

The Journal's First Editor Reviews the Past . .

When He Predicted the Present

THE JOURNAL of the American Oil Chemists' Society had a nomadic early life. It originated in 1917 as the Chemists' Section of the Cotton Oil Press, which was the official monthly bulletin of the Interstate Cottonseed Crushers' Association. There were few original papers in those early issues. The Chemists' Section was largely reports by the committees of the Society of Cotton Products Analysts, which was the first name of the A.O.C.S. L. M. Tolman headed the Oil Consultants Committee; David Wesson the Color of Oil and Meal Committee; C. P. Long headed Soap Stock; Refining Test was headed by H. J. Morrison; Soybean Oil Refining by H. P. Trevithick; Cotton Oil Refining by Worthen Agee; Oil Sampling by R. W. Perry; Ammonia by J. W. Malowan. Most interesting of all was F. N. Smalley's report on Co-operative Analytical work; that was the beginning of the Smalley Foundation.

In 1922 Mr. Geldert, manager of the Cotton Oil Press, began to furnish reprints of articles to authors who wanted them; this helped materially in securing good papers, especially from non-members. The Society is greatly indebted to Mr. Geldert, for without his generosity and personal advice there could hardly have been a Chemists' Section.

The annual report by the editor of the Chemists' Section in June 1922 noted that the section totalled 120 pages for the year and that there were 43 contributors; 20 of these had not published articles before. The report says: "The time is coming when, if the Oil Chemists are to be anything more than the Cotton Products Analysts, we must have a journal of our own . . the time has not yet arrived but is in the dawning, and we should be turning our eyes toward the coming of that day when in reality we will be the American Oil Chemists' Society."

It appears from the record that in those early days there was some difficulty in getting enough material to fill the eight pages of the

Chemists' Section, for the editor authored four of the nine articles in the February issue.

It was not until the Society had its own magazine, the Journal of Oil & Fat Industries, beginning July 1924, that many papers on original scientific work were submitted for publication. In the Vol. I, No. 1 issue, President H. B. Battle's governing committee's re-



Herbert S. Bailey

port proposed that the Journal be issued quarterly; that it consist of 32 pages exclusive of advertising; that 500 copies be printed; and that non-members be charged \$2.50 per year for it. It was printed and mailed by the Eschenbach Printing Company of Easton, Pa., who were then printing the Journal of the American Chemical Society. The total cost to our Society was estimated as \$600 a year. However, the treasurer's report, by T. B. Caldwell in the July 1925 issue, showed Journal expense as \$925.02 and receipts only \$579.27.

The editor's report on the first year of the new journal, April 1925, says: "The J. O. & F. I. emerged from the chrysalis stage with the July 1925 issue. At that time it metamorphosed from the Chemists'

Section of the Cotton Oil Press and took unto itself a garb more becoming its dignity as the official organ of the American Oil Chemists' Society." The first volume consisted of only two numbers. Its managing editor was Fred H. Smith of the Georgia Experimental Station. Without his tireless efforts to secure advertising the Journal would have been further in the red. The editor in his report expresses his indebtedness to his assistant, Louise MacDonald, now Mrs. Millar of Savannah, Ga., as follows: "Without her loyal assistance the job of keeping things moving, when the editor was going to a new job on the West Coast, could not have been accomplished."

At that time there were only 325 subscribers, of which 13 were in England, 5 in Canada, and one or two in Australia, Denmark, Holland, Brazil, Mexico, India, South Africa, Norway, Haiti, and France.

My connection with the Society and the Journal ended with the October 1925 issue, before the name became Oil & Soap. The 1925 issue was the last number released as a quarterly, and printed by the Eschenbach Printing Company.

The editorial in this number states: "The publication of the Journal by our Society will cease with the October issue, but will continue under the same name by the Miller Freeman Company of New York, with the cooperation of this Society . . To C. B. Cluff and H. J. Morrison the Society is indebted for this arrangement which will give the members a monthly magazine, without any of the responsibility for its financing . . While they are standing all the expense and receiving any benefit there might be in advertising, etc., we will have very considerable control over the character of the papers to be printed."

The conclusion of this sketch of the early days of the Society and its Journal may, it seems to me, be ended with quotations from the last editorial by the first editor, which was headed "Bon Voyage."

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"One comes to look upon the printed page that issued from the press as he would upon the babe for whose birth there had been weeks of loving preparation. When, then, there is no more watching, planning, hoping, and fearing for the welfare of the infant, the feeling of relief from worry and work is not unmixed with a sense of loss and loneliness.

"That this is the mood of our splendid publisher is indicated by expressions in his recent letters. Mr. Mack says: 'At first I was very much disappointed to think my personal efforts had gone to build a journal for some one else, but after thinking the matter over I return to my old philosophical argument that good seed properly planted will some day be harvested. . . We have assisted in our small way, in the last twenty-five years, a number of scientific societies to build for themselves successful publications. The work and sacrifice contributed by many individuals in building these scientific journals has been an inspiration to us, and we have discovered that a printer can lose nothing by throwing all his energy and thought into assisting such individuals in building these monuments to science.'

"To Mr. Mack, President of the Eschenbach Printing Company, the editor wishes to make acknowledgment of the great debt he personally owes for continual assistance and untiring patience with one who was absolutely ignorant of all the things an editor should know. Without Mr. Mack's assistance, the cover of the Journal would never have come into being. He not only suggested the design but, when the funds