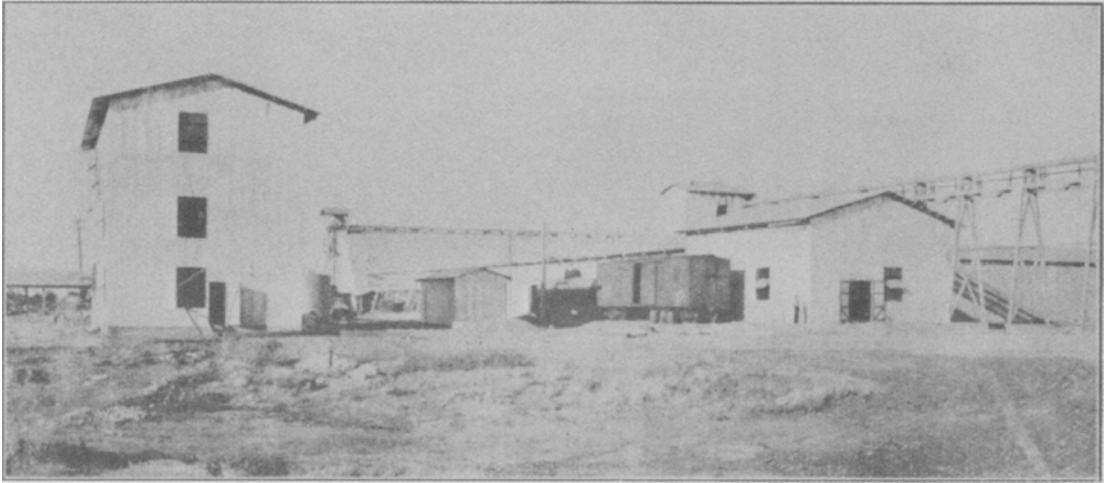


New Cotton Oil Refinery for California

San Joaquin Company Installs Facilities to Handle Output of its Chowchilla and Bakersfield Mills

By CHARLES W. GEIGER



General View of Plant of San Joaquin Cotton Oil Co., Chowchilla, California

THE cotton and cotton oil industries of California and of the San Joaquin Valley particularly are growing apace, as evidenced by the establishment of many new gins and oil mills in that territory. The San Joaquin Cotton Oil Company has been a most important factor in this growth and have now proved themselves the leaders in the cotton seed oil business in their territory by establishing the San Joaquin Valley's first cotton oil refinery at Chowchilla. The installation of this refinery means that more than half a million dollars worth of cotton oil produced in the valley will be refined at home, instead of at other points in California, as formerly.

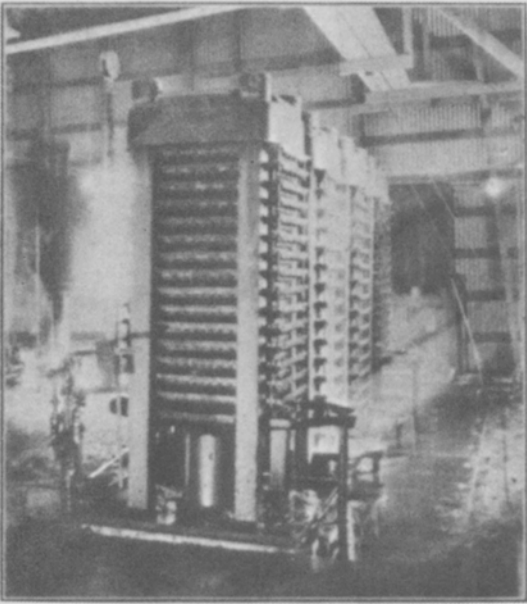
Growing steadily during the past few years, the plant of the San Joaquin Cotton Oil Company at Chowchilla has reached the point where its annual payroll exceeds a quarter of a million dollars and the value of its products approaches a million dollars each year.

The mill at Chowchilla now has an annual production of sixty tank cars and the company's mill at Bakersfield is producing an equal amount. All of this oil will be handled in the new refinery at Chowchilla, together with additional oil to be purchased from other mills.

The linters from these mills are disposed of in the usual linter markets, while the cake, meal and hulls find a ready market for cattle feeding in California and Nevada. Madera and Merced Counties, California, which are located in the San Joaquin Valley, offer a particularly favorable market for these feedstuffs, as together they comprise one of the most important stock-raising and feeding sections of the state.

The stockholders and management of the San Joaquin Cotton Oil Company have demonstrated their faith in the future of the cotton and cotton oil production possibilities of the San Joaquin Valley over a period of years by the investment of over three-quarters of a million dollars in their oil mills, refinery and ginning stands. The company has also encouraged the growth of cotton in the valley by a system of crop loans and financing of growers which involves the use of an additional million dollars of working capital.

