

BUREAU'S TASK IS TO FIX STANDARD FOR ALL SORTS OF THINGS

Not Only Weights and Measures, but About Every Detail of Every Public Utility Passed Upon by Federal Bureau of Standards— Idea Is to Present Well-Tested Methods Which Will Commend Themselves to All States.

Washington.—Ever since the advent of the new year the bureau of standards of the department of commerce has been deluged with inquiries from all corners of the country concerning standards of everything from electric and gaslight brilliancy to the strength of a water pipe. And most of these requests are pouring in from public service corporations and their old enemies, the public utilities commissions.

Primarily the bureau of standards was charged with the duty of testing and determining standards of exact measurements of every kind and nature. A steel yardstick which may be a yard long in June will be something less than a yard in cold December, and it is the bureau's task to find out what constitutes a real yard under all conditions. Naturally, in pursuing this chase for elusive constants, the bureau branched off, more or less, into measuring things other than yardsticks, and among other details it became interested in learning what amount of electricity should go into an electric light. As this was only a step from learning what constitutes a real gaslight candle power, the bureau learned that also.

Several years ago, it appears, those who planned for the future of the bureau anticipated that eventually they would be called upon to referee the constant clashes between public service corporations and those state and municipal commissions appointed to regulate the corporations. They felt that the day would come when the word of the bureau of standards must settle such controversies, and they set to work to rig up their administrative plant to provide for it.

And just as they planned the need arose, and they were prepared. For a while the public utility experiments and decisions of the bureau were carried along as a rather unclassified portion of its administrative burden, but as the demand for information increased along public utility lines it was finally decided to set aside a certain part of the bureau's force into separate quarters and put them to the task of working out the destiny of those corporations which serve the public.

Some Knotty Problems. Electric light and gas companies and street railways furnish most of the knotty problems the bureau is called upon to solve in the public utilities field, and perhaps no problem has given the bureau more study and trouble than the process of electrolysis of underground pipes in cities where the streets are honeycombed by pipes of all sorts.

Most of the street railways are operated on the single, overhead trolley plan, with the electric current passing through the car into the track, via the wheels, after it has passed through the car motors. Most of the current is properly conducted back to the generating stations, but some of it escapes and menaces gas and water pipes in the vicinity. These stray currents produce what is known as electrolysis, which eats away the pipes. This leads to constant wrangling between the street railway companies and the corporations whose pipes have been injured. While it has so far been almost impossible to completely prevent the corroding of pipes thus exposed, the bureau has been able to advise public utilities commissions how to compel the various corporations involved to mitigate this current wastage and the consequent evil effects.

As a result of tests made during the past year at St. Louis, Springfield, Mass., and Springfield, O., the bureau has been enabled to lay down some definite rules which will prevent a great deal of damage from this agency. Bonding of the joints of rails to give greater conductivity to the rails, was one plan. Another was embodied in radical roadbed changes, to lessen the connections between the earth and the rails. At present the bureau is conducting tests to show the extent of electrolytic action on pipes of all kinds and this is expected to throw additional light on the question.

The bureau gets every assistance from the gas and electric companies and from municipalities, while the street railway companies usually give but scant attention to the matter. The reason is obvious, as the results of the work tend to increase the cost to the railway companies through the necessary installation of safeguards, whereas railways themselves are not concerned in the matter of damaged pipes owned by other parties, unless a lawsuit results, and the courts have been able to get very little action here.

Gas Service Standards. Determining service standards of gas, both for heating and illuminating, is another factor in the work of the bureau. Most city and state utility commissions rule rather uniformly on the matter of meters, meter testing, heating value and candle power of the gas product, degree of chemical purity and amount of pressure required, but the bureau experts have been able to formulate a set of uniform regulations. It is the aim of the bureau to make the gas requirements of San Francisco as near those of New York as possible. A fairly uniform meter regulation, for instance, would remove a great ob-

stacle to meter manufacturers. At present a meter acceptable in San Francisco might not do at all in New York.

