

# THE INDUSTRY IMPROVES

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**A** MERICAN manufacturers of oils and fats and their products and of soap can look back upon 1928 as a year of definite achievement and progress toward stabilization of their industries.

One of the most important developments of the year was the adoption by the cottonseed crushers and refiners of a Code of Ethics and Trade Practices, as suggested at a series of conferences with representatives of the Federal Trade Commission. Adherence to this code by the oil millers and refiners will inevitably bring about recognition of this great industry as an efficient and important factor in America's leadership of the world's industry.

The past year has been generally profitable for all branches of the oil and fat industries and has been marked particularly by several sensational developments in the way of mergers which have strengthened the positions of companies already well entrenched.

One company, which, although it was the outgrowth of one of the oldest edible oil manufacturers, entered the year primarily as a soap manufacturer; has distinguished itself by the purchase of one of the largest edible oil specialty producers and by also entering several allied edible product fields, and bids fair to re-establish itself among the leaders in those branches.

At the same time, one of the oldest linseed oil producers had disposed of its properties, dividing them among its two principal competitors, thus greatly improving the position of the latter in the market.

Another younger linseed oil factor has signaled his initial success by the purchase for operation of one of the country's oldest established linseed oil businesses, which had been dormant several years.

In the soap field there has been great activity, and the volume of fats and oils consumed in soap production for domestic use and for export has been larger during the past year than ever before in the history of this country.

What of the oil chemist and the part he has taken in the development of these great industries?

It is with justifiable pride that we can say that the success of this country's oil production and refining and soap-making has been and is

dependent in large measure upon the manufacturing economies effected by chemists and chemical engineers.

During the year just past, your Society has continued its healthy growth and has taken steps to insure an even greater future.

The annual meeting in New Orleans in May was well attended and was marked by the presentation of many splendid contributions to our general scientific knowledge.

The work of standardizing color reading methods which has been prosecuted so faithfully by the Bureau of Standards has borne much fruit in the past year.

In the course of the year, arrangements have been completed for the publication of the Society's Official Methods of Analysis, including the Methods of the Joint Fat Analysis Committee of your Society and the American Chemical Society. The Methods will be published in loose-leaf data sheet form for insertion in a standard ring-type binder. The data sheets and binders will be obtainable from the Secretary of the Society and by special arrangement with the publisher all changes will be promptly incorporated in new sheets, enabling every oil and soap chemist to keep his manual of analytical methods up to date at all times.

The Second Fall meeting of the Society, held in New York in October, and devoted chiefly to the interests of soap chemists, was a signal success, resulting in the formation of a Soap Chemists' Section of the Society. A. K. Church of Lever Brothers, Cambridge, Mass. was elected Chairman of the Soap Chemists' Section.

Our Official Journal, *Oil & Fat Industries*, has progressed with the Society during the year and we have every reason to expect that it will be of even greater service to us in the future.

The magazine *Soap* has been designated as Official Organ of the Soap Section and will publish papers and news of special interest to the Section.

Having thus completed a successful year, our Society enters the New Year facing the greatest opportunity in its history.

Our appeal has become National, rather than sectional, and there is real profit to be derived from membership in our Society by every

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## Glycerin Production Drops

United States produced only 31,219,694 lbs. of crude glycerin between July and September, 1928, as compared with 66,576,442 lbs. produced in the preceding 6 months. Production of dynamite glycerin in the three months' period was only 10,321,720 lbs., as against 24,157,038 lbs. produced in the preceding six months. Production of chemically pure glycerin rose proportionately with a total of 15,739,372 lbs. in three months, as compared with 31,560,368 lbs. in six months. Exports of glycerin from the United States for the first nine months of 1928 were 1,778,521 lbs., valued at \$224,155, a sizable increase over the 1927 figures of 354,641 lbs., sold for \$84,909.

Rubberseed oil, made in the United States from imported rubberseeds, is now being sold in the vegetable oil market, and is finding consumers in the soap field, especially among the soft soap makers. Rayner & Stonington, Inc., 79 Wall St., New York, are sales representatives.

The consolidation of Gold Dust Corp. and American Linseed Co., has been approved by stockholders of both companies. Gold Dust common stock has been split up on a two-for-one basis, and a quarterly dividend of 64½¢ has been declared by the directors, this being equivalent to \$5 per year on the old stock.

Procter & Gamble Co. recently declared a quarterly dividend of \$1.50 a share on the 6% preferred stock, payable Dec. 15 on stock of record Nov. 23.

Stocks of crude cottonseed oil on hand in the United States Dec. 1, 1928, totaled 143,079,618 lbs., as compared with 165,070,471 lbs. available on the same day in 1927, according to a recent report of Department of Commerce. Refined oil to the amount of 322,857,460 lbs. was available, as compared with 416,140,651 lbs. on Dec. 1, 1927. On Aug. 1, 1928, 20,350,682 lbs. of crude and 335,993,223 lbs. of refined oil were held in various hands.

## Virgin Olive Oil

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to our medical advisors who emphatically suggest that less of the highly-refined foods be included in our diet. Within the past ten years, we have noticed a gradual change in the attitude of people toward returning to raw or unrefined foods.

Nature does not supply man's stomach with a refining, deodorizing, and bleaching equipment for every olive that he eats. It is broken

down and assimilated entirely by the system, and the changing other than a purely natural one tends to unbalance this equilibrium of food digestion.

Under ultra-violet light the fluorescence of a natural oil is considerably different from that of a refined oil; and we believe that just as the ultra-violet lamp can distinguish between a "Virgin" olive oil and a "Refined" one, so the layman should be taught to understand what is meant when he sees the word "Virgin" upon a tin, and to appreciate that upon the manufacturer rests the responsibility of selling a product which he has labeled to contain only the highest grade "Virgin" olive oil—and not one which has had all its intrinsic properties and essential characteristics removed.

The annual banquet of Oil Trades Association, Inc., will be held in the Rose Ball Room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Wednesday, February 6. Members may reserve tables seating ten if they submit the names of their guests. This will be the last Oil Trades dinner to be held at the Waldorf, which is to be torn down in June.

## Government and Definitions

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more mayonnaise is prepared from other oils, such as peanut oil, sesame oil, cottonseed oil, and even soya bean oil, than from olive oil.

A little clique of importers would have us believe that the product was first made from olive oil. They have long memories indeed. Which of them has had a communication from one of Egypt's early Pharaohs, to inform him which was first used by man, the olive or the sesame seed? In this case, the petition of the importers has been denied, but in another matter reported in this issue of Oil & Fat Industries, another department of our Government has decided that a name, "Castile Soap" shall be restricted to only one kind of the many similar products which have enjoyed the use of this name for many generations. So are our taxes spent!

## The Industry Improves

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chemist whose work is in any way connected with fatty oils or soaps.

Your President hopes that every member will resolve to bring in at least one new member during the coming year, so that in the near future the Society will include every chemist who is qualified for membership.

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year,  
A. W. PUTLAND, *President*.