WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY ?

Edward Muller

Edward Müller, G. m. b. H., it is reported, is actively engaged in the international grease markets of the world. Müller is the sole concessionaire for the entire line of wool grease products of one of the largest wool combers in the world, the Bremer Wollkämmerei Blumenthal of Unterweser.

▲ ▲ ▲

Improves Valves

Resistance to acids and alkalis, varnish and vinegar, caustics and chlorine, soap, steam, sulphites and other active chemicals must be built into valves if they are to meet the demands of present-day industry, according to the Homestead Valve Manufacturing Company, Coraopolis, Pa. The company has recently announced improved models in valves particularly suited for use in such industries as the chemical trades, paper pulp, textiles, foods, petroleum, steel and others in which service requires the use of a wide variety of valve metals. The company studies each application as an individual case and uses steel, Monel metal, bronze and brass, nickel, stainless steel, semi-steel or even silver as conditions require, according to officials.

▲ ▲ ▲

Oppose Proposed Tax on Cocoanut Oil

Leading hotel owners and executives are vigorously protesting the proposed tax on cocoanut oil now pending in Congress, according to reports from Hotel Management, New York City, recently, in making public telegrams received from leading hotel men throughout the country denouncing this tax.

Among those who wired or wrote their opposition were: L. M. Davenport, president, Davenport Hotel, Spokane, Wash.; Frank A. Dudley, president, United Hotels, Niagara Falls, N. Y.; L. R. Johnston, general manager, Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.; James E. Knott, Knott Hotels, New York, N. Y.; F. A. McKowne, president, Hotels Statler Company, Inc., New York, N. Y.; Franklin Moore, manager, Penn-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg, Pa.; H. P. Somerville, managing director, Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C.; James Woods, president, Woods-Drury Company, San Francisco, Calif.; P. A. Young, manager, Hotel Mayfair, Los Angeles, Calif., and the Allis Hotel Company, Kansas City, Mo.

The proposed tax of 5 cents a pound on cocoanut oil, an important ingredient in soap making, represents an impost of 200% on the present value of this raw material, which sells in world markets at about 2½ cents a pound. In their telegrams protesting against this tax the hotel men opposed the tax not only in the interest of cleanliness and sanitation generally, but also because it would place an additional expense on the already heavily burdened hotels of America—an expense that would ultimately have to be passed on to the public.

A "gross injustice," a "nuisance," "one more illustration of deplorable governmental trend," were some of the terms used by hotel men in urging defeat of this proposed tax.

▲ ▲ ▲

Elected to Code Authority

At a meeting of the spray painting and finishing equipment manufacturing industry held in Cleveland, Ohio, recently 6 members were elected to the code authority for administering the recently approved spray painting and finishing equipment manufacturing code. The 6 members elected are: W. F. Gradolph, The DeVilbiss Company, Toledo, Ohio; H. W. Beach, Eclipse Airbrush Company, Inc., Newark, N. J.; W. B. Thompson, Sprayco, Inc., Sommerville, Massachusetts; J. F. Roche, Binks Manufacturing Company, Chicago; J. A. Paasche, Paasche Airbrush Company, Chicago; S. Deutsch, The Electric Sprayit Company, South Bend, Indiana.

▲ ▲ ▲

Appointed Manager

The Patterson Foundry & Machine Company, East Liverpool, Ohio, announces the appointment of Mr. William Soherr as manager of its New England territory, with headquarters at Boston. Mr. Soherr is a graduate of the Institute of Technology, Dormstadt, Germany, and is a member of the American Chemical Society. During the past 10 years he has been associated with the Inland Lime and Stone Company, Ford Motor Company, and E. B. Badger & Sons Company.

▲ ▲ ▲

21 Flaxseed Mills

There were 21 mills in the United States which crushed flaxseed during the quarter ending March 31, 1934, reporting a crush of 144,365 tons of flaxseed and a production of 97,451,809 pounds of linseed oil, according to report and preliminary figures from the Bureau of Census. These figures compare with 122,230 tons of seed crushed and 79,595,129 pounds of oil produced for the corresponding quarter in 1933; 151,007 tons of seed and 99,783,339 pounds of oil in 1932; 183,980 tons of seed and 118,417,218 pounds of oil in 1931; 223,036 tons of seed and 145,969,802 pounds of oil in 1930; and 303,503 tons of seed and 202,353,031 pounds of oil in 1929. Stocks of flaxseed at the mills on March 31, 1934, amounted to 57,437 tons compared with 46,101 tons for the same date in 1933, with 42,082 tons in 1932, with 65,661 tons in 1931, with 81,154 tons in 1930, and with 127,258 tons in 1929. Stocks of linseed oil reported by the crushers were 124,298,742 pounds on March 31, 1934, compared with 110,454,878 pounds for the same date in 1933, with 132,987,044 pounds in 1932, with 79,175,433 pounds in 1931, with 107,383,232 pounds in 1930, and with 141,309,480 pounds in 1929.