The bureau, thanks to the experts, could furnish at this moment a set of rules for the government of public utilities anywhere, which, with possibly a few minor alterations, could be put into effect with marked benefit to the community and without serious hardship to the corporations affected. For instance, three sets of model electric ordinances have been prepared—one for large cities, one for medium-sized cities, and one for smaller cities and towns. Big-city requirements are inclined to be more stringent than those applicable to smaller communities, and to enforce these requirements upon electric power companies in small towns would be more or less of a hardship. Then there is a different set of model regulations, suitable for adoption by state utilities commissions, which strike a happy medium between the stricter regulations of the large cities and the laxer rules applicable to the smaller communities. In formulating these tables of measurements the bureau has received support not only from utilities commissions throughout the country but from electric companies as well.

It frequently happens that representatives of the bureau are asked by public utilities commissions to attend hearings on matters of more than usual importance. In such case an expert is sent, and usually he supplies data of vast benefit in enabling those interested to reach a definite conclusion. **Safety Codes.** One important phase of the bureau's work is its plan to formulate and have adopted a national gas and electric safety code for the protection of both workers and consumers. The idea is to have the code uniform throughout all states. This work, however, is not completed. Sometime this year a conference will be held in Washington to consider the bureau's national electric code, and if adopted by the state legislatures it will be adopted by the state legislatures.

The same method has been followed in the preparation of a gas safety code for all the states. To investigate the telephone as a public utility it has been necessary to make some survey of telephone transmitting and receiving apparatus, as well as switchboard equipment. So far this work has been slight, but from now on the bureau will devote itself more energetically to this task. In the opinion of the bureau telephone standards are in sore need of fixing. Public service commissions throughout the country are noting increasing frequency of petitions for permission for connections between telephone systems under different ownerships and the question is constantly arising as to whether an impairment of service would result.

ANCIENT HEAD CAGE
Thomas Mott Osborne, former warden of Sing Sing prison, posed for the Survey in the old iron head cage which he found in the cellar of Auburn prison. The head cage weighs eight pounds, and was used as recently as 18 years ago on refractory prisoners.

\$1,000 for Nine Lives.
Des Moines, Ia.—W. O. Allen, a West Des Moines high school teacher, has received a Carnegie hero medal and \$1,000 in cash for bravery in saving nine persons from drowning at Athens, O., in 1907. Allen was a student at Ohio university at Athens, when the Hocking river overflowed and carried everything before it. Allen and a companion, using a small skiff, rescued nine persons.

Ready for Big Flood.
Drayton, Mo.—Foreseeing a flood to cover the whole earth, John Rule, a farmer, living on Red river, has built an ark in which he expects to save himself and his family.

Knocks His Customer Down.
Portersville, Cal.—W. S. Beller, a carpenter, employed at a local magnesite mine, was prevented from committing suicide when he was knocked down by a clerk in a local drug store just as he had thrown back his head preparatory to tossing into his mouth sufficient poison to have killed a regiment of men.

Makes Pitchers Work.
"Chick" Gandil reminds one of George Stovall in one way. He makes the pitchers cover first, and if the Indian hurlers fail to improve in fielding it will not be "Chick's" fault, for he absolutely declines to scoop a grounder and dash for the sack himself.

Indians Are Fast.
Manager Lee Pohl makes the prediction the Cleveland fans are going to see the fastest base-running team this year that has represented that city since the days of Jack Powell.

SINGS HIS WAY TO FREEDOM

Boy Wins Release of Parents Who Were Prisoners of Villa's Band of Cutthroats.

Philadelphia.—Little four-year-old Harry Joline of this city sang to Villa's ferocious guerrillas and brought about the release of his imprisoned parents.

This youthful traveler is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Joline. With his father, who is a mining engineer, and his mother he has traveled during the last 45 days a distance of 14,000 miles, passing through the United States, Canada and Mexico. At the time of the Columbus raid he and his parents were in Juarez, Mexico, and were subjected to considerable affront



Harry Joline.

and finally were incarcerated in a bull pen. Young Harry was allowed to roam about, and soon succeeded in capturing and holding the affections and imaginations of Villa's fierce soldiers, who showered him with Villa currency and released his father and mother and saw them safely to the border.

