

Registration at the New York Meeting Climbs to 713, Exclusive of the 100 or More Exhibitors

EXCLUSIVE of exhibitors, who numbered 100 or more, the registration for the 22nd annual fall meeting, held in New York City at the Hotel Pennsylvania from November 15-17, 1948, mounted to the total of 713. Broken down, this was divided among 400 members, 226 non-members, and 87 women. Because of the large registration, fine social events such as snack bar on Sunday from 2 p. m. on, cocktail hour on Monday afternoon, and banquet Tuesday in addition to the program for the ladies, and a technical program packed with 60 papers, this meeting went off in a highly professional fashion. The crowning touch was provided by the press room, staffed by John B. Calkin, his secretary, and professional publicity consultants in the New York area.

Great credit should be given to Foster Dee Snell, general chairman, all of his committees, especially the program committee headed by H. W. Vahlteich, and to Mrs. Snell, ladies' chairman. The plant visits on November 18 were well attended, much interest being shown in the opportunity for such field trips. The Languild Convention Service aided members and guests in planning their non-convention time, with fine results.

The five sessions of Section B were held in the Manhattan room, 18 floors below Penn-Top, where Section A met, registration was carried on, and the exhibits were on display. Attendance appeared about evenly divided between the two sections.

Reports of the Governing Board meeting, technical program, and pictorial coverage of the convention appear elsewhere in this issue.

A COMPARISON of the 1948 meeting with that held in New York in 1927, according to President C. P. Long, shows that a number of members have attended both. The list shows the registration of E. R. Barrow, Harry E. Corman, R. H. Fash, J. P. Harris, Alan Porter Lee, W. A. Peterson, M. L. Sheely, Arthur W. Thomas, B. H. Thurman, and J. J. Vollertsen. H. W. Vahlteich, who was active in the Society in 1927, was unable, however, to attend this first fall meeting, which was planned and directed by H. P. Trevithick, president at the time.

In 1927 the Society had been functioning for 18 years, and this first eastern meeting was held on October 28 and 29 at the Chemists' club, 52 E. 41st street. Speakers included David Wesson of the Wesson Oil and Snowdrift Company, I. G. Priest of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, M. H. Ittner of Colgate and Company, Charles H. Herty, head of the Chemical Foundation. Altogether there were seven addresses besides the committee and group reports.

WANTED: 1927 ISSUES

Any member of the Society who can supply the May and July issues of Oil & Fat Industries in 1927 is asked to communicate with the American Oil Chemists' Society at 35 E. Wacker drive, Chicago 1, Ill.

For his 11 years of service as Journal editor H. L. Roschen was given matching luggage and brief case at the 22nd annual fall meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society on November 17, 1948 in New York City. Presentation was made by C. P. Long, president, who also paid tribute to the contribution made to the Society by Swift and Company, where Mr. Roschen has been a research chemist since 1926. He was editor from August 1937 to May 1948.



Conservation of Whales Urged by Chemist at New York Meeting

PREDICTING that whaling products will disappear entirely unless something is done by way of providing synthetic substitutes to some extent, Marston Taylor Bogert spoke briefly before the dinner meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, on November 16. He is professor emeritus of chemistry of Columbia University and former president of the American Chemical Society. His address is given in full below.

Following him on the program was Wallace P. Cohoe, former president of the Society of Chemical Industries, who gave a short, witty talk on chemists, their mental equipment and resources. He suggested humorously that chemists would profit greatly by going back to the eighth grade so as to acquire the power of explanation. As for himself, he said he intended to write a book in the manner of Shakespeare, indicating the tragedy and comedy of chemistry. In closing, he read a little poem that brought down the house with applause.

Life is real, life is earnest,
And the shell is not its pen.
Egg thou art, to egg returnest
Was not written of a hen.

In the world's wide field of battle,
In the barnyard of your life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle,
Be a rooster in the strife.

Lives of roosters all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us,
Hen tracks on the sands of time.

Hen tracks that perhaps another,
Standing drooping in the rain,
Some forlorn and hen-pecked brother
Seeing, may yet crow again.

—Attributed to
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

RECENTLY interest has been reawakened in the vitally important problems of the conservation of our natural resources, animate and inanimate, a field in which this Association can be of service in many directions. This renewed interest is manifest in manifold ways, as, witness the overwhelming demand for Fairfield Osborn's splendid book on



With the Nacconol foam blanket of National Aniline as background C. E. McGinn (left) and L. F. Hoyt (right) talk over convention with H. C. Bennett of the Los Angeles Soap Company during the fall meeting in New York in November.



Honored guests at the speaker's table during the banquet of the American Oil Chemists' Society on November 16, 1948, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, are (left to right): C. P. Long, president of the Society; Marston T. Bogert, speaker; Wallace P. Cohoe, speaker; and Foster D. Snell, convention chairman.

"Our Plundered Planet" and the recent Public Forum on the "Conservation of our Natural Resources," conducted in this city by the *New York Herald Tribune*, at which Bernard Baruch was the opening keynoter. At the recent Centennial celebration of the American Association for the Advancement of Science an evening session was devoted to the topic, "What Hope for Man?" Even the government in Washington is recognizing the fact that here is a problem that is not merely national but also is tremendously important to the one world in which we all live.

