

## Egyptians Organize Association to Further Oils and Fats

THE invitations extended by the editor of the Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society to leading oil and fat technologists and chemists in different countries, such as T. P. Hilditch for England, K. S. Murti for India, H. P. Kaufmann for Germany, and F. B. Shorland for New Zealand, to write guest editorials for the Journal are a proof that the Society is leading an international program to render valuable world-wide services to the oil and fat industry. Our contribution with this article emphasizes our sincere desire to share in this program.



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The vegetable oil and soap industry in Egypt has been steadily growing in the last 14 years. It is now taking its place as one of the biggest local industries and is considered second in importance after the textile industry. Cottonseed, being the chief by-product of the main crop, constitutes the bulk of the seeds crushed in the mills.

There is a group of 38 mills, ranging in crushing capacity between the extremes of 7 to 590 tons of seeds per day. A total crushing capacity of about 4,180 tons of seeds per day was estimated by the Department of Industry for the 32 oil mills operating mainly on cottonseed. In all these mills there are 611 hydraulic presses, 34 screw presses, and 4 solvent extraction units, among which the largest is a De Smet system built by the Swiss De Roll and designed to extract oil from about 300 tons of seeds per day. The amount of cottonseed crushed ranged between 366,000 tons during the 1945-46 season to a maximum of about 634,000 tons during the 1952-53 season. This indicates that our oil mills are functioning with an average of about 50% of their total capacity.

The refining capacity of the mills amounts to a total of about 1,100 tons of oil per day to produce neutralized and partially bleached oil, about 500 tons of oil per day to produce bleached and deodorized oil, and about 360 tons per day to produce winterized oil.

About 260 soap factories exist in the country, ranging in production capacity between a fraction of one ton to about 100 tons per day. Yet 15 of them only represent about 80% of the total production capacity. Among the large soap plants there is one operating by the Sharples continuous method and designed to produce 50 tons of soap per day. Another unit of the same size is under construction in the same plant.

FROM the above figures one can realize that the excess production capacity of the industry, compared with both the local consumption and the amount of raw material processed, has threatened the economics of the industry. In order to save the situation plans have been drawn and based on the following:

1. to increase the quantity of oil-bearing materials by importation and by cultivation; and
2. to raise the efficiency and reduce the operation losses to the minimum.

The establishment of the Egyptian Oil and Soap Technologists Association was thus a vital action in order to guarantee the future plans and to serve the following purposes:

1. to encourage the progress of the technology of oils and fats and their allied products by promoting scientific research;
2. to increase the technical knowledge and improve the qualifications of the technologists working in the oil and soap industries by issuing scientific publications, arranging high standard educational courses and periodic meetings and congresses, thus raising the local industry to the high levels attained in other countries;
3. to develop firm relations between the chemists and technologists working in the oil and soap industry in Egypt and those working for it in other countries, aiming for exchange of knowledge and information;
4. to establish standards for sampling, methods of analysis, specifications of raw materials and finished products, and to develop rules governing the transactions between those who are dealing with this industry;
5. to suggest rules for the protection of producers and consumers and to guarantee the good quality of the products; and
6. to examine and mediate differences relating to this industry and to develop a group of highly qualified referee chemists.

SINCE the foundation of the Association on April 10, 1953, firm steps have been taken toward the achievement of its purposes. More than 15 committees are efficiently working to set rules, solve technical problems, or develop research work. The Journal of the Association, to be called Oil and Soap, will appear with the start of the New Year. The first annual convention will be held in Alexandria in February 1954, and the first short course will be given later.

We have leaned very heavily on the American Oil Chemists' Society in setting up the organization of our own Association, and we hope that the close contact with A.O.C.S. can be maintained in the future for our mutual benefit.

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