Harry is also a young hero in the eyes of traveling men and doctors who consider his feat of traveling 14,000 miles in ever-changing altitudes without becoming sick, a truly remarkable achievement. He has imbued all kinds of spring, soda and mineral waters, and has changed his clothing on some days, twice, and occasionally three times, to suit the climate through which he was passing. Changes varying from freezing to summer heat, traveling on 23 railroads and sleeping on railroad trains and in different hotels each night have left no ill effects upon this youngster.

INDIAN STUDENT IS GRATEFUL

Nez Perce Urges All Redmen Who Can to Go to the Carlisle Indian School.

Carlisle, Pa.—Superintendent Oscar H. Lipps of the Carlisle Indian school, is in receipt of a letter from Stephen Reuben, a Nez Perce Indian, who left the school 33 years ago. Mr. Reuben says he has no escaped the temptation of the reservation, but he is thankful that he has been given strength and courage to rise when he fell and "stand like a man." He urges the pupils to make use of their opportunities here, for they will be thankful some day, as he is today, for what Carlisle is doing for the Indians.

He says among other things: "I allowed not my hair to grow below my ears. I wear still the stiff head collar on my neck and I wear a good suit like I had on while at Carlisle. I am living on a farm, raise grain, vegetables and fruit, and drive six horses with train wagons just like I did in Buck county, Pennsylvania. I built a house for myself from what I learned of the carpenter's trade at Carlisle. I have 1,524 fruit trees, one-half bearing fruit now."

AUTO AID IN COAST DEFENSE

Seven-Inch Howitzer Carried Thirty-Eight Miles in Three Hours Over Hilly Road.

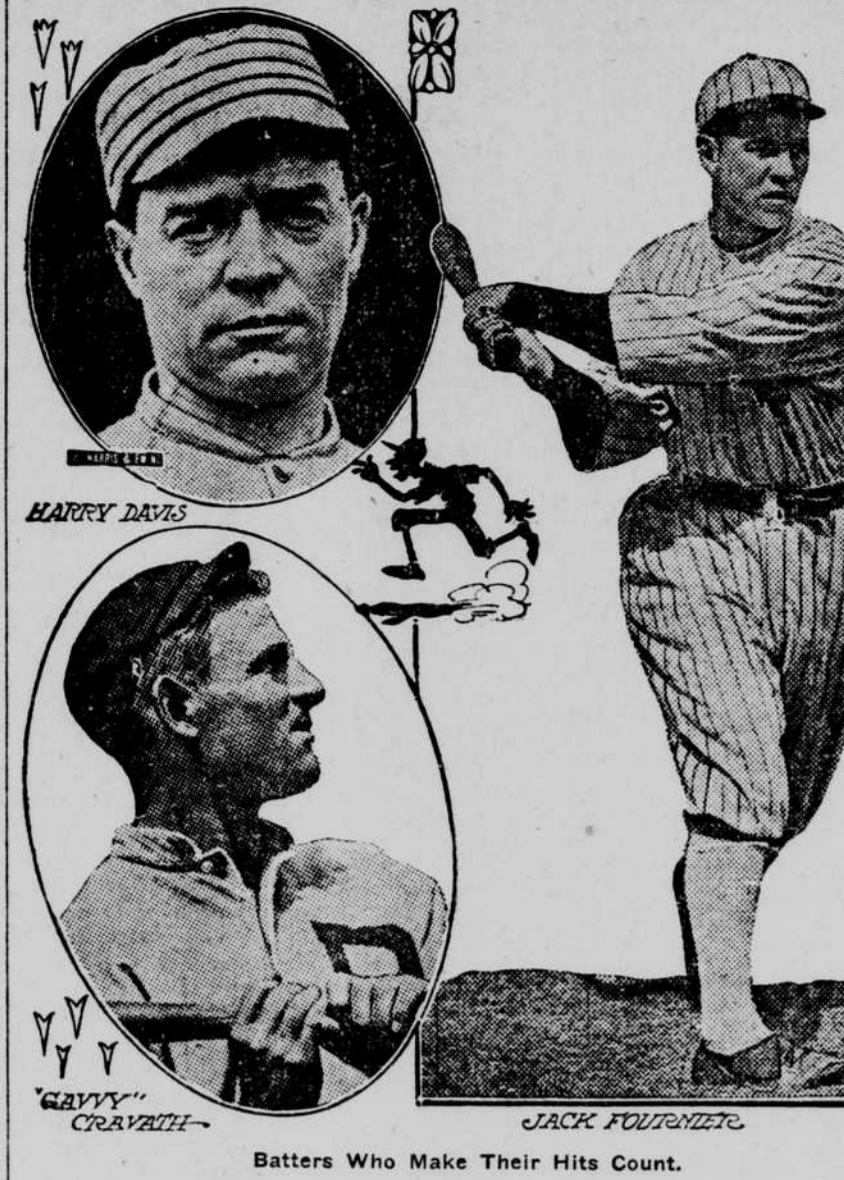
San Francisco.—Officers of the coast artillery here expressed satisfaction over a test made to determine the value of the automobile as a factor in coast defense. The thirteenth company was rushed from Fort Miley to Half Moon bay. The artillerymen took with them a seven-inch howitzer, weighing four tons.