▲ ▲

Announces Agents

The Homestead Valve Manufacturing Company, Corapolis, Pennsylvania, announces 3 new representatives for its product, Homestead valves, including Grinnell Company, 240 North Highland avenue, Atlanta, Georgia; L. E. Livingston, 2012 Ward parkway, Fort Worth, Texas, and the National Supply Company, Toledo, Ohio. This company also makes the first announcement of its appointment of representatives for the Hypressure Jenny vapor spray cleaning machine. They include South Side Body Company, Inc., 109 West Morris street, Indianapolis; L. E. Livingston, 2012 Ward parkway, Fort Worth; William H. Ziegler Company, 2331 University avenue, S. E., Minneapolis; Brogan and Company, 810 Race street, Philadelphia; Beckwith Machinery Company, 6550 Hamilton avenue, Pittsburgh; James A. Hall, 110 Byrne street, Houston, Texas, and Boehck Equipment Company, 2404 West Clybourn street, Milwaukee.

▲ ▲ ▲

In Business Half Century

Newman Tallow and Soap Machinery Company, Chicago, has been in the business for approximately 50 years, jobbing tallow to the soap trade and handling a line of new and reconditioned soap machinery to equip both large and small plants. The company also handles machinery for the manufacture of cosmetics, food products, chemical, paint and allied industries.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN & WHY?

Germany Trades Chemicals

The willingness of Germany's foreign bondholders to accept cash settlements at discounts ranging up to 25% has been of great assistance to the country's chemical exporters who have accepted them in payment at face value, according to C. C. Concannon, chief, Chemical Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Exports from Germany in 1933 were valued at 695 million marks, a reduction of only 4½% from the preceding year, and in terms of tonnage many leading products registered notable expansion. At the close of 1933 approximately 350,000 persons were employed, representing a reduction of 20% in unemployment accredited to that industry at the beginning of that year. Heavy price cuts in foreign quotations made by German exporters of many chemical products would not have been possible, Mr. Concannon pointed out, had not foreign bondholders been willing to take cash settlements at substantial discounts. The supply of these frozen credits has been greatly reduced in recent months, and the discount has declined, depriving the exporter of some of his advantage. German dollar-bonds falling due during the first half of 1934, however, may possibly bring larger quantities into the market.

▲ ▲ ▲

Perfume Imports Lessening

American manufacturers continue to make progress in the production of artificial flavors and perfumes, a large proportion of which is composed of synthetic aromatic chemicals produced from coal tar, and at the rate progress is now being made it may not be long until this country will be independent of foreign sources for these commodities, according to C. C. Concannon, chief, Chemical Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The downward trend in imports of flavors and perfume materials of coal tar origin, apparent in 1933, is continuing in 1934. During the first 3 months of this year imports totaled only 6,454 pounds, valued at $13,383, compared with 12,243 pounds, valued at $18,247, for the same period of 1933, and 18,048 pounds, valued at $41,220, for the first quarter of 1932, Mr. Concannon stated. During 1933 the imports of these products dropped off 20,000 pounds over the imports recorded for 1932. Synthetic aromatic chemicals enjoy large demand from manufacturers of soaps, toiletries, pharmaceuticals, foods, beverages, insecticides, disinfectants and deodorants. Lately these perfumes have been found useful as a sales appeal for cloth, silk hose, lingerie and other items of apparel, it was stated.

▲ ▲ ▲

Dr. Conant Honored

The medal of The American Institute of Chemists, presented annually for outstanding service to chemistry in America, has been awarded this year to Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University, according to an announcement made today by President Henry G. Knight from the Institute's office in New York. The award is made in recognition of Dr. Conant's many contributions to chemical science.

Dr. Conant has done notable work in establishing the chemical structure of many complicated organic compounds, including among others haemoglobin of the blood substance, chlorophyll—the green coloring matter found in plant life, and a number of other coloring substances occurring in flowers and feathers.

