time next spring, when on testing it I found that every substance had fully rotted, and the whole mass was in a fine state of comminution; ever the corn cobs had entirely disappeared, and thus added their 25 percent of potash to the heap.

I used this compost on freshly broken up sod, giving it a fair dressing for a corn crop. I planted it with Longfellow, and had the most wonderful results in growth of stalk ever known in my experience as a corn grower; by actual measurement many of these were nine and one-half feet in height, with the ears so high up that a man of average height could walk under many of them without touching them with his hat. The crop contained a larger proportion of long, well-filled ears than any I can recall in a long life devoted to farming operations.

The compost utilized not only much waste vegetable matter, but the nitrate of soda and muriate of potash, fertilizers which all who have kept them over a season are aware, dampen and waste more or less in the process of preparation.—J. J. H. Gregory, in The Country Gentleman.

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Eggs That Will Keep.

It is said that a carload of evaporated eggs, valued at \$14,000, was lately shipped from Springfield, Mass., for San Francisco, where it will be placed on a steamer bound for Cape Horn. The eggs were put in 40-pound cans, sixty cans in a case, and answer any purpose in the line except boiling. The moistening taken out of them when they are prepared leaves nothing to be lost in the process of evaporating in the world is located at Springfield. The process of evaporating with hot air, and it takes eight to thoroughly evaporate a dozen eggs equal to a pound preparation. The Springfield employs seventy-five people capacity for condensing 400 cases a day. It is the only one to all foreign countries, and especially there is a big English government preparation on the market. The Klondike country of this brand of eggs no matter what the hen fruit may be or the evaporated price, and is always for business.—New York Press.

Other woman's idea

is to keep a ham sandwich with a start when the waiter approaches him, hesitates over his order and then always calls for a ham sandwich and a glass of milk.

Rockefeller's Daily Life.

John D. Rockefeller goes through the same routine every day at noon in regard to his lunch. He enters the little restaurant absent-mindedly, makes with a start when the waiter approaches him, hesitates over his order and then always calls for a ham sandwich and a glass of milk.

Henry M. Stanley's Associates.

When Henry M. Stanley was a reporter on a Chicago newspaper he was associated in that work with Eugene Field, Stanley Waterloo, the Novelist, and Stanley Huntley, afterwards known as the author of the "Spoon-dyke Papers." Ernest McGaffey, now a promising writer of verse, was then an off-boy.