The distance is 38 miles, over a hilly road, and the trip with horses would take, army officers estimated, about a day and a half. The artillerymen covered the distance in 90 minutes in motor cars. The gun was only three hours on the way.

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GREATEST NUMBER OF RUNS DRIVEN IN



"Gavvy" Cravath of the champion Phillies holds the 1915 record for the greatest number of runs driven in in one game. He hit home eight in the contest with Cincinnati on August 8, twice sending three men over the plate by doubling. The last major leaguer to turn this trick was Harry Davis, who did it in 1890 against Brooklyn. Harry then was with the Giants. Fournier of the White Sox set the American league record for the year when, on July 6, he batted in six tallies.

BEST BALL PLAYER OF YEAR

George Sisler of St. Louis Browns Can Play Any Position on Diamond—Is Hard Hitter.

"How long do you think it will be before baseball produces another player like Ty Cobb?" someone asked of a crowd of old-timers in the press box during a recent fanning bee.

"Looks to me as if it had already produced one," remarked George Davis, scout and former manager of the Browns. "There's about the best ball-player we've seen in years."

This brought on quite a discussion, and after going all the way down the line of new stars it was the unanimous verdict that Sisler is by far the greatest ballplayer discovered in recent years. And this is not due entirely to his versatility. Though he can play any position on the diamond except behind the bat he is a star in any place they put him.

Sisler is a great pitcher, a dandy first baseman, a corking good outfield-



George Sisler.

er and can play either second, short or third as well as 99 per cent of the men in the league. In addition to that he hits well over .300.

PLAYERS FROM NEW ENGLAND

Among Others Developed for Majors Are John Tener, Christy Mathewson and Larry Lajoie.

The New England league goes out of existence with a record to be proud of in the way of developing talent for the majors. The following are a few of the men who started with the New England league: John K. Tener, president of the National league; Christy Mathewson, Larry Lajoie, "Rabbit" Maranville, Hugh Duffy, Charles Farrell, Harry Davis, "Stuffy" McInnis, Martin Bergen, Jack Doyle, Harry Lord, Ainsmith, Larry Gardner and Henriksen.

Proud of His Pitchers.
Manager Herzog is particularly proud of his pitching material, principally youngsters, including Dale, formerly of Montreal; Fred Tony, Schneider, McKeeney, Mitchell, Dowd, Earl Mosley, formerly of the Indianapolis and Newark Peds; Schultz and Stanley Dugals.

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STOP PASSING BATTER

RULE SUGGESTED TO MAKE BASEBALL MORE INTERESTING.

Free Pass Evil Is "Booed" by Every Fan Who Really Loves Game—Batter Always Anxious to Boost Batting Average.

