

Journal of Oil and Fat Industries

Devoted to Oils, Fats and Allied Industries

VOL. II

JANUARY, 1925

No. 1

EDITORIALS

A VISION FOR 1925

The past year was for many businesses and many men a discouraging one. Since the fall, however, with better crops, better general conditions and finally with our quadrennial depressant, the presidential election, out of the way, matters have so brightened that we can look forward confidently to the new year.

The A. O. C. S. has suffered loss and there are many gaps to fill, but with our organization intact and with the confidence and enthusiasm of its members undimmed there is nothing but a bright future ahead of us, a future of mutual help among our members and further assistance to all the oil and fat industries in which we are interested.

Our needs for the coming year are many. The greatest probably is the assistance of chemists not now affiliated with us. Our progress in any field of oil and fat technology depends largely upon those most interested in that particular field to help formulate methods acceptable under varying conditions, to originate new methods and research of basic and mutual character.

The past has given us confidence that with the same interest, the same mutual assistance and enthusiasm which have contributed to our successes applied to other particular lines wherein oils and fats are basic will make of the coming year 1925 a most successful, prosperous and happy one.

H. J. MORRISON

ALL-TOGETHER

Oneness of purpose, in the individual, the family, state or association spells success. If it is a letter in the morning mail or a suggestion from some one at the office that determines your task for the day you are not one of those men who are marked for great achievement. The opportunist

is not a go-getter. Progress depends upon purpose. It does not wait upon opportunity. Divine guidance is a great blessing but only he who is hitting the trail will pass the guide posts: They are fixed, he must move if he would find them.

Those interested in fats and oils, whether as investigators, technologists or producers have a common meeting ground. The paint man may learn from the soap man, the edible products man from him who makes only technical products, the emulsion manufacturer from the fellow who is lying awake nights trying to break emulsions. This common ground is our Society and its JOURNAL.

Oneness, collaboration, unity or the homely expression, pull together, whatever we call it, must prevail if we the oil chemists and technologists are to put our industries where they belong. New Year's Resolutions are the style this month. Shall we make ours All-together of Oils and Fats, or for brevity, just, "Oil-together." That should make things run smoothly.

H. S. B.

ANALYSTS vs. CHEMISTS

"What the chemical profession in America needs right now is a more general appreciation of the distinction between an analyst and a chemist." This statement was recently made by a gentleman who has had a very broad experience as routine analyst and later director of research in government laboratories, a teacher of chemistry in a university and chief chemist for a company where he had charge of eight or ten control and research units. He believes we should recognize that not all chemists are reliable analysts and also that many analysts have neither the theoretical training or natural temperament to make research men.

Has the chemical field become so broad that there are in it not merely different branches but different strata? To borrow from our paleontological friends a simile, must we distinguish between flora and fauna as well as between the carboniferous and the miocene? Is there an actual difference between those that would solve the structure of the atom or synthesize a new dye and they who day after day repeat the same, painstaking analyses that our bridge girders may be safe or our mill operations efficient?

It is recognized that machinists are rarely embryo mechanical engineers; electricians are not as a rule confused with electrical engineers, nor do the wages of carpenters or stone masons materially affect the salaries of architects or construction engineers. We American chemists, however, cloak all who use the wash-bottle and test-tube with the single appellation "CHEMIST."

Many executives know the personnel of their entire chemical depart-

ment merely as chemists. They recognize degrees of chemical ability but fail to distinguish between the "titer-boy" with only a common school education and the junior chemist just hired from a university. Services, like commodities, are largely evaluated by classes. If there are "Chemists" on the pay roll at sixty per month, even though they are well trained, not educated, routine workers, what chance has the new boy who has spent his own or his dad's good money for a college course to earn even the interest on his investment?

Our English colleagues have been worrying because in their land the druggist is commonly known as a Chemist. With them the title Analyst has also a somewhat different connotation from what it carries in the United States. When we distinguish between Chemist and Analyst we usually think of the former as college-trained men with a scientific education, and the latter as skillful users of analytical methods, workmen trained in laboratory technique. If a more general appreciation of the differences between a Chemist and an Analyst will add to the prestige of our profession, and raise the salaries of Chemists and not merely lower the pay of the Analyst, let's have it. Will it? That is the question.

H. S. B.

DIVERSIFICATION

Since the Liberty Loan Drives and the subsequent conversion of good bonds into wild cat stocks, even we chemists have been favored with the broker's literature. One oft repeated warning to the prospective investor has been that he must have diversification in his holdings. The readers of these pages have before, and doubtless will again, have called to their attention the importance of diversification in their chemical reading.

The JOURNAL is endeavoring to supply such diversification, but apparently this issue has run largely to problems connected with the colors of oils, their evaluation or removal. In the next number, however, there will appear an article on the Digestibility of Fats, Some of the Economic Aspects of the World Trade in Oils, and a paper of especial interest to the linseed oil users and producers.

We still have room for more good papers, and will especially welcome contributions from college and research laboratories, whether submitted by members of our Society or others.

H. S. B.