Presidential Address

THE purpose to which the American Oil Chemists' Society is dedicated is stated in Article II of its Constitution. Briefly, it is to increase and diffuse chemical and technical knowledge of oils, fats, and related products, to develop and maintain standard analytical methods, and to promote the professional and cultural welfare of its members.

A. E. Bailey

It is my duty and my privilege at this time to report to you, in broad terms, the present state of the Society and the activities of your officers and representatives during the past year in their endeavor to carry on with this high purpose.

As the report of your Secretary has made evident, affairs of the Society have, in general, run smoothly and without unusual incident. That they have done so is a tribute to the wisdom of past officers of the Society in setting up a sound permanent administrative organization as well as to the capability and good will of those who serve the Society year after year while the elected officers come and go. I am particularly glad to acknowledge my great personal indebtedness to our executive secretary, Mrs. Lucy R. Hawkins, for her efficient and understanding cooperation throughout the past year.

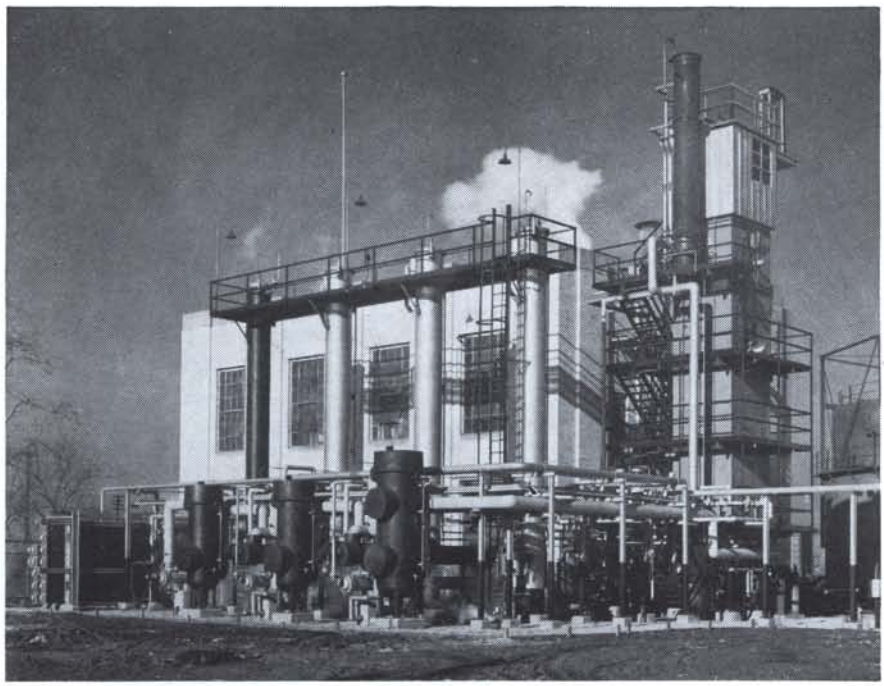
The Society, as the treasurer has told you, continues to be in good financial shape. For this we owe our thanks to the president and Board of two years ago for their foresight in taking cognizance of changing money values and initiating steps to increase the income of the Society accordingly. The present Board has been aware of the threat of even further increased inflation and has continued to keep the financial position of the Society under close scrutiny through the medium of a special Committee on Finances under the chairmanship of C. E. Morris.

ONE of the most important single functions of the Society is the supplying of standard analytical materials, the development of analytical methods, and the publication of these for use by Society members and others. The Official and Tentative Methods of the American Oil Chemists' Society are recognized throughout the world as a compilation unmatched in scope and reliability. They are used daily by thousands of chemists, in both control and research work, and form the basis of trading rules under which oils and related products to the value of many hundreds of *millions* of dollars are bought and sold annually. They stand as an enduring monument to the wisdom and the vision of the little group of chemists who gave birth to our Society when they banded together as the Society of Cotton Products Analysts and to the patient and unselfish efforts of countless members who have worked through the years since to contribute to their development. However it is a monument which is a living rather than a finished structure —which must be constantly extended and refurbished as science and technology move forever forward.