Dr. Conant has applied a new point of view to study concerning well-known chemical reactions, determining the energy changes involved and the energy levels at which the reactions occur. He has devised new methods of laboratory technique for better understanding of the mechanism of organic chemical reactions, as well as new modes of attack upon molecules for a deeper insight into the impelling forces which cause reactions to occur.

During the World War, as a civilian, Dr. Conant developed methods for the preparation in this country of arsenical drugs, the supply of which from Germany had been interrupted. Later in the war he became an officer of the Chemical Warfare Service, was in charge of chemical research on mustard gas, and devised a method for the preparation of this substance which supplied the basis for large scale manufacturing operations. Toward the end of the war he was in charge of an experimental plant for the manufacture of lewisite, a new war gas.

In his later researches Dr. Conant has greatly extended the usefulness of electrometric methods, applying them to new problems. He has established a quantitative measure of the effect of the arrangement of atoms in molecules upon the tendency of those molecules to enter into direct chemical combination. Dr. Conant has written three textbooks and many papers on fundamental subjects in organic chemistry. He is 40 years old.

▲ ▲ ▲

Makes Filter Presses

D. R. Sperry & Company, Batavia, Illinois, manufactures plate filter presses widely used to handle any kind of filterable mixture, including viscous substances. The company maintains a filtration testing laboratory in which samples of materials are tested as to their filtration ability. As nearly every substance has a different filtration rate a large saving in initial outlay is made possible, according to the company. It is then possible to determine the exact kinds of parts which should be used for all filtrations. The company was established in 1868.

▲ ▲ ▲

Convention Held

Illustrated lectures on improvements in manufacture and broading of application of pebble mills, agitators, mixers and acid-proofing materials produced by the Patterson Foundry & Machine Company, were delivered during the company's annual sales convention held in May at East Liverpool, Ohio. District sales managers and representatives from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, western Pennsylvania, Detroit and Chicago were present. The convention was closed by a banquet and entertainment at the "Vagabond Hunting Lodge" near East Liverpool, the lodge of R. L. Cawood, president.

▲ ▲ ▲

Blue Rays Aid Spoilage

Rays of light at the blue end of the spectrum are responsible for much of the spoilage of foods commonly termed rancidity, reports Mayne R. Coe, a chemist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He arrived at this decision while following up investigations started 3 years ago on the causes of rancidity in foods. He showed that chlorophyll green wrappers retard the development of this kind of spoilage almost as well as does the total exclusion of light. The original tests were made with the object of finding some kind of container or wrapper that would greatly retard or entirely prevent the development of rancidity in oil-bearing foods. When chlorophyll green and black showed their superiority the next step was to learn how the various light rays behaved in this respect.

Black wrappers exclude all light, but black is not desirable for commercial use so the Department has recommended chlorophyll green, which gives almost as good results. The green used by Coe excluded light rays from both ends of the spectrum, so the identity of the harmful rays remained unknown.

In the recent tests aluminum foil, which had been used in comparisons with the various colored wrappers, was also found efficient in protecting both animal and vegetable oils and fats from rancidity. This is natural, as this material excludes all light. Tin foil gave equally good results but is more expensive. Where visibility is not necessary in a wrapper, foil seems to meet all the requirements. When properly sealed it excludes moisture as well as light, and retards temperature changes. An additional feature of foil is that it reflects most of the light that falls on it and thus to that extent protects the product from heat as well as moisture, both of which are contributive factors in spoilage.

▲ ▲ ▲

Fats and Oils Report

The Bureau of the Census announces that the factory production of fats and oils (exclusive of refined oils and derivatives) during the 3-month period ended March 31, 1934, was as follows: Vegetable oils, 640,880,020 pounds; fish oils, 33,158,410 pounds; animal fats, 692,339,952 pounds; and greases, 88,154,125 pounds—a total of 1,454,532,507 pounds. Of the several kinds of fats and oils covered by this inquiry, the largest production, 514,265,622 pounds, appears for lard. Next in order is cottonseed oil with 394,698,571 pounds; tallow with 176,748,674 pounds; linseed oil with 97,451,809 pounds; coconut oil with 95,032,060 pounds; corn oil with 25,996,810 pounds; castor oil with 11,452,363 pounds, and soybean oil with 7,988,999 pounds.

The production of refined oils during the period was as follows: Cottonseed, 370,718,774 pounds; coconut, 76,143,309 pounds; peanut, 2,476,085 pounds; corn, 36,722,014 pounds; soybean, 474,884 pounds; and palm-kernel, 996,904 pounds. The quantity of crude oil used in the production of each of these refined oils is included in the figures of crude consumed.