There are 153,600 acres of land planted to cotton in the San Joaquin Valley this year and it is estimated that at least three times this much first class cotton land is available in the area. The growth of the cottonseed oil industry



Battery of Hydraulic Presses

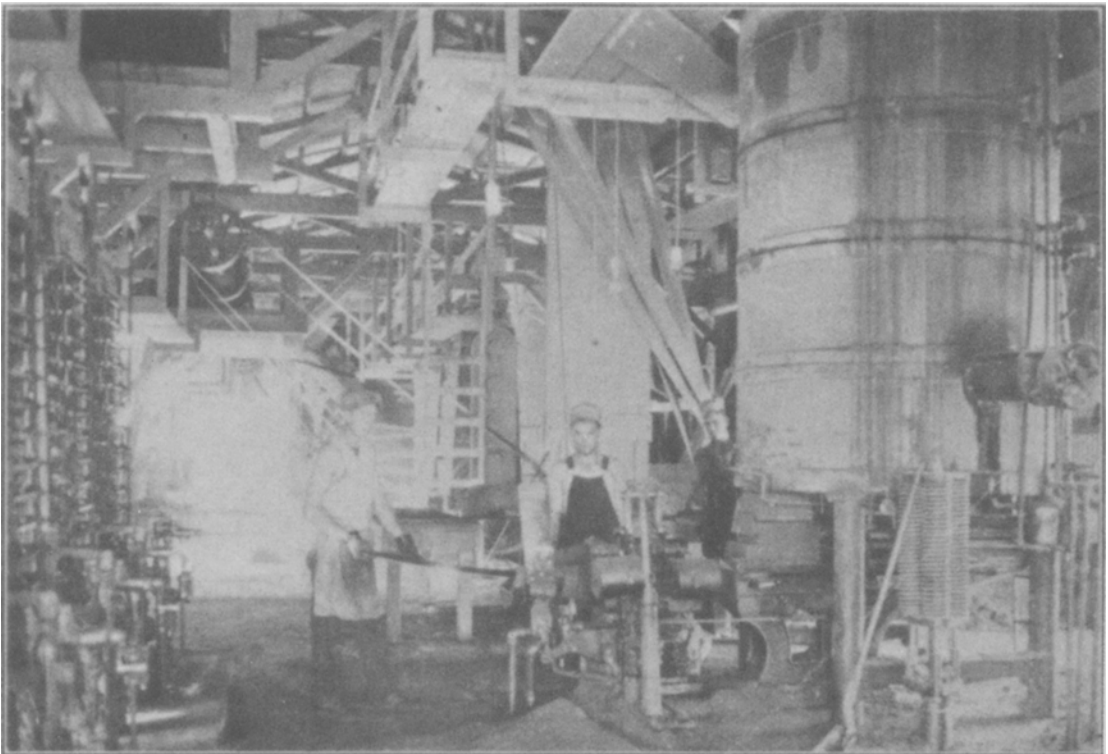
should be considerable, therefore, during the years to come.

The equipment of the San Joaquin Cotton Oil Company's Chowchilla plant, as shown in

the accompanying illustrations, is of the most modern type, and quality and yields are controlled by the mill's own chemist, who is shown at work in his laboratory.

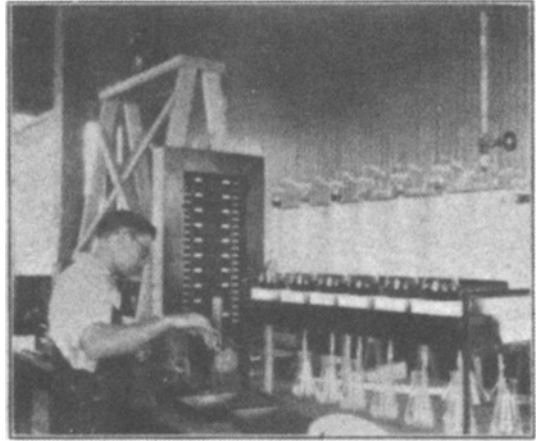
The mill is equipped with a four-high cooker, with automatic former, as shown in the illustration at the bottom of this page. The hydraulic presses are equipped with automatic change valves, and the San Joaquin Cotton Oil Company reports extremely favorable results in press-room work.

The refinery at present produces only prime summer yellow oil, but the owners plan to develop the property for the production of cooking and salad oils and compounds at a later date. As shown in the illustration at the bottom of page twenty-three, the refinery consists of: a neutralizing tank, equipped with Perfect circulation, variable speed machine and direct motor drive, soapstock receiving tank below the neutralizing tank, and large heating and settling tank, (shown at the lower right hand corner of the illustration). The caustic soda supply tank may be seen in the extreme upper left. The refinery is also equipped with a filter press, (not shown in the illustration), for filtration of the finished prime summer yellow cottonseed oil.