Whenever a batter receives a base on balls, or is hit by a pitched ball, the manager of the team at bat may have the alternative of permitting the batter to take first base, as has been customary under the present rules, or he may put a base runner on first base and permit the batter to continue at bat. The base runner substituted shall be permitted to re-enter the game at any other time as a base runner, and the batter shall not be forced out of the game as is the custom under the present rules when a man runs for him.

The rule above will accomplish many things, make the game more speedy, make for more control on the part of the pitchers, make more and better base running, make it necessary to keep at least one lightninglike runner on the squad and do away with intentional passes.

Perhaps where it will make the biggest hit with the players is that it will make for bigger batting averages.

When a batter is hit by a pitched ball or passed by being given four balls, he is not credited with a time at bat, it is true, but, on the other hand, it is a time he does not have a chance to make a hit, and every batter wants as many chances to boost his batting averages as possible.

The free pass evil is "booed" at by every fan who really loves the game. To not permit a brilliant hitsmith like Cobb to get a fair chance at making a hit, when a hit means runs and perhaps the game, is something the fan frowns upon.

He wants to see his hero stride up to the plate, pick out one to his liking and smash it out for a three-bagger or a homer and send in runs ahead of him.

BODIE DISLIKES BIG LEAGUE

Demon Fence Buster and Macaroni Consumer Was Kicked Out of Majors by Paragaphers.

The humorous sport paragaphers never did appeal to Ping Bodie's sense of humor.

They grated on Ping's nerves so long that they finally succeeded in driving him from the big leagues. Ping is on the coast now and doing well, and according to reports from that western extreme of the continent.



Ping Bodie.

Ping wouldn't return to the big show even if he got the opportunity.

Out on the coast the demon fence buster and macaroni consumer is quoted as saying: "No more big league stuff for mine. They kidded me out of the majors and I'm through with them. I'm content to play in the minors, because here the fans are kindly in their treatment toward me. So are the players. The sticks are good enough for me."

NOISY COACHING IS POPULAR

Jimmy Callahan, New Manager of Pirates Disagrees With Former President Taft.

Professor Taft's idea of voiceless coaching, as expressed by the former president at the recent National league banquet, seems unpopular. Jimmy Callahan, new manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, is one manager who has announced his stand against quiet coaching.

"Noisy coaching may not suit men of a sensitive nature, but I believe the fans generally in the United States like it," said Callahan in reply to Mr. Taft. "Half of the sport in the game would be taken away by stopping the noise in connection with the sport and I don't believe the men who make baseball plays will ever legislate out loud coaching."

"Nerve is a vital essential for a ball player, and if he has it the coaching doesn't bother him. If he hasn't, then he is one of the few who will object to the loud coaching."

Tigers' Official Jester.
The Tigers are to have an official jester this season, provided Rube Marshall stays with them, and they are going to have one second to none of the baseball clowns who already have established big league reputations. For some reason, the Jugglers have been blessed with a very few of the funny fellows.

McGraw Sweet on Palmero.
Hank Palmero, the Cuban wonder, is banking on making the New York team this year. Palmero is bigger and heavier than he ever was before, and his pitching has improved with his strength. McGraw likes his actions this spring and believes that he will fill the shoes of Rube Marquard nicely.

ART TREASURES IN SAFETY

Priceless Tapestries and Paintings Were Removed From Paris When the German Army Advanced.

M. Henri Marcel, French director general of national museums, has just reported to the government details of the transfer to Toulouse of the art treasures of the Paris Louvre, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The occasion of the report was popular rumors that some of the most valuable paintings had been scratched or otherwise damaged.

M. Marcel relates how he had opposed the government's order to remove the treasures at the time of Von Kluck's drive to within twenty miles from Paris, and how he finally consented to pack them, as well as the most famous tapestries of Reims, Chantilly and Compiègne.

Each painting was wrapped in oven-dried wax paper, with a layer of cotton over it back and front; special boxes were made with copper spirals holding the frames in position and protecting them against sudden shocks. And finally 900 of the most valuable paintings, with an even number of less value, were taken to a special train in the Midi station; the cars were padded thickly; two guards were in each car. That train, says the report, carried over \$200,000,000 worth of treasures.

