

Editorial

The American Oil Chemists Society

By David Wesson

DURING the early days of the cotton oil business, when the cottonseed crushers held their annual conventions, prominent among the interested attendants at these meetings could be found a number of chemists whose business was to pay strict attention to the deliberations of the rules committee, which was a very august body, consisting of the leaders in the business whose function it was to promulgate the rules under which the products of the cottonseed were dealt in. The chief function of the chemists attending these meetings was to advise their employers the effects various tests would have upon trading.

Needless to say the chemists attending these meetings were on the alert for new and improved methods, and to take advantage of the same for the benefit of their companies.

These were days of comparatively crude testing methods; most of the efforts of the chemists being expended on the evaluation of the oil and methods of refining.

This was before the days of co-operation. It was a common sight to see several chemists chatting together, each man intent on telling as little as possible and learning what he could from his companions. Their methods of work were guarded with laughable secrecy, when it was considered that all had access to the same literature and trade practices.

The writer remembers a luncheon when the chemists of several leading companies discussed certain methods freely, and learned they were all using exactly the same procedure, and were acquainted with the same facts.

At the meeting of the Interstate Cottonseed Crushers' Association, held in Memphis, May 18 to 20, 1909, a small group of chemists representing various industrial plants and commercial laboratories, held an informal meeting. It was unanimously agreed that an organization of the cotton oil chemists would promote social feeling, permit a closer co-operation in the development of uniform analytical methods, and provide a means of research work in the interests of the cotton oil industry.

A temporary organization resulted in the appointment of a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws.

At the Little Rock meeting in 1910, the Society was organized under the name of "Cotton Products Analysts." This name was chosen because very few of us had received real chemical education, and had been trained as laboratory assistants, making mostly routine tests.

In 1917, the Society had a membership of eighty-five regular members, two honorary members and seven associates.

At the present time, the membership roll carries the names of three hundred or more active members and five honorary members.

The society which started with a membership consisting mostly of oil testers has become a well organized society of full-fledged chemists, many of whom are engaged in up-to-date research work, pursuing the advanced methods of the present day.

The subjects of discussion at the meetings of today, as compared with those ten years ago, when the Cotton Products Analysts became known as the American Oil Chemists Society will more than anything show the

changes which have occurred in the character of the organization.

PAPERS—1921 MEETING

Oil Extraction Committee Report.
Report on Damaged Seed and Seed Analysis.
Report Bleach Test and Fuller's Earth Committee.
Report Ammonia Committee.
Report Oil Constants Committee.
Soap Stock Committee.
Sampling Committee.
Address: Rancidity—Its Cause and Prevention.

PROGRAM—OCTOBER 20, 1932

Committee Reports—

Soap Analysis Committee.
Glycerine Analysis Committee.
Detergents Committee.
Olive Oil Committee.

Papers—

Determination of Refractive Index of Glycerols.
Color Standards for Commercial Fats.
Simplified Color Readings.
Oil and Fat Analysis by the Thiocyanogen Method.
Effect of Storage Condition on the Peroxide Value of Corn and Cottonseed Oils.
Carotene as a Natural Anti-Oxidant.
Physiological Action of Feeding Glycerol on the Animal Organism.
The Action of Micro-Organism on Fats.
Some Remarks illustrating the importance of knowing the structure of Oil and Fat Triglycerides.

The American Oil Chemists Society has been of great value to the oil industry as a whole as the result of the Smalley Foundation, devoted to securing uniform analytical results among the members.

The foundation of a referee examining board has resulted in the industry being able to select qualified chemists, whose analyses can be relied upon in trade transactions.

Last, but not least, is the journal of the Society—OIL AND SOAP—which keeps the members in contact with the latest developments along these special lines in which they are interested.

Letter from Our President

To the Members of the A. O. C. S.:

Just a word to advise you what progress has been made on the spring meeting. While the local committee has not completed arrangements, they are working, and assure us that everything possible is being done to make this a successful and highly enjoyable occasion.

As for the meeting itself, we will have of course the committee reports, including this year one from the F. A. C. Committee, which, I am most happy to report, is functioning again. These reports are always interesting and represent a great deal of excellent work and are well worth the trip.

The following reports are of interest to all: Report of Secretary-Treasurer, Governing Committee, Membership Committee, Journal Committee, Sampling Committee, Cottonseed Analysis Committee, Color Committee, Refining Committee, Olive Oil Committee, Smalley Foundation Committee, Referee Board, Moisture Com-

mittee, Committee on Basic Research, Fat Analysis Committee, Revision of Methods Committee.

In addition to the committee reports, we have the following papers promised:

"The Cooking of Cottonseed Meats in Various Gases" by Mr. Eggbert Freyer.

"Oleine, or Recovered Olive Oil Foots" by Mr. Harry Trevithick.