Dr. David Wesson

Chicago, May 28, 1934.

It is with a feeling of deep sorrow that the sudden death of Dr. David Wesson at his home in Montclair, New Jersey, on Tuesday, May 22, 1934, is announced. Funeral was held on May 25 from his home in Montclair.

Dr. Wesson's reputation and contributions to the industry are too well known to require a detailed statement here, but a brief outline of his career will doubtless be of interest to many of the younger members of our Society who are not so familiar with Dr. Wesson's early activities and history, particularly in connection with the Cotton Oil Industry.

Dr. Wesson was born January 14, 1861, in Brooklyn, N. Y., and received his early education in public schools of Brooklyn and was later graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of that city. In 1883 he was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with the degree of Bachelor of Science. After graduation he served as assistant to William Ripley Nichols, professor of chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

It was in 1884 that he first became interested in the oil and soap fields. At that time he became chemist for the N. K. Fairbanks Company, and when the W. J. Wilcox Lard and Refining Company absorbed the N. K. Fairbanks Company, Dr. Wesson was transferred to their Gutenberg, N. J., plant as chief chemist in 1890.

He served as head chemist for the American Cotton Oil Company from 1890 to 1895, after which he started into a new venture, a bicycle factory, in Courtland, N. Y. It was here he established a laboratory and developed his well known process for making edible cottonseed oil. Later in 1895 he became President of the Wesson Process Company.

In 1900 he became Technical Director for the Southern Cotton Oil Company of New York, and 1920 he assumed the position of Technical Advisor of the Southern Cotton Oil Company which position he filled until the time of his death.

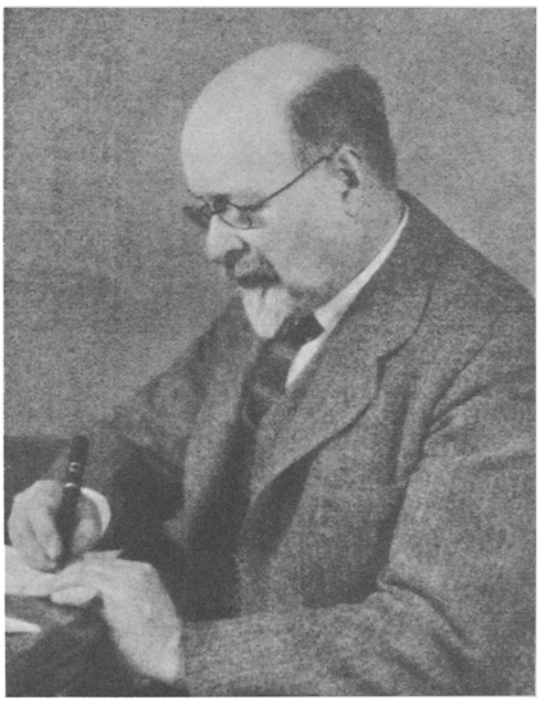
In addition to his many other activities he was one of the founders of our Society which at that time was known as the Cottonseed Products Analysts and was very active in our organization, serving as its second President, 1910-11. He was also President of the American Chemical Engineers' Institute in 1919-20.

He has been connected in the capacity of Associate Editor with the Official Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society ever since its publication, and has contributed many scientific articles relative to the chemistry of oils and fats.

Dr. Wesson was married October 12, 1886, to Mathilda Moore, who died May 3, 1925. In 1927 he married Augusta Halsey Tilden, widow of Samuel J. Tilden, nephew of the famous Samuel J. Tilden, democratic Governor of New York, and the Democratic Presidential candidate in 1876. Dr. Wesson is survived by Mrs. Wesson and four children by his first marriage—Mrs. Mary Francis of Oradell, N. J., Mrs. Elizabeth Beatty of Media, Pa., David Moore Wesson of Paris, France, and Harry Burbank Wesson of Tampa, Fla. There are also nine grandchildren living.

As a man, Dr. Wesson was very democratic and congenial and had a keen sense of humor. He was always glad and willing to help the younger men in the industry in their various problems. He looked forward to attendance at our meetings where he met his many friends in the industry. In recent years his principal hobbies were horticulture and sailing.

Dr. Wesson was beloved by all who knew him and his friends, our Society and the industry have suffered a great loss in his passing.



Dr. David Wesson