

# OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES

## The Editor's Page

### What Is a Chemist?

**T**HE average employer of labor and brains, particularly an employer whose factory operations are sufficiently technical to require the services of chemical knowledge, is invited to pause long enough to give serious consideration to the nature and quality of the service which is rendered or can be rendered him by capable chemists.

Because no legal requirements have been established, any person at all may call himself a chemist and engage in the practice of "chemistry." There are probably many fakers posing as chemists today, men who are holding down their jobs through the ignorance of their employers. More plain unadulterated bunkum is dished up under the guise of chemistry than can be easily measured. Pseudo-scientists run rampant, with no curb upon their activities, except when they are given enough rope to hang themselves. This, however, is apt to prove an expensive means of obtaining their elimination, especially in a busy factory.

Many an employer has been deceived by fine-sounding polysyllabic chemical verbiage, only to discover later, to his sorrow, that he has hired a faker instead of a chemist. Employers who themselves are without chemical knowledge naturally fall easy prey to these so-called chemists. The results are frequently disastrous, particularly from the standpoint of public safety. Recommendations for procedure emanating from chemists possessing inadequate training or only superficial knowledge may and frequently do endanger the lives of employes and the safety of plant investments.

This condition has proven so detrimental to the progress of the earnest competent men who comprise the chemical profession that there have been frequent suggestions from leaders in the profession looking toward the sponsorship of legislation which would require the licensing of chemists by the various states after the manner in which doctors, dentists, lawyers pharmacists and others are now authorized to practice. The situation may be too complex to permit of such solution, but a step of the sort may eventually become necessary for the protection of employers and of sincere and qualified chemists.

Meanwhile, every employer has available a fitting test which he may apply when employing a chemist. If he desires to engage a beginner, let him require that the applicant be the holder of one or more degrees from a reputable college or university, one which has a satisfactory rating for chemical instruction. The ratings of colleges are readily obtainable from educational associations and foundations. If, on the other hand, the chemist to be employed is to be one with experience, the employer should inquire into the applicant's affiliations with Societies or Associations devoted to the study of his specialty. The faker always encounters exceeding difficulty in maintaining a position within the ranks of such groups of representative members of the profession.

### A Test of Strength

**T**HE forces which are struggling for and against increased Customs Duties on imported oils and fats, after prolonged skirmishing, engaged in a major action on the field of the Senate Floor on January 28, the outcome of the battle being decidedly in favor of the opponents of increased rates. The test of strength came in the form of a roll-call vote on an amendment proposed by Senator Thomas, (Rep.) of Idaho. Senator Thomas' proposal would have increased the duties on all oils to specific amounts which were the equivalent of 45% ad valorem, (55% in the case of linseed oil). The amendment was defeated by a vote of forty-nine to twenty-six. The Senators divided along sectional, rather than on party lines, most of the votes for the amendment coming from the agricultural regions, those against it being registered by Senators representing the industrial states. Thus we have the strange spectacle of two Democratic Senators from Georgia voting for higher tariff rates, while that High Priest of Protection, Senator Joseph R. Grundy, of Pennsylvania, voted against the increase.

The situation in the Senate in reference to duties on oils and fats was tersely and effectively described in the course of the debate by Senator Norris, (Rep.) of Nebraska, who

stated that the Senate appeared to be in "a confused state of mind" over the oil rates. To us the progress of the tariff act through the Senate offers convincing argument in favor of the adoption of the proposed system of having the import duties fixed by the Executive, rather than by the Legislative branch of Government.

At their recent Convention in Atlantic City, the Mayonnaise Products Manufacturers Association, upon the recommendation of Dan M. Gray, Chairman of the Standards and Research Committee, adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the establishment of a Fellowship for practical research work, as outlined by our Standards and Research Committee, in addition to the carrying on of their own splendid work, is a good thing, and it is believed that both manufacturers and associate members, if the proposition is properly presented, will arise to the situation, and make voluntary contributions necessary to the establishment of such a Fellowship, and it is further resolved that such research work would be of inestimable value to the entire industry, and that the matter should be presented to our members in a letter from the President, accompanied by a statement from Dan M. Gray, Chairman of the Standards and Research Committee, outlining the idea."

The Florida Tung Oil Corporation, of St. Petersburg, has purchased 2500 acres of land in Hernando County for the development of tung oil plantations.

### Foreign Trade Opportunities

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce announces that its representatives in all parts of the world have forwarded the following trade inquiries of interest to our readers. In writing the Bureau in reference to any of these inquiries please mention that you saw it in *Oil & Fat Industries*.

No.	Location	Material	Purchase or Agency
43096	Canada	Cottonseed Meal	Purchase
43055	Italy	Lard and Bacon	Agency
43098	"	" "	"
43094	England	Oils, Fats and Greases	"
43154	Scotland	Oilcake and Meal	Purchase
43338	Germany	Lard	Purchase
43331	Chile	Cottonseed & Corn Oils	Sole Agency
43371	Dominican Republic	Lard	Agency

Statistics recently issued by the British Government on the import of lard and margarine for the first 11 months of 1929 compared with similar periods in 1928 and 1927 show a rather hopeful situation for lard. At the same time they would seem to indicate that imported margarine is not gaining the foothold in the United Kingdom that recent activity would seem to indicate. These figures are as follows:

	IMPORTS		
	In the first eleven months of		
	1929	1928	1927
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Margarine:			
Netherlands	110,073,640	112,419,664	117,199,488
France	388,864	433,888	415,296
Irish Free State	2,183,328	1,649,308	1,650,547
Other countries	742,448	607,040	566,720
Total	113,388,280	115,109,960	119,832,051
Lard:			
From U. S.	229,559,680	214,712,960	198,544,640
Other countries	36,867,920	41,903,680	47,461,120
Lard: Imitation	7,956,480	7,217,280	8,008,000
	VALUE OF IMPORTS		
	(Pound Sterling)		
	1929	1928	1927
Margarine:			
Netherlands	2,400,574	3,277,515	3,572,246
France	11,376	13,749	13,240
Irish Free State	70,706	53,741	53,357
Other countries	24,153	17,405	15,590
Total	2,506,809	3,362,410	3,654,433
Lard:			
From U. S.	6,117,630	5,873,066	5,607,745
Other countries	994,150	1,152,941	1,363,895
Lard: Imitation	117,731	168,004	191,028

While the lard substitute trade seems to be on something of a stationary basis at a low volume, the trend of lard demand during the past three years is sharply upward.

Stocks of crude cottonseed oil on hand in United States as of Nov. 30, 1929, totaled 124,002,306 lbs., as compared with 141,906,240 lbs. held at the same time in the previous year. Stocks of refined cottonseed oil on hand on Nov. 30, 1929, totaled 326,842,959 lbs., as against 322,567,918 lbs., held on the same date in 1928.

A preliminary estimate of hog numbers in New Zealand has been given out as 556,795 head according to Assistant Trade Commissioner Kunkel, Wellington, New Zealand, writing under recent date. Last year, however, there were approximately 30,000 more hogs, and the largest number of any year. The growth of hog raising is readily demonstrated by the fact that on January 31, 1916, there were only 297,501 animals which had increased to about 400,000 in 1923.

Werner G. Smith Co., Cleveland, Ohio, importers and dealers in vegetable oils, announce that V. H. Hunter, with offices in the Chanin building, New York, who has represented them in the metropolitan district, is now their exclusive sales agent in New York City and adjacent territory.