

SCIENCE

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THE ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

THE Bureau of Standards was organized July 1, 1901, as one of the Bureaus of the Treasury Department, and Professor S. W. Stratton, of the Chicago University, was appointed director. On July 1, 1903, it was transferred along with certain other bureaus to the newly established Department of Commerce and Labor.

The functions of the Bureau of Standards are briefly stated in the act of congress by which it was established. The bureau is to acquire and construct when necessary copies of the standards adopted or recognized by the government, their multiples and subdivisions; to make accurate comparisons with these standards of instruments and standards employed in scientific investigations, engineering, manufacturing, commerce and educational institutions; to conduct researches pertaining to precision measurements and to determine the physical constants and properties of materials. The bureau is also to furnish such information concerning standards, methods of measurement, physical constants and the properties of materials as may be at its disposal, and is authorized to exercise its functions for the government of the United States, for state or municipal governments, for scientific societies, educational institutions, corporations, firms or individuals, and although not expressly authorized in the act referred to, sometimes also serves foreign governments. No fees are collected for services performed for the national or state governments. From others a reasonable fee is charged, and a