

# May Standardize Barrels and Kegs

## Simplification Expert Discusses Simplified Practice and Its Application to the Cooperage Industry.

**S**PEAKING before the Thirteenth Semi-Annual Convention of the Associated Cooperage Industries of America at Chicago, W. E. Braithwaite of the Division of Simplified Practice of the Department of Commerce, told of "Simplified Practice and Its Application to the Cooperage Industry." Mr. Braithwaite explained simplified practice as a method of eliminating the unnecessary varieties of commonplace articles, or concentration of production and sales of the "best sellers." In order to ascertain just what are the "best sellers," manufacturers, distributors and consumers meet in general conference, under the auspices of the Division of Simplified Practice of the Department of Commerce, and set up a simplified schedule, known as a Simplified Practice Recommendation.

To date, more than three hundred groups have requested the Division's cooperation in eliminating excessive varieties in their products. About one hundred industries have already worked out simplifications which have been accepted by the majority of the manufacturers, distributors and users concerned, by volume of annual production. Also, a large number of industries are now conducting variety surveys with the view of developing simplification programs.

Factual surveys of the benefits of simplified practice have brought estimates of savings in material, time, labor, and money which run high into the millions. Fully half of the industries which have

adopted simplified practice find it difficult to interpret their benefits in terms of money as their efforts become lost in a maze of other factors. However, estimates of savings in money by some of the industries now producing on the simplified practice plan are as follows, for paving brick, \$1,000,000; sheet steel, \$2,400,000; steel reinforcing bars, \$4,500,000; warehouse forms, \$5,000,000; range boilers, \$5,500,000; invoice forms \$15,000,000; and lumber \$200,000,000.

Dealing with simplification in the cooperage industry, Mr. Braithwaite said, "consideration of the general problem of how best to pack handle, transport, and distribute commodities after manufacture is engaging the attention of many industries. The question of containers is an important one and the solution of existing problems of diversified sizes, dimensions and capacities would, in the opinion of many, benefit not only the industry immediately concerned, but the carriers and all users of the commodity as well.

"In modern practice the packing of a product can scarcely be considered as separate from its manufacture. The engineering principles applied to the production of the commodity are just as necessary to the development of proper shipping containers, yet many whose products are the result of diligently applied engineering principles have given little consideration to this fact. Alert manufacturers, however, are giving more and more attention to shipping containers.

Careful study has convinced many that savings can be effected in efficient packing as well as in efficient manufacturing, and some concerns are showing profits by reducing packing costs while not able to reduce production costs.

"To give one example of the several simplifications of this type, a general conference of those interested in the production and use of box board convened in 1925 at the Department of Commerce to discuss a simplification program for that industry. A simplified practice recommendation was **unanimously** adopted reducing the list of thicknesses from 244 to 60. It was estimated at the time that this recommendation would mean a saving of about \$5,000,000 a year to all concerned.

"Conferences and recommendations similar to this one, have been worked out for salt packages, preserve jars, jelly glasses, vegetable shortening, carriage and machine bolts, insecticide and fungicides, cut tacks and small cut nails, etc.

"A simplified practice recommendation is of doubtful value unless its existence and purpose are generally known, and being known, are used. By the processes of periodic re-survey and revision, it is possible to not only keep the respective recommendations thoroughly abreast of changing conditions, but also to measure the degree of adherence that is being accorded them. For example, nineteen of the effective simplifications which have been so measured show an average adherence of 79 per cent, Several of these programs run higher than 90 per cent adherence, while one goes as high as 99 per cent.

"Only the surface has been scratched. There are still more than a thousand opportunities for simplified practice."

### Protest Soap Stock Rates

Swift & Co., Chicago, have complained to the Interstate Commerce Commission that the freight rates on carload shipments of cottonseed oil foots and other soap stock from its refineries in Houston and North Fort Worth, Tex., to Cincinnati, Ohio, are higher than the rates to Chicago. The Swift interests claim that in the Corporation Commission of Oklahoma case, the Commission intended that the rates be equal. The railroads refused to obey the ruling, and the Swift complaint seeks to compel them to obey it.

### Gold Dust Merger Details

In the Gold Dust Corp. merger with the American Linseed Co., two and one-half shares of the re-capitalized Gold Dust stock will be given for each share of Linseed common, and two and three-quarters new shares for each Linseed preferred share. Gold Dust voting trust certificates will be exchanged for two shares of the new stock. With the merger complete, there will be 3,000,000 no-par shares of the Gold Dust stock outstanding on an annual dividend basis of \$2.50.

### Bernard N. Glick Dies

It is with deep regret that we announce the death, on November 5th, at New York, of Mr. Bernard N. Glick, of Industrial Chemical Sales Company. Mr. Glick, who was well known as an authority on the uses and technical applications of activated carbons, had been connected with the Industrial Chemical Sales organization for the past fifteen years, was the manager of their technical department and a frequent contributor of scientific articles on activated carbons to this and other periodicals. He was born in England 38 years ago.