Arrived at Toulouse, the most serious operation, that of unpacking, was successfully undertaken in the presence of the entire Louvre board, and each item was checked in after thorough examination. Not one picture suffered on the way or in packing or unpacking; and all are stored in an "indestructible" building, which has been tested as to dryness; in fact, it is under continual surveillance, so that harm cannot come to the pictures or tapestries.

They are not now on exhibition, but only stored for safety. Mr. Marcel thinks that it would be quite safe to take them back to Paris now, "as they will never be disturbed there now." General Gallien, however, the military commander of Paris, has refused permission to bring them back before the end of the war.

The works of sculpture and minor pictures have not been removed from the Louvre; and since March 1 the gallery is open to the public daily, except Sundays and Mondays. But the military authorities have insisted on getting ready places of safety even for the remaining art stores, which can be removed in a few hours should it become necessary.

Poetry in Wall Street

"To me your Wall street is one of the most poetic spots in America," said a young woman out of the West on a trip through the narrow canyon. "That sounds rather odd, I know, especially to those who are accustomed to associate Wall street with common gambling and fortune-wrecking. But I have never met any literary people, painters or musicians more highly strung, as we say, than the typical men of the street." They have, too, the most wonderful imaginations. The way they talk about piles of bonds and gold and cotton and wheat is perfectly fascinating. And they believe, to a large extent, that what they tell you about business is true. They are carried away with the idea, just the same as a novelist who is outlining his next book to his publisher is carried away with his theme and plot. They all love their work, and I do not think they would take half so much interest in making and breaking themselves and other people if Wall street were not hard and cruel and full of excitement and humor and pathos."

Banker's Keen War Vision

An English army officer was starting for the front last year and he called upon his London bank to settle up certain affairs before departing.

"You'll be back soon with a wounded hand," said the bank manager. He was. His wound healed, the officer made ready to go back to the front. Meeting the bank manager, he inquired: "Any more predictions?"

"You'll be gone longer this time," said the manager, "and when you do return it will be with quite a bad wound in the leg."

This also happened. The officer was much surprised. Hunting up the banker, he inquired: "Since you know so much, why can't you tell me when the war will end?"

"It will end," said the manager, "on June 17, 1916, but I shan't live to see it. I'll just about live until New Year's day and not much more." He died January 2.

The London Financial News, a very sober, unimaginative newspaper, vouches for this story.

Fertilizers From Municipal Waste.
A survey of the nation's resources in fertilizer materials has drawn attention to the large supply of these to be found in the accumulation of garbage in cities. This waste material contains nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, which are recognized as essential to the production of large crops. Valuable as these elements are to the farms of the country, the garbage in which they are found is a source of trouble and expense to the cities. It seems, therefore, that this garbage can be disposed of most advantageously by returning it to the soil in the form of fertilizer.

Not Qualified Yet.
"I saw you out in your new car yesterday."

"Did I look like a motorist?"

"Well, no. You had an air of responsibility that gave you away, but that will disappear in time."

Changed Conception.
"What's your opinion of Bonmaster?" "Well, when I first met him, he impressed me as being a leader of men, a ten-thousand-volt human dynamo, a tarantula-voiced czar who would brook no opposition; but when I met him the second time, in his office, I sized him up for a pusillanimous mouse." "Where did you meet him the first time?" "On the telephone."

And a Sure Harvest.
The seeds of rust and decay bring a harvest of loss.

GIRLS FOR POLICE WORK

Organized to Clean Up New York's East Side and Keep it Clean.

New York.—Five hundred organized police girls, with badges, clubs, blue caps and jackets are the latest thing in the campaign to keep the East side clean.

The girls, bedecked with glittering badges, recently swooped upon the residents of the district and informed

them that banana peels and the like should not be thrown from windows into the streets and that rubbish must not be permitted to accumulate in the corners of the room.

The girl police has been organized by Harry S. Schlacht, president of the East Side Protective association.

The captain of the squad is Cecilia Goldberg, thirteen years old. The girls have given pledges to keep their own homes clean. They are intelligent school children between the ages of twelve and eighteen.