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# Editorial

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## Sixth Annual Fall Meeting

ON October 20th and 21st, at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, members and friends of the American Oil Chemists' Society will gather for the Sixth Annual Fall Meeting of that organization.

The Fall Meetings, inaugurated five years ago by Harry P. Trevithick, then President of the Society, have grown in importance each year, and now command the interest of all chemists and production men in every branch of the fixed oil industries. The particular province of the Fall Meetings is soap chemistry and technology, the reports of the Society's Soap, Detergents and Glycerine Committees being submitted to these Meetings annually.

The Sixth Annual Fall Meeting is being planned with special attention to practical plant process application and it is expected that a large number of original papers descriptive of oil and soap plant processes will be presented. The meeting will be featured, also, by exhibits of laboratory apparatus, chemicals, equipment and supplies adapted for use in laboratory and plant.

Every chemist and production man associated with the oil or soap industry will be welcome at the meeting, whether or not he is now a member of the American Oil Chemists' Society, and all are urged to make an especial effort to attend. Remember the place, Congress Hotel, Chicago, and the dates, October 20 and 21, 1932.

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## Distribution of Surplus

PRICES of all oils and fats have, during the past six months, drifted to the lowest levels of record during the past thirty years or more. While the same period has witnessed a steady decline in market prices of all commodities, the drop in the field of glycerides has been proportionately greater than that in most other lines.

Various reasons have been advanced for this abnormality, including, among others, great overproduction of whale oil, reduced buying power of consumers causing slackened demand, refusal of important soapmakers to maintain raw material stocks, etc., etc.

Regardless of the cause, the fact remains that producers and refiners of fatty products, at the moment, can obtain only depression prices for their commodities.

Many of the signs of the time, however, point to an early change in this condition. During the eight weeks last past there has been a quiet but steady appreciation in value in many commodity markets, notably in wheat, corn, live hogs, cotton and cocoa. These must be recognized as the first rays of sunshine penetrating the clouds of doubt which for so long have enveloped all business.

Concerted efforts to market oils and fats, at prices which will yield a profit to producer and manufacturer, will surely be rewarded with a measure of success during the balance of this year. Important aids to manufacturers in their marketing work are to be found in the Surveys and Bulletins of the Foodstuffs Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce, whose Fats and Oils Section covers technical as well as edible oils.

The world requires fats, and each region of the earth has some wanted commodity which can be exchanged, through the usual channels of commerce and banking, for its requirements of fats, oils and soaps. Intensive application of effort will open new markets and increase the demand in the old, with the eventual result that even overproduction will be absorbed.

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Mrs. Irwin G. Priest desires to extend to the American Oil Chemists' Society and to its Governing Committee and Members, her thanks and appreciation of their expressions of sympathy in her bereavement through the death of Mr. Priest.