"New Anti-Oxidants in Fats and Oils" by R. C. Newton (paper to be presented by Dr. D. P. Grettie).

"Control of Meal Grinding Through Cake Analysis" by Mr. J. L. Mayfield.

There are a number of additional papers promised and in preparation, the titles of which the writer does not have at this time. These papers, however, will be by such well-known men as Messrs. Wesson, Richardson; Messrs. King, Roschen and Irwin, and Mr. Fash. You will note in all the above mentioned papers what the writer believes to be a wholesome mixture of the older and younger men of the Society, to all of whom he is most grateful, and believes that due to such support we will have a program of exceptional interest.

An enlarged and strong Golf Committee is looking after that feature of the convention and are really working at it in wonderful fashion. I am sure the hot shots will have something to shoot for.

The local committee, with Mr. E. G. Williams of New Orleans as chairman, would like to have information as to the ladies who will be in attendance. New Orleans is a town of wonderful appeal to the fair sex, and it is earnestly hoped that as many as possible will bring their respective commanders-in-chief along. I understand there will be quite a number down from the Chicago district, and the presence of the ladies adds so much to the enjoyment of the meeting. I urge all of our members to bring their ladies with them.

The place of the meeting itself, New Orleans, bears

a charm that will attract many, and should prove most interesting to new members who have never visited this quaint old city. Modern on one side, and centuries old on the other, and then, too, our meeting comes at that time of the year when New Orleans is at its best.

We are working in conjunction with the National Cottonseed Products Association to get the lowest possible rates, and as soon as is definitely determined the best rate we can get, along with the date of sale of the tickets, this information will go out to the membership. I had hoped to have it ready for this issue of the Journal.

The writer realizes, no one better, what this depression has done to the income of many of the members, and at the same time, begs to offer this thought: that in a profession there are two things of paramount importance, first, one's professional ability and experience, and second, his circle of friends. There is no better opportunity of enlarging one's store of knowledge in one's chosen field, and also to increase one's circle of friends and cement friendships, than at a meeting of this kind. We feel confident that all attending the convention this year, even if times are hard, will be amply rewarded for their time and expense, and have in the surplus account a most pleasant experience.

It is indeed probable that out of our present national trouble and economic ills will arise an economic and social structure very different, possibly much better, than anything we have known in the past, and the convention is a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas with friends from other parts of the country as to what is actually taking place in the way of new industries, or realignment of old.

In the meantime, let us begin to think, plan, and budget, if necessary, for the spring convention, where we always enjoy ourselves, and where a wealth of knowledge as well as fun awaits us.

Very sincerely,

N. C. HAMNER, President.

New Orleans—The Old World and the New

By WARREN MARSHALL REID

America's most interesting city, and queen city of the South. It is the only "different" city in this whole broad country of ours. Other places are noted for their large buildings, greatness of area, millions of people, and hundreds of factories, but none are as famed as the Crescent City for their gaiety and laughter, charm and continental manner, or for the excellence of food over which the ladies lose all thoughts of calories and those extra pounds and the men even wax poetic.

A trip to this romantic spot, America's pleasure capital, is not only a trip to another city, but it is a veritable trip abroad. New Orleans possesses all of the flavor of the old world plus the modern conveniences of the new that the average American traveler is so used to. But all of New Orleans is not old. Canal Street, one of the widest thoroughfares in the country—one hundred eighty feet—separates the Vieux Carré, or old quarter, from the new and modern city that has grown out of the one started by that brave little band headed by Jean Baptiste Lemoine de Bienville, that settled on the banks of the mighty Father of Waters in the year 1718.

Stroll, if you will, from your hotel down this impressive street with its attractive shops and large department stores until you come to la Rue Royale, or Royal Street as it is now called. Walk down this narrow street

with its overhanging balconies and flagstone banquettes, as the sidewalks are called—you are conscious of being in another world, you begin to weave pictures of Spanish gallants and beautiful Creole ladies—romance! You walk leisurely, slowly, for all of the "quarter" is unhurried. Further into the Vieux Carré, you find old houses with pink and yellow walls, paled by the century and a half of semi-tropical sun and rain that they have withstood. They have green wooden shutters and lacey wrought iron balustrades on the balconies. This wrought iron is of unusual interest, the intricate designs having been hammered out by slaves, and in some cases, even the initials of their French and Spanish masters were hammered into the designs. An excellent example of this work may be found on the building at St. Peter and Royal Streets.

Also on Royal Street are a number of very reliable antique shops which tempt one with *objets d'art*, furniture, table ware and bric-a-brac once belonging to some of the early families of Louisiana. Much of this was brought over from France, as that which was made in this country at the time was not considered good enough for the wealthy French planters. Then there are jewelry shops where milady will go into ecstasies over the old fashioned pieces, and some of them may have belonged