

# OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES

## The Editor's Page

### Nationalism—or Progress?

**I**N THIS issue we publish the first instalment of a report from Frank Messenger, U. S. Foreign Trade Commissioner at London, covering the summaries presented by the representatives at the International Convention of Oil Seed Crushers of every important oil-producing country with the exception of the United States.

The countries represented at this conference included Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Manchuria, and others. Each nation presented a summary of conditions affecting oilseed purchases, production and sales of oil and cake and competitive conditions within its oil industry.

That the United States was not represented at this conference except by Government observers, seems to us a very significant fact. Have our tariff barriers and other evidences of extreme nationalism as applied to the oil milling industry caused us to overlook entirely the fact that all trade in vegetable oils and oilseeds is affected most appreciably by influences which are international in their scope and bearing?

The oil crushers of Europe have organized in various ways to protect their raw material sources and their markets. The many great mergers of soap and margarine manufacturers and oil millers in recent years have known no national boundaries. The Association of Seed Crushers, likewise, has opened its membership to all comers, excepting possibly Americans. That our interests are closely interwoven with those of the seed crushers in other countries is best exemplified by the growing imports of copra, coconut oil, palm and palm kernel oil and other tropical produce into the United States. Our cottonseed oil, it is true, is largely consumed at home, but the markets for this commodity must inevitably feel the effect of worldwide conditions in oil trade in general.

We feel sure that the European crushers would welcome American membership in their

international association. The National Cottonseed Producers Association could serve its members well by active participation through the attendance of accredited representatives at the Annual Conference of this International Association.

### Subtle Sabotage

**I**N THE dictionaries, "sabotage" is defined as "the willful injury of materials or machinery by workmen", but in recent years there has arisen a form of industrial hindrance which, while not covered by the definition as written, can be classified truly as sabotage quite as much as wrecking of machinery and deliberate spoilage of material.

We refer to the deliberate institution of fake or far-fetched damage suits for personal injuries said to be attributable to some obscure defect in operating or sanitary conditions in a manufacturing plant. The business of faking accidents and personal injuries as the basis for damage suits against public utility corporations has been so thoroughly exposed that it no longer offers a lucrative field for the questionable activities of contortionists, shyster lawyers and doctors of the same ilk, as well as the double-jointed and the asthmatic.

It may be, then, only natural that certain of these artists should turn their attention to the industrial field, wherever opportunity presents itself. The general dissemination of knowledge concerning the steps taken by some industrialists to promote employee welfare may easily have served to show the backdoor barristers a new stage upon which to "strut their stuff." With all our progress in sanitation and in the control of occupational diseases, there still remain situations in industry where these harpies can gain a foothold and cause untold damage to the reputation and to the credit of otherwise sound businesses.

Elsewhere in this issue we report what is believed by the attacked manufacturer to be such an attempt upon a legitimate enterprise. That one hundred and fifty workers, or neigh-