

## Retiring Treasurer Comments on Growth of Society

INDIVIDUALS, industries, and organizations must concern themselves with the financial situation as it arises from time to time, and this fact applies also to the American Oil Chemists' Society. When the Society was formed in 1909 as the Cotton Products Analysts, its membership was small, and during the next 15 or 20 years the increase was nominal. An attendance at the annual meeting of 40 or 50 members was considered very good. Most of the papers delivered consisted of reports of committees, the members of which then, as now, served voluntarily.



**J. J. Vollertsen**

Among the officers the one who shouldered most of the work was the secretary-treasurer, who also served without remuneration. Supplies, at first, were handled by various members, later by the secretary-treasurer. Although dues, which have always been low in our organization, constituted practically the sole source of revenue, expenses were small, and it was possible to accumulate a small surplus which was invested in mortgage bonds or kept in banks.

During the great depression, when banks closed their doors and all sorts of bonds were defaulted, our surplus was practically dissipated. To avoid a recurrence of this situation, when the new constitution was adopted in 1948, it was made mandatory upon the treasurer to invest all surplus funds in U. S. Government securities only. Likewise bank deposits in any one bank were not to exceed the maximum amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In the early days the Society had no publication of its own. Reports and papers, such as they were, appeared in a section of the Cotton Oil Press with no outlay of money on the part of the Society. Our first publication, the Journal of Oil and Fat Industries, started in 1924. With the advent of the fall meeting in 1927 the Society attracted men in fields of fat and oil technology outside of the cottonseed oil industry. Thus began a rapid growth of the Society and the need for a central office and salaried employees.

The journal, Oil & Soap, was launched in 1932. The publishers were willing to print the journal without cost to us, provided they could retain all profits from the advertising. After several years the Society undertook to publish its own journal, which is the well-known Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society of today. We are largely dependent upon the returns from the advertising and subscriptions to keep the Society's income at least equal to expenses.

A special committee on finances has been appointed to assist and advise the treasurer and executive secretary and to make recommendations to the Governing Board as required.

J. J. VOLLERTSEN, Treasurer  
C. E. MORRIS, Chairman  
Special Committee on Finance

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### Statement of Equity

Adjusted Balance January 1, 1952.....	\$45,887.46	
Excess of income over expenses for the year ending December 31, 1952.....	<u>4,957.98</u>	
		\$50,845.44

At the end of the year cash on hand and in banks amounted to \$17,313; accounts receivable \$2,113; inventories of supplies and methods \$12,162; and investments \$40,150. The investments are almost entirely in U. S. Government securities. Almost three-fourths of the Society's assets are represented by cash and government securities, and accordingly our financial position, as heretofore, remains extremely healthy.

Operations for the year ending December 31, 1952, resulted in an increase in the Society's net worth of slightly under \$5,000. The financial results of the year's operation were therefore quite comparable to those of the previous year when the increase in net worth on an over-all basis amounted to \$5,415. We experienced a gratifying increase in advertising revenues of approximately 23%. In common with the experience of most business operations however publication costs also showed an increase for the year.

Although there are, of course, many uncertainties in the period ahead, we know of no reasons why the financial results of the Society's fiscal year should not be reasonably satisfactory.

J. J. VOLLERTSEN, Treasurer