

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE F.F.A. TESTS

The Governing Committee of the American Oil Chemists Society has authorized the Refining Committee to conduct co-operative work on F. F. A. tests during the coming season, along lines similar to those of the Smalley Foundation work.

While the F. F. A. test seems a simple one to make, it is nevertheless a fact that serious differences occur very commonly. Discrepancies on such tests between different chemists on duplicate samples of crude oil submitted for refining tests have led to different amounts of caustic being used in refining, thus accounting for some of the variable results in refining tests.

The truly remarkable results secured in the Smalley Foundation work on meal suggests that a similar plan should lead to more accurate and concordant F. F. A. tests and thus, to this extent, assist in getting better checks on refining tests. It was felt that this work should preferably be handled by the Refining Test Committee rather than by the Smalley Foundation Committee and, therefore, the Governing Committee has now authorized the Refining Committee to conduct such co-operative work on F. F. A. under the following plan:

1. The Refining Committee to be in full charge, to make all regulations, to calculate all averages and decide all disputed points.
2. One sample to be sent out each month from September to June inclusive, from the Procter & Gamble laboratory at Ivorydale. A total of 10 samples.
3. A charge of \$4.00 to be paid by each participant, directly to the treasurer of the Society. At the end of the year the Procter & Gamble laboratory will render a bill to the Society, covering the actual cost of materials, together with an estimated cost of other expenses involved, all of which is to be paid by the Society to the Procter & Gamble Company. Any surplus or deficit to be borne by the Society's treasury.
4. The object of this work will be solely to improve accuracy. No prizes or certificates to be awarded. Best averages to be calculated substantially as in Smalley Foundation work and results obtained by all participants to be tabulated and sent to each participant as promptly as possible, each month.

The cost is small, and all commercial laboratories, refinery laboratories and other chemists interested in F. F. A. work, are urged to participate for their own good, and the good of the industry. No personal solicitation will be made, but all who are interested should send their \$4.00 immediately to the Society's treasurer, in order that we may know how many to provide for.

REFINING COMMITTEE,

C. B. Cluff, Chairman.