

OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES

The Editor's Page

Business Standards

IN THIS issue we are privileged to publish in full the text of the Code of Ethics proposed for adoption by the National Association of Soybean Oil Manufacturers. In reading over the Code one cannot escape being impressed by a sense of pride that the business of producing oils has made rapid strides in recent years toward the goal of uniformity of uprightness and fair dealing. The soybean oil manufacturers are not alone in striving to place their business dealings upon such a plane of integrity that they will command the respect of all who have occasion to contact them.

The National Cottonseed Products Association in its present form represents the culmination of years of effort on the part of far-sighted leaders of the Interstate and Texas Crushers' Association directed toward the promotion of uprightness and the entire elimination of chicanery in the cottonseed milling industry of this country.

The records of the past have not been entirely enviable insofar as the vegetable oil milling trades have been concerned. Not in every community has the oil mill owner or manager been considered an example of fair dealing for his fellow townsmen. In some of the oil milling industries the general estimate of those conducting the industry has been sometimes quite the reverse. The writer was once informed by a banker in one of our largest cities—"I have been forced to conclude that everybody in the vegetable oil milling business is afflicted with myopia whenever it is necessary to observe the rights of anyone else."

Oil milling is an honest, respectable business and industry. It has attracted to its ranks many business men of first-class ability and the most sterling probity. During long years of unselfish striving through the channels of the cottonseed milling trade associations those men have endeavored to preserve for the entire industry a reputation for fairness and uprightness in business dealings which would be comparable with their personal records. That they have succeeded and are continuing to succeed is evidenced by the adoption of such Codes of Ethics as those of the National Cottonseed

Products Association and the National Association of Soybean Oil Manufacturers.

Soon there will be no place whatever in this country for the oil miller who cannot subscribe to such a Code, or who, subscribing to it, promptly files his adherence in that convenient corner of his mind marked "Dormant Matters".

Chemistry — Ancient and Modern

WE HAVE recently received from the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, a copy of an attractive little circular giving the list of 92 Chemical Elements, (Gaseous, Liquid, Metallic, Crystalline and Amorphous), with the name, atomic number, symbol, atomic weight, melting point, and year of discovery of each, (excepting Number 85, which, while its existence is predicted by the Periodic Law, still remains undiscovered).

This little table, with its cryptic symbols and numerals, holds between its lines all the romance of man's progress on earth. The reader's attention is first arrested by the extreme small number of the elements which were discovered before the time of Christ. A check of the list shows that in the first several million years of his existence on this sphere man had become acquainted with just nine of the elementary substances, those of course which he found in their native state, or which he was able to recover by smelting with crude fires. The nine elements he knew were carbon, sulfur, iron, copper, silver, gold, tin, mercury and lead.

The table reveals further that the study of chemistry, or alchemy, awakened no interest in mankind for more than fourteen centuries after the beginning of the Christian era, its first unfoldings being manifested in the discovery of antimony and bismuth in 1450. Followed about three hundred more years of darkness, or semi-darkness, marked only by the discovery of zinc, in 1520, phosphorous in 1669 and arsenic in 1694.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, less than two hundred years ago, during the time which marked truly the beginning of