Charged with responsibility for keeping the Methods up to date and abreast of the needs of industry are the 11 Technical Committees of the Society and their clearing and coordinating agency, the Uniform Methods Committee. Some of these committees will later submit brief reports to you. Others, which will not be heard from, have been equally active. The Bleaching Methods Committee, for example, under the strong leadership of T. C. Smith, has just completed one of the largest single tasks of the year in completely restocking and standardizing our supply of bleaching earth.

In any case you will find that your committee chairmen are greatly inclined to modesty and that their reports give no direct indication of the great amount of work that they represent. It is a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to give them and their committee members some measure of the credit that is their due. In the spirit of unselfish cooperation that has become a Society tradition they have *continued*, with diligence and efficiency, their work of improving existing methods and exploring new methods where the need for them has arisen. The Uniform Methods Committee, under the able guidance of its chairman, J. T. R. Andrews, has been both prompt and discerning in bringing desirable changes in the Methods before

Girdler Process Bulletin



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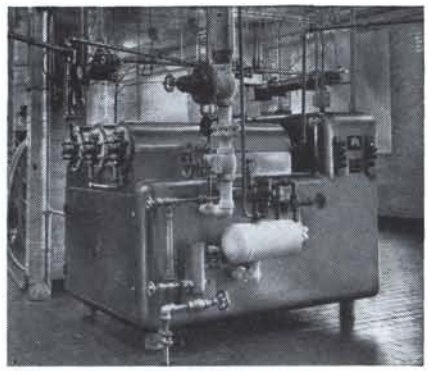

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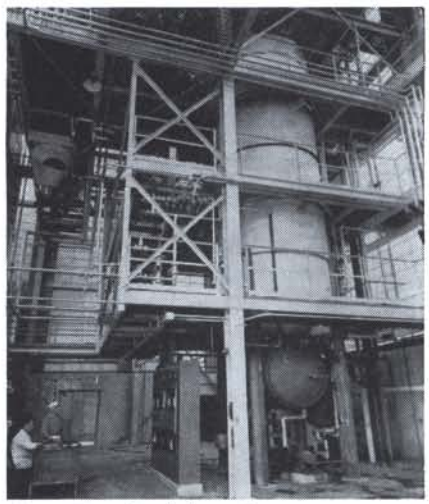

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the membership of the Society for final adoption and alert in its important function of seeking out and recommending new methods to be studied.

A closely related activity of the Society, which has contributed immeasurably to the accuracy and dependability of chemical analyses, is the maintenance of a check system for analysts, under the administration of the Smalley Committee and the Referee Board. To the members of these two groups and their joint chairman, R. W. Bates, we too owe our gratitude for an exacting task well done.

I am sure that it is superfluous for me to dwell at any great length upon that other major activity of the Society—publication of the Journal. However there are a few facts concerning it which deserve reemphasis. For all Society members it is, for one thing, a tremendous bargain. As a matter of bookkeeping, a considerable part of each member's dues is allotted to the Journal funds. However, in actuality, it is almost entirely self-supporting, thanks principally to the advertising revenue which it derives from the numerous firms that are loyal to the Society and have confidence in the efficacy of its prestige and wide and varied circulation. The 12 issues of the Journal that each member received in 1951 actually cost him about three cents each.

The Journal serves as a medium for the dissemination of news concerning Society members and the oil and fat industry at large. Its abstracts service is unrivalled in its field, and the abstracts, together with book reviews and its main content of original contributed articles, constitute an indispensable source of up-to-date information for every practicing oil and fat chemist or technologist. However, valuable as it is in this respect, we should always remember that the Journal is far more than a mere convenience and working tool for the present Society members. Like all workers in the sciences, we have an obligation and a responsibility that encompass the future as well as the present. The volumes of the Journal, with their record of scientific and technical knowledge, constitute our heritage to the generations that will succeed us—our contribution to the vast and always growing structure of scientific knowledge which literally serves as the foundation of modern civilization.

