

oil & soap

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Bigger and Better Meetings

Those of us who recall the earlier meetings of the Cotton Products Analysts' Society are certain to get a great deal of pleasure and to take some little pride in the development of the meetings of The American Oil Chemists' Society to their present high state of scientific merit, as well as in the large attendance and great interest which is shown at these meetings.

But, good as the New Orleans meetings have become, the outstanding feature of the Society and the one which is building it up and making it known as one of the really worthwhile scientific groups in this country, are the fall meetings which originated in New York only eight years ago, and which have reached a fuller development at Chicago where the past four meetings have been held and where the eighth annual meeting is being held this month.

The work of Harry Trevithick in putting across those early meetings at New York should never be forgotten by the Society. The meetings were so successful that they fulfilled their mission and led to the broader development, which was possible at Chicago because Chicago is not only the center of a very large group of members but is easily reached; because the oil chemist naturally gravitates to Chicago and feels at home there, and because he finds so many interesting plants there where he is made welcome.

Looking back five years we recall the first Chicago meeting, which was held at the Congress Hotel, in quarters which were decidedly inadequate, because even the most optimistic of that fine, aggressive Chicago Convention Committee had not anticipated the large attendance, based upon previous experience at New York and New Orleans.

The following year saw the meeting moved into the Florentine Room, with fine exhibits right in the meeting room, and the bowling tournament moved from the Stevens Hotel Annex (many of you will recall the description of how to reach the Alleys which sounded like directions for getting through the Crystal Maze).

Up to that time the entertainment had consisted entirely of

the bowling (aside from the ladies' entertainment which was adequate from the very start). Informal and intimate luncheons had become a regular feature, and this second year saw an informal group get together before the bowling and enjoy a dinner party that was long remembered, and which was repeated the following year.

So last year it was decided to combine the bowling and the dinner at the Medinah club, and to add a card party for those not interested in bowling. This dinner was generally pronounced the best entertainment ever presented at any meeting, but the Chicago convention committee says, "You haven't seen a thing yet," as they have arranged for a better dinner, under more favorable circumstances, with orchestral accompaniment (you may dance if you please) this year. And this year's meeting will be held at the Medinah Club, which will concentrate it and make it more intimate than ever, with the finest club facilities available to all stopping at the club. Our advice to anyone coming in for these fall meetings at Chicago is not to make any arrangements to try to do anything outside of the meeting. That Chicago committee thinks of everything, and every moment is taken up, with three major meetings, luncheons each day, a golf tournament, a bowling tournament, a dance, a card party, and the finest lot of exhibits ever shown.

W. H. Irwin, chairman, has led an earnest and ambitious Chicago convention committee through five years of untiring effort to make this the best meeting of its kind in the country. With such men as J. J. Vollertsen, L. M. Tolman, R. C. Newton, A. E. King, A. W. Putland, and others, upon the committee, success never was in doubt.

We have been pleased to mention the development of the entertainment features of the meeting, but the real meeting lies in the quality of the programs presented, and the improvement in these programs is even more praiseworthy and astonishing than the improvement in entertainment. The first program at Chicago was a good one. The second program was better. Everyone present remarked at the serious interest taken in the meetings. Those attending stayed through to the finish, even though the meetings sometimes lasted long past the allotted time.

During the third meeting, out-of-town members said to the Chicago committee, "You are building something very fine in these meetings."

Last year the program was the best ever presented. But, this year, even the high point of last year is far exceeded. This year's program is so outstandingly meritorious that it is attracting tremendous attention, even outside the fields of Oil and Soap. One glance over that program fully convinces any Oil and Soap technician that he can ill afford to miss it. Since it was announced, members of the Chicago committee have received dozens of letters saying, "I'll be back," or "I've never attended before, but I'll be with you this time."

These "Bigger and Better" meetings mean much for the society. Every member should be proud of them, and should tell all his friends about them.

WHO

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Chinese Peanut Crop

Although the 1934 peanut acreage in China is believed to be somewhat smaller than last year, the commercial crop will be about the same because of anticipated good yields, according to a recent radiogram received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Agricultural Commissioner O. L. Dawson at Shanghai. The exports of the new crop peanuts from China during 1934-35 will probably be larger than last year because prices in European markets are higher than last season, says Dawson. Chinese peanut producers and shippers considered the 1933-34 season as unsatisfactory because of low prices and a poor export demand.

The United States was formerly an important importer of peanuts from China but the increase in the duty in 1930 combined with a considerable increase in domestic production has reduced imports to a negligible factor. The Chinese peanut situation, however, is still of interest to

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American farmers because of the competition of Chinese peanuts and peanut oil with American cottonseed oil in European markets.

The production of peanuts in China is concentrated mainly in northern China in the Provinces of Shantung, Eastern Honan, Southern Hopei, and in the Kwangtung Leased Territory extending into Manchuria. From 50 to 65 per cent of the exports move out via Tsingtao in Shantung. The crop last year was about 5 per cent below the large 1932 crop, but the supply available for export was about the same as the year before because of the heavy carryover.

This year there seems to be no burdensome carryover. Practically all old crop peanuts in the principal marketing centers will be exhausted by the end of the 1933-34 season on October 31, 1934, due to the good demand from other Chinese markets in recent months, says Dawson.

Tsingtao peanut merchants have been disturbed recently by increased competition from producers in Southern Man-