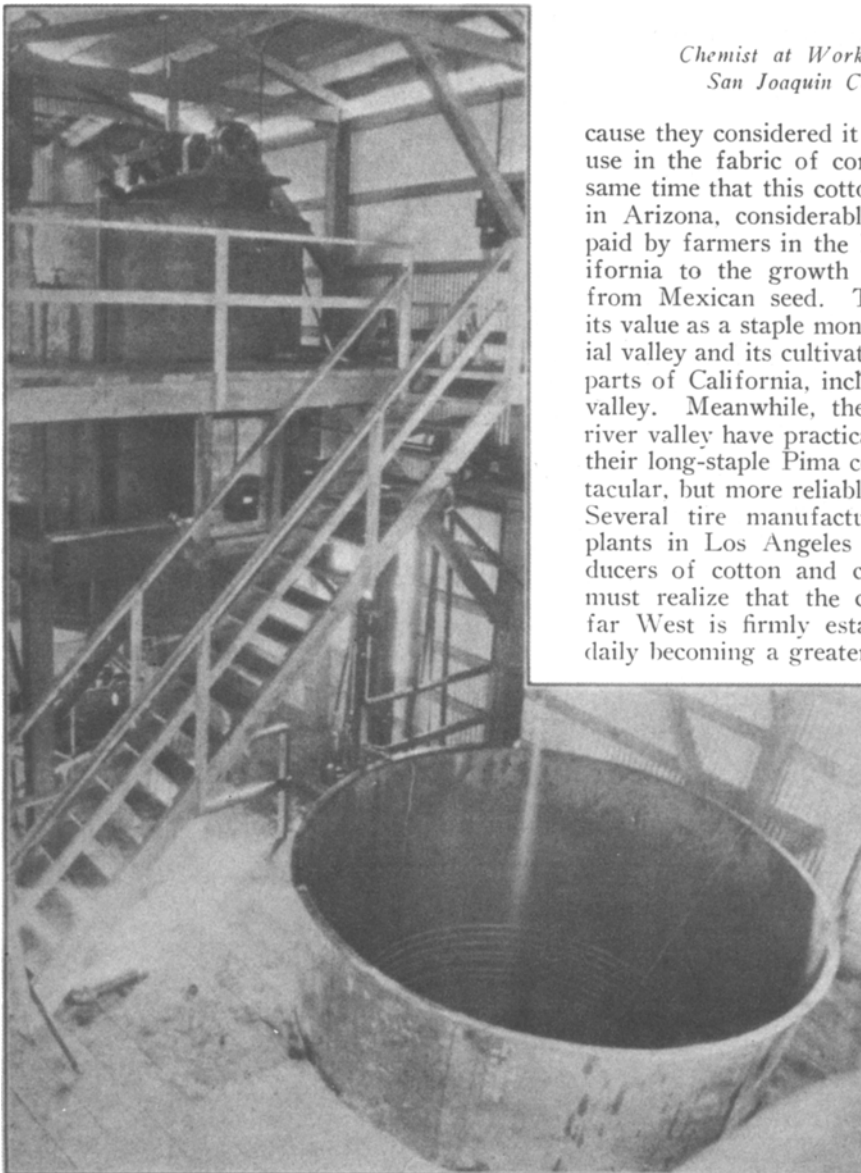
General View of Pressroom, Showing Cooker and Cake-Former

The cotton produced in the San Joaquin valley is of the standard short-staple type similar to that known as Upland cotton in the Southeastern states. The development of cotton growing in the far Western states has had a romantic history dating from only a few years ago when the great Roosevelt dam in Arizona was completed, opening up the desert lands in the Salt river valley to cultivation. The first cotton produced in the Salt river valley was of the Egyptian long-staple type, and after considerable experimentation a grade known as Arizona-Egyptian, or Pima cotton, was produced. The great rubber companies fostered the development of this grade of cotton, be-



*Chemist at Work in Laboratory,
San Joaquin Cotton Oil Co.*

cause they considered it superior in quality for use in the fabric of cord tires. At about the same time that this cotton was being developed in Arizona, considerable attention was being paid by farmers in the Imperial valley in California to the growth of short-staple cotton from Mexican seed. The crop demonstrated its value as a staple money-maker in the Imperial valley and its cultivation has spread to other parts of California, including the San Joaquin valley. Meanwhile, the growers of the Salt river valley have practically entirely abandoned their long-staple Pima cotton for the less spectacular, but more reliable short staple varieties. Several tire manufacturers have established plants in Los Angeles and the Eastern producers of cotton and cottonseed oil products must realize that the cotton industry of the far West is firmly established and that it is daily becoming a greater factor in the market.



*Refinery (interior
view) San Joaquin
Cotton Oil Co.,
Chowchilla, Calif.*