In appearance and content and in editorial policy the Journal has not changed to any marked degree in the past year. I am convinced however that the year has seen a pronounced increase in its prestige and in its recognition in scientific circles and elsewhere as the outstanding publication of its kind. This is most evident in communications from abroad, where it is natural that readers will take more pains to indicate their appreciation. In the course of a considerable correspondence with oil and fat chemists in other countries I have been struck by the large number of letters that have offered gratuitous praise of its value and all-around excellence. Last October A. R. Baldwin, editor of the Journal, was signally honored as the first foreign recipient of the Normann Medal, the highest award of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fettwissenschaft, the German counterpart of our Society. While Dr. Baldwin's stature and achievements as a research chemist of course figured largely in his selection, it is to be noted that the official citation made specific mention of his outstanding work as Journal editor.

Dr. Baldwin has again been fortunate in having a strong corps of assistants in the personnel of the Chicago office, the other members of the Journal Committee, and the chairmen and members of the three associated committees on Abstracts, Advertising, and Review of Scientific Literature.

The period of about 1943 to 1948 was marked by a tremendous growth in the membership of the Society. It was by the same token a time of great flux and change in both policies and practices of our organization. The Journal was carried brilliantly through this trying period of growing pains by Dr. Baldwin's predecessor, Harry L. Roschen. It has been a great source of satisfaction to me and, I am sure, to countless others as well, that the Society saw fit early this year to recognize his unique services by bestowing upon him the honorary membership that is reserved for a very few of its most faithful and distinguished members.

IN ITS avowed purpose of promoting the diffusion of chemical and technical knowledge of fats and oils the Society has experimented through its Education Committee, with a new and extremely effective device, the Short Course, which offers to a

EXHIBITS—Pointing at the glitter of glass and metal is John J. Magera, of Ace Glass Inc. With him are Noel W. Myers *(left)* and Lester P. Hayes.

SPEAKERS — The cameraman caught these two after the final technical session: Herman Levin *(standing)* and John L. McPherson.

EXHIBITS — R. P. Anderson *(left)* welcomes as a visitor N. W. Ziels. Both were in attendance at the Houston meeting in the Shamrock hotel.

limited group of those most interested a brief but intensive review of technical developments in a restricted field under the joint auspices of the Society and one of our leading colleges or universities. I am happy to be able to report that the period of experimentation appears to be drawing to a close—that it has been demonstrated that the Short Courses can be financially self-supporting and that their value and desirability, in the view of the present Governing Board, at least, are firmly established. As you know, a Short Course in Soaps and Synthetic Detergents will be held at Rutgers University early in July. Another, covering the engineering aspects of oil and oilseed processing, has been scheduled for next summer at Texas A & M College. J. P. Harris, who has been the guiding spirit in the Short Course work up to this time, has found that the pressure of his own affairs will necessitate his retiring from the chairmanship of the Education Committee this year. He may do so with the knowledge that a firm foundation has been laid for the future of this important activity and that the Society will always be grateful to him for the imagination and foresight which led to his conception of the Short Course idea.

In the pleasant course of renewing old friendsips and participating in the stimulating and enjoyable programs of our semi-annual meetings it is easy to forget the vast amount of labor that must be performed by the local convention committees before and during the meetings to insure that they will progress so smoothly. I should not like to let this opportunity pass without recording my own very great appreciation of the efforts of C. E. Morris and his local committee in putting on the fine meeting in Chicago last October and of William Argue and his co-workers in behalf of the meetings which began so auspiciously here yesterday.

OUR meetings provide a means, not only for transacting official business and presenting original scientific reports, but also of fostering the spirit of companionship and good fellowship and the feeling of working together in a worthy common cause, which in the last analysis, is the spirit which gives life and much of its meaning to our organization.

Perhaps the greatest problem facing the Society today is that of preserving the comradeship of which we have all been so proud in the past. As the membership has grown, attendance at the meetings has increased, but not quite in the same proportion. The oil and fat industry of today is spread far wider across the nation than that of 20 or even 10 years ago. It is no longer possible to pick any one locality that is readily accessible to a substantial proportion of the membership. An attempt has been made to render the meetings available to more members by moving their location away from the traditional New Orleans and Chicago sites every other year. Yet even so, many loyal members have an opportunity to attend them only infrequently. And as the meetings have become larger, it has seemed to many of us that there has been some loss of the sense of homogeneity in the group and the highly personal atmosphere which has for so long been their most distinguishing and best-loved characteristic.

