

Editorial

The National Recovery Act and the Oil Chemist



The National Recovery Act promises real relief for the future, but its effect is certain to be more largely dependent upon the will of the industries and individuals affected than any other administrative act that this country has ever known. Enforcement machinery is being built up to guarantee that laggards will not benefit through non-compliance where their competitors are living up fully to the spirit of the Act, and we may rely upon public sentiment to assist enforcement—but real success can only be achieved if the industries affected enter whole-heartedly into cooperation with the government in support of the Act.

We feel sure that every American Oil Chemists' Society member is loyally with President Roosevelt and the Administration in working out the full spirit of this Act. Every member chemist would, and should, consider it his patriotic duty to support this Act even at a personal sacrifice, for chemists rarely choose their profession with the idea of considerable anticipated financial reward, and if they do so, they are generally disappointed.

Certainly there is no profession which contributes so largely to the success of industry and asks so small a financial reward in return.

The chemist is usually so preoccupied with working out his problems with fine exactitude that he gives very little consideration to "selling" himself and his work to the industries which he so ably serves.

Few industrial concerns which employ commercial chemists or consultants stop to consider the investment which these men have in training and experience. The cost of chemical work is very low, usually, and many industries are prone to value the services accordingly.

At the time of writing we have no idea what effect the National Recovery Act will have on the status of the chemist, but we are hopeful that it will result in bettering his condition financially. For the past few years the industry has not been able to absorb the crop of chemical graduates, and this, together with the unethi-

cal price cutting, which has forced the commercial and industrial laboratories to under pay their help, has placed many of our members in a sad predicament.

We trust that through this Act we may see an end forever to commercial laboratories accepting work at below the cost of time, materials, and a reasonable return upon their investment.

To every American Oil Chemists' Society member who is an employer we urge the strictest adherence to the spirit of the Act. To every member who is an employe, we urge cooperation through his company, and we urge that he help to see that his company lines up with the Act to the fullest possible extent.

And so, too, we believe that our society has been remiss in selling itself to the industries which it so ably serves. It should be our pleasure and our duty to better acquaint these industries with the extent of the services rendered to them in order not only that our society may gain recognition but so that it may serve these industries to the fullest possible extent.

John P. Harris

What's In a Name

Chicago has always had a great appeal to the visitor because of its wonderful shopping district, its scenic drives along the lake shore, its boulevard system of over two hundred miles, the great universities located within its boundaries, and the possibilities for pleasure and amusement for those who are so inclined. These features have always brought a large number of visitors to the city throughout the year. They alone should be enough to make you decide to attend the Convention of the American Oil Chemists' Society, which will be held at the Congress Hotel on October 12 and 13.

In addition to the above Chicago offers its visitors this year a new and unique attraction in the form of its "WORLD'S FAIR." In looking back over the past thirty or forty years we find that there have been a numbers of "World's Fairs" at various times and places. All of these have had their points of interest. None of them have been built around the central theme which activates the present exposition in Chicago. Progress in all forms of industry are depicted in such a way that you are bound to carry away with you impressions that will last for many years to come. And so our "World's Fair" has rightfully been named "A CENTURY OF PROGRESS EXPOSITION."

It can safely be said that the phenomenal progress of the last century has been greatly due to the advancement of science and so it is fitting that the Science Building is one of the most interesting and popular of the entire exposition. Everybody visits the Science Building, even if they do not understand what it is all about. It is interesting to see the various models in operation, especially those which one can operate by pushing a button or lever. Here we may see, among other things, in the midst of a model oil refinery, fractionating columns made of glass, illustrating, by means of a work-