

# Journal of Oil and Fat Industries

Devoted to Oils, Fats and Allied Industries

---

**VOL. III**

**OCTOBER, 1926**

**No. 10**

---

## EDITORIAL

### THE COTTON CROP AND THE OIL MILLS

With the statistician reporting the largest cotton crop on record in this country, one wonders what has become of the Boll Weevil which only a few short years ago led pessimists to believe that cotton would soon be exterminated and cotton oil mills and refineries reduced to piles of useless machinery.

Whether the bumper crop is due to excess planting to overcome the ravages of the weevil, or whether it results from unusually favorable weather conditions digging off of the weevils, the fact remains that the oil mills of the country can look ahead to unprecedented supplies of seed and reasonable prices which will enable them to operate at a good profit.

The reported good condition of the seed means good crude with small refining losses and high quality oils.

The large spread in price between hog lard and the splendid vegetable shortenings now on the market argues well for the future prospects of the refineries. Cheap seed should mean cheap cake and meal, and cotton seed meal being the cheapest source of protein, large quantities of meal should find its way to the cattle feeders.

The good quality of this year's seed should greatly help the increased use of meal. The oil mills have it in their hands to put the meal business on a better basis than in the past. Perhaps for local use the mixing of large quantities of hull with the meal may be good practice, if the price is made accordingly; but for distant shipments, it is suicide. The cattle feeders of the north buy cottonseed meal for protein. They do not want to pay freight on hulls. They have plenty of roughage without importing any.

This year's good seed crop offers splendid opportunities to work out efficient methods for grading seed and paying for what it is worth rather than fictitious prices forced by short sighted competition. In trading in oil and factory control of refineries the time is ripe to apply exact methods of chemical analysis in place of the crude refining tests used in the past. These served their purpose in the early days when there was little exact knowledge; but in this era, industry is ruled by exact science.