It may be that our Society has grown too large to continue to serve its entire purpose without the organization of smaller units within the larger structure. For the past year the Governing Board has, through a special committee headed by E. M. James, been investigating the desirability and the feasibility of a plan for the establishment of local sections similar to those of larger organizations, such as the American Chemical Society. The outcome will of course depend upon the desires of the members at large.

Whatever the solutions to this and other problems may be, I am confident that the American Oil Chemists' Society will continue to prosper and to fulfill the worthy purpose for which it was created. I have been proud to have the honor and privilege of serving as your president. For that privilege, for your confidence and trust, and for your kind cooperation during the past year, I thank you.

A. E. BAILEY.

Report of the Secretary 1951-1952

Details of developments in the Society during the year will become available in the reports of the president, the executive secretary, and the administrative and technical committees. However a few significant actions and developments will be briefly reviewed.

The change in the constitution to provide for emeritus members was completed, and four individuals were admitted to such membership.

H. L. Roschen was elected to honorary membership by nomination petition and membership balloting as prescribed in the constitution.

That the Society fills an important place and performs an essential service is evident from a number of observations. There has again been an increase in the active and total membership. A relatively large number of foreign communications have been received and answered regarding methods of analysis and specifications of materials. It has become necessary to reprint the methods as the stock of 3500 copies printed in 1946 has been exhausted.

Undoubtedly President Bailey will deal fully with the membership and financial problems in his report. With the increased cost of living and the increases in the costs of printing and other items of expense to the Society, these are problems that will need continued careful attention.

Official business at both the New Orleans and Chicago meetings was of routine nature. It was concerned principally with

changes in and additions to the Official and Tentative Methods of Analysis. The reports of the Uniform Methods Committee give details of the actions taken on methods.

T. H. HOPPER.

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Equity

Adjusted Balance January 1, 1951	$39,460.95	
Excess of income over expenses for the year ending December 31, 1951	5,415.31	
Adjustment of United States Government Securities to cost	1,011.20	
BALANCE, December 31, 1951		$45,887.46

At the end of the year cash on hand and in banks amounted to $26,275; accounts receivable $3,052; inventories of supplies and methods $4,968; and investments $30,150. The investments consist almost entirely of United States Government securities, having a total market value at December 31, 1951 of $23,844. Approximately 80% of the Society's assets are represented by cash and government securities, and it is apparent therefore that we are in an extremely strong financial position.

Operations for the year ended December 31, 1951 were decidedly better from a financial point of view than in the previous year. You may recall that in the 1950 year the Society was on a break-even basis. In 1951 income exceeded expenses by $5,415. For the most part, this is a reflection of the moderate increase in dues and subscription revenues from non-members which went into effect about a year ago. Results of the operations of the publication of the Journal were substantially the same as in the prior year, with some increase in both revenue and expenses.

Looking ahead into 1952, we know of some factors of cost which will be increased but believe that on the whole the financial results of the Society during the present fiscal year should be reasonably satisfactory.

J. J. VOLLERTSEN.

Society Pays Tribute to First President

IN THE past 12 months the American Oil Chemists' Society has lost six members through death. These, in the order of years of membership, are Felix Paquin, Galveston, Texas; Alan Porter Lee, Morristown, New Jersey; Carl Victor Serbell, Hardyville, Virginia; Frank C. Vibrans, Chicago, Illinois; Michael C. Folzenlogen, Dallas, Texas, and Ernest H. Chapin, Summit, New Jersey. Memorial resolutions of sorrow and sympathy have been prepared by your Committee and with your approval will be filed among the records of the Society. Because one of these men held a unique place in the history of this Society, I ask the personal privilege of referring to him especially at this time. Felix Paquin was one of the founders of our Society and seems to have been the originator of the idea of organizing the small group that has grown through the years to be a scientific society with more than 2,000 members. He is the only president who has served two terms.

Felix Paquin

He was born of French Canadian parentage in Quebec Province, Canada, and came to this country as a young man. He attended the University of Missouri for three years and later the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, where he received the Ph.B. degree. He went to Memphis, Tennessee, as city chemist and bacteriologist, and it was there that he first became interested in the cottonseed industry, founding one of the earliest commercial laboratories for referee and control analyses for the cotton oil mills and refineries. This was prior to 1900. In 1909