

The 40th Anniversary of the Smalley Committee

THIS YEAR COMMEMORATES the 40th anniversary of the Smalley check sample series of the American Oil Chemists' Society. In 1918 Frank Smalley conceived the idea of distributing check samples of cottonseed meal to chemists so that one could compare his results with fellow chemists.

One of the earliest committee sponsors was T. C. Law of Law and Company, followed by H. C. Moore of the Armour Fertilizer Works in Atlanta. J. J. Vollertsen acted as chairman for many years, and A. W. Putland, I believe, acted as chairman for one year. The writer has been chairman for 12 years and has had the privilege of seeing a phenomenal growth both in the scope of the committee's activities and in the number of collaborators participating in its program.



R. W. Bates

The Meal Series (the original Smalley activity) now has 134 collaborators. Geographically this participation stretches from Hull, Quebec, to Vancouver, B. C., throughout the United States, with one collaborator in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and one in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The table below shows the enormous scope of the committee's activities on this, the 40th Anniversary of its conception.

	Number of collaborators	Number of samples	Number of defns per sample
Cottonseed.....	57	10	6
Soybeans.....	37	10	2
Peanuts.....	12	7	5
Meal.....	134	15	3-4 ^a
Vegetable oils.....	96	6	3
Tallow and grease.....	90	5	7
Glycerine.....	23	5	5-3 ^b
Drying oils.....	17	6	5
Edible fats.....	56	5	14

^a Many report crude fiber.
^b Depending on type of product.

There are 38 members on the various subcommittees, most of whom devote a considerable amount of their time to the work.

Costs involving supplies, preparation, and distribution have risen in recent years. The gross revenue is adjusted to cover the expenditures. This value today runs close to \$6,000 per year. It is not the aim of the committee to produce any net income for the Society.

AWARDS FOR PROFICIENCY are given once a year at the annual meeting of the Society. The writer feels very strongly that the issuance of these certificates has helped greatly to stimulate interest and participation although they have no bearing whatever on the benefits derived. However based upon the progress made throughout the years, we believe it would be quite hazardous to consider dropping this tradition. No other organization has such an extensive program. The proficiency grades serve, in part, as a source of information for the Examination Board (formerly Referee Board) in the discharge of its duties. In general, the accuracy (or agreement) of the results has improved greatly each year.

Grading systems have been established in all series. Some of these are statistical, some are based on simple variance from the mean or median, using established tolerances. Some series seem to lend themselves to statistical treatment more readily than others. It is hoped that a uniform grading system may sometime be established, but the writer is is not too optimistic on this point.

The present membership of the committee (and subcommittees) is a matter of current record, but the writer would like to acknowledge committee indebtedness to several individuals who are no longer committee members but who have contributed considerable effort in its behalf. These include C. P. Long, A. S. Richardson, B. N. Rockwood, and F. G. Dollear. The late A. E. Bailey was many times a source of comfort and information in our activities.

We believe that if Dr. Smalley were alive today, he would be pleased, and possibly pleasantly surprised, at the growth of the seed he planted 40 years ago.

R. W. BATES
 chairman, Smalley Committee