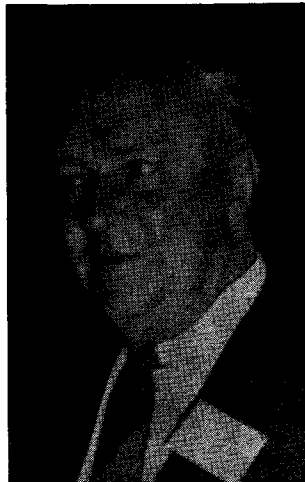


Relationship of the N.C.P.A. to the A.O.C.S.

THE year 1909 marks an epoch in the history of the cottonseed industry. For it was in that year the Inter-State Cottonseed Crusher's Association, predecessor of the National Cottonseed Products Association, recognized the importance of applying chemistry to the solution of many of its technical problems. At the convention held in Memphis, Tennessee, in May, 1909, the Association amended its by-laws to provide for the appointment of "five well known and competent chemists" as a Chemists' Committee whose duties shall consist of recommending, to the Rules Committee for adoption, official methods of analysis to be used by the Official Chemists of the Association. This by-law does now and has for some years required that the members of the Chemists' Committee must be members of the American Oil Chemists' Society. Two of the original appointees are still active members of this committee.



E. R. Barrow

It was also in the year 1909 at this same meeting that some 20 chemists identified with the cottonseed industry met informally and decided to organize a professional society to be known as the Society of Cotton Products Analysts (forerunner of the American Oil Chemists' Society). The organization of this society was perfected the next year at the time of the annual meeting of the Inter-State Cottonseed Crusher's Association.

A charter and by-laws were adopted. For a number of years the two organizations met at about the same time and in the same city. Truly it can be said that the American Oil Chemists' Society is an offspring of the cottonseed industry. For it was the recognition that the processing of cottonseed and its products involved many technical problems requiring the skill and knowledge of trained chemists which led to increased demand for such services.

Several of the charter members of the Society are still active and are regular attendants at its annual meetings, namely, Felix Paquin, venerable first president, besides E. R. Barrow, G. Worthen Agee, and T. C. Law, all former presidents.

In the beginning the Chemists' Committee gathered together and published the few available methods pertaining to cottonseed products. They occupied a space of two pages in the Rule Book whereas the Chemists' section now occupies more than 50 pages. For many years the Chemists' Committee directed and participated in the cooperative work necessary to bring about changes and improvement in the methods. In this cooperative work it was assisted by other collaborators. Its most notable achievement was made through a different approach, directed by C. B. Cluff in the Procter and Gamble laboratory, and resulted in a complete revision and re-writing of the refining procedure. This method, with a few minor changes, has remained as originally written and is used as the basis of determining values of vegetable oils involving millions of dollars.

The early growth and development of the Society of Cotton Products Analysts was slow. In 1920 the Society changed its name to American Oil Chemists' Society, adopted a new constitution, and offered membership to all chemists interested in fats and oils. From that time on its growth in membership was rapid. The development of its technical committees and their intensive studies of many of the problems of standardization, improvement in technique, and development of new methods have been outstanding.

THE thorough work of these splendid technical committees precluded the necessity for much of the cooperative work formerly performed by the Chemists' Committee. As a further safeguard in the adoption of new methods or changes in old ones the Society has a Uniform Methods Committee, which carefully reviews all recommendations of special committees and approves only such changes as might add to the high standing of the A.O.C.S. methods.

The chairman of the N.C.P.A. Chemists' Committee has always been a member of the Uniform Methods Committee. The National Cottonseed Products Association not only enjoys the advice and counsel of its Chemists' Committee in all technical matters but also has the benefit of the talent and skill of the ablest men in the entire oil and fat industry operating through the technical committees of the American Oil Chemists' Society.

The rules of the National Cottonseed Products Association provide for an elaborate system of arbitration and settlement of quality differences on products which require the certification of Official Chemists to serve the members of the Association. The important function of establishing qualifications and of maintaining a constant check-up on all Official Chemists has been delegated to the A.O.C.S. Referee Examining Board. Each applicant is required to meet very rigid requirements as to educational background, experience, etc., and in addition thereto is required to participate annually in a series of check samples of the different products on which certification is requested. Grades on these check sample series determine the fitness of the applicant and may result in the cancellation of certificate. No better safeguard could be devised to protect transactions of great magnitude requiring determination of values by chemical analysis.

With a membership of over 2,000 The American Oil Chemists' Society, offspring of the cottonseed industry, has far outgrown its parent and continues to supply a valuable service.

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