One of the many directions in which you should be interested, and where your cooperation is needed urgently, is in protecting and preserving from extermination our fast-vanishing supply of whales, the source of whale oil, whale meat, sperm oil, spermaceti, fertilizer, ambergris, and a host of other useful products derived from these raw materials.

To give you some idea of the rate at which this portion of our inheritance is being squandered, figures issued by the Committee for International Whaling Statistics show that in 1937-38 54,664 whales [sperm whales (cachalot), right whales, bowheads, humpbacks, finbacks, and blue whales] were killed; 46,039 of these in Antarctic waters, the last retreat of these great mammals, the largest creatures which have ever lived upon this planet of ours. The number of whales killed in all waters, between 1919 and 1938, inclusive, amounts to the staggering total of 543,622; and the record of oil production for a somewhat longer period, that is, from 1909-1938, amounts to 40,257,700 50-gal. bbls. In 1938-39 at least 12,500 men, with 34 floating factories, of individual registered tonnages up to 30,000 and 281 whale-catchers were operating in Antarctic waters in addition to two shore stations.

Beside the usual commercial products the whale supplies, the amount of flesh and blood now being taken from the sea by whaling operations is stupendous. The average length of the blue whales killed in the decade ending in 1938 was, according to Robert Cushman Murphy of our American Museum of Natural History, about 82 feet, and the carcass would weigh approximately 80 tons, which as he points out, would be equivalent to some 20 male African elephants, or approximately 1,000 human beings.

Finally it became obvious to the most indifferent that, unless the slaughter ceased, this important source of valuable raw materials would be completely wiped out in a few more years. A conference was held therefore in Washington, December 2, 1946, and a "Protocol for the Regulation of Whaling" drawn up and signed by the interested nations by which the catching period for pelagic operations in the Antarctic in the season of 1947-48 was fixed as December 8, 1947, to April 7, 1948, and the pelagic catch was limited to 16,000 blue whale units.

Finally it was provided that, in the event of this annual quota being reached before April 7, the International Bureau for Whaling Statistics should, on the basis of the weekly reports from the various pelagic expeditions, fix the date on which the annual quota of blue whale units should be deemed to have been reached and to notify each contracting government of that date not less than two weeks in advance thereof.

The duty of sending in weekly reports within two days after the end of each calendar week during the whole season has been observed by all the contracting governments with but one exception, the Russian reports being generally from one to three weeks late.

By the beginning of last March it was becoming increasingly evident that the agreed quota would be reached before April 7, 1948, and the closing date was set therefore as 12 noon, March 31.

According to the telegraphic reports from the various pelagic expeditions, the total catch at the close of the season amounted to 16,302 blue whale units, one blue whale being taken as equivalent to two finbacks, two and one-half humpbacks, or six sei-whales. Actually the total number of whales killed amounted to 31,179, divided as follows: blue = 6,876; finbacks = 21,049; sei = 621; humpbacks = 24; sperm = 2,609. The products were: whale oil = 1,965,395 bbls. (50 gal.) and sperm oil = 135,640 bbl., from 17 floating factories and 184 catchers. In the 1946-47 season the Japs also produced 22,166 tons of meat and blubber. The expeditions operating in the Antarctic field in 1947-48 were Norwegian, 9; British, 4; Dutch, 1; Japanese, 2; Russian, 1; Argentinian, 1. The total number of whales killed in the seasons 1933-4 to 1946-7, both inclusive, was 252,600.

Well, the chemist to the rescue! How can you help? Now that we can synthesize glycerol and fatty acids from hydrocarbons, it should be possible to prepare tailor-made fats and waxes of a quality and at a price with which whale oils cannot compete. In the contest between the synthetic and the natural product the synthetic is invariably the winner since the cost of the natural product steadily increases with the increasing cost of labor and material, whereas that of the synthetic steadily falls as yield and purity of product rise and cheaper initial materials become available.

My own interest in the subject of conservation goes back just 40 years when, on the invitation of President Theodore Roosevelt, I was a member of the National Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources, which assembled in the east room of the White House, May 13-15, 1908, and to which were invited the governors of all our states and territories, members of the cabinet, senators and representatives of the 60th Congress, justices of the U. S. Supreme Court, the presidents of a few important national scientific societies concerned with problems in this field (Am. Chem. Soc.), the Inland Waterways Commission, which suggested the conference, and certain distinguished speakers (Andrew Carnegie, James J. Hill, and others).

REFEREE APPLICATION

APPLICATION FOR REFEREE CERTIFICATE. (*Second Notice*). J. P. Henry, Iowa Testing Laboratories, Waterloo, Iowa, has applied for Referee Certificate on fatty oils and on oil-cake and meal. Information from any member of the American Oil Chemists' Society on the qualifications of this applicant will be gladly received by the Referee Board and may be addressed to A. S. Richardson, M. A. & R. Bldg., Ivorydale 17, Ohio.

WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION, Madison, Wis., has made new progress in insecticidal research and testing since the recent opening of the insecticide testing laboratory.