

OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES

The Editor's Page

Nationalism—or Progress?

IN THIS issue we publish the first instalment of a report from Frank Messenger, U. S. Foreign Trade Commissioner at London, covering the summaries presented by the representatives at the International Convention of Oil Seed Crushers of every important oil-producing country with the exception of the United States.

The countries represented at this conference included Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Manchuria, and others. Each nation presented a summary of conditions affecting oilseed purchases, production and sales of oil and cake and competitive conditions within its oil industry.

That the United States was not represented at this conference except by Government observers, seems to us a very significant fact. Have our tariff barriers and other evidences of extreme nationalism as applied to the oil milling industry caused us to overlook entirely the fact that all trade in vegetable oils and oilseeds is affected most appreciably by influences which are international in their scope and bearing?

The oil crushers of Europe have organized in various ways to protect their raw material sources and their markets. The many great mergers of soap and margarine manufacturers and oil millers in recent years have known no national boundaries. The Association of Seed Crushers, likewise, has opened its membership to all comers, excepting possibly Americans. That our interests are closely interwoven with those of the seed crushers in other countries is best exemplified by the growing imports of copra, coconut oil, palm and palm kernel oil and other tropical produce into the United States. Our cottonseed oil, it is true, is largely consumed at home, but the markets for this commodity must inevitably feel the effect of worldwide conditions in oil trade in general.

We feel sure that the European crushers would welcome American membership in their

international association. The National Cottonseed Producers Association could serve its members well by active participation through the attendance of accredited representatives at the Annual Conference of this International Association.

Subtle Sabotage

IN THE dictionaries, "sabotage" is defined as "the willful injury of materials or machinery by workmen", but in recent years there has arisen a form of industrial hindrance which, while not covered by the definition as written, can be classified truly as sabotage quite as much as wrecking of machinery and deliberate spoilage of material.

We refer to the deliberate institution of fake or far-fetched damage suits for personal injuries said to be attributable to some obscure defect in operating or sanitary conditions in a manufacturing plant. The business of faking accidents and personal injuries as the basis for damage suits against public utility corporations has been so thoroughly exposed that it no longer offers a lucrative field for the questionable activities of contortionists, shyster lawyers and doctors of the same ilk, as well as the double-jointed and the asthmatic.

It may be, then, only natural that certain of these artists should turn their attention to the industrial field, wherever opportunity presents itself. The general dissemination of knowledge concerning the steps taken by some industrialists to promote employee welfare may easily have served to show the backdoor barristers a new stage upon which to "strut their stuff." With all our progress in sanitation and in the control of occupational diseases, there still remain situations in industry where these harpies can gain a foothold and cause untold damage to the reputation and to the credit of otherwise sound businesses.

Elsewhere in this issue we report what is believed by the attacked manufacturer to be such an attempt upon a legitimate enterprise. That one hundred and fifty workers, or neigh-

bors, of a manufacturing plant could acquire asthma from a cake-grinding mill, particularly from a mill equipped with a dust-collector, may be possible, but to us, admitting our limited knowledge of the pathology and etiology of asthma, it seems most unlikely. There have undoubtedly been a few legitimate cases of innocently contracted occupational diseases in this country within recent years, but there have been, doubtless, many more instances of simulated disability, aimed at the bank account of the employer-victim.

Surely the liability underwriters and the country's manufacturers in general should take early measures toward cooperation to prevent this resurrection in the industrial field of that old public utility bugaboo, faked damage suits.

New Books

THE CHEMICAL ENGINEERING CATALOG: Fifteenth Annual Edition, The Chemical Catalog Co., Inc., New York.

The latest issue of our old friend, The Chemical Engineering Catalog, is now off the press, and, as in each year of its publication, is bigger and better than ever. This volume, containing the announcements of manufacturers of chemical process equipment, should be on the desk of every Chemical Engineer, Factory Manager, Operating Executive and Purchasing Agent of the chemical and process manufacturing industries. The Catalog is mailed by the publishers free of charge, with the understanding that it will be returned upon publication of the succeeding edition; or for three dollars, if desired to be permanently retained by the recipient.

Those eligible to receive the catalog upon these terms upon request are Chemical Engineers, Works Managers, Consulting and Designing Engineers, Chief Chemists, Heads of Chemical Engineering Departments in Universities, Colleges and Technical Schools, Technical Departments of Governments, and Libraries.

To those included in these classifications outside the United States and Canada, the Catalog is sent upon payment of three dollars plus postage. To all others the price of the book is ten dollars.

A particularly valuable section of the catalog is the technical and scientific books divi-

sion, containing the announcements of publishers of technical and scientific works and an extended index of such books.

Shortening and Oil Prices

Prices of shortening and salad and cooking oils on Thursday, Oct. 23, 1930, based on sales made by member companies of the Shortening and Oil Division of the National Cottonseed Products Association, were as follows:

Shortening	Per lb.
North and Northeast:	
Carlots, 26,000 lbs.	@10 $\frac{1}{4}$
3,500 lbs. and up	@10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Less than 3,500 lbs.	@10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Southeast:	
3,500 lbs.	@10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Less than 3,500 lbs.	@10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Southwest:	
Carlots, 26,000 lbs.	@10 $\frac{1}{4}$
10,000 lbs. and up	@10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Less than 10,000 lbs.	@10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pacific Coast:	@11

Salad Oil

North and Northeast:	
Carlots, 26,000 lbs.	@10
5bbls. and up	@10 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 to 4 bbls.	@10 $\frac{3}{4}$
South:	
Carlots, 26,000 lbs.	@10
Less than carlots	@10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pacific Coast:	@10

Cooking Oil—White

$\frac{1}{4}$ c per lb. less than salad oil.

Cooking Oil—Yellow

$\frac{1}{4}$ c per lb. less than salad oil.

Procter & Gamble Co. through their National Glycerine Service have sent out a short history of glycerine,—“The Sweet Principle of Oils,”—from the time of its discovery by Scheele in 1799, outlining its uses and its place in modern life and industry. It is termed “the chameleon of chemicals.”

Silica Products Co., Kansas City, recently issued a 24-page bulletin on Bentonite, in which its properties, sources, geology and production are discussed. Numerous tables are included in the booklet which is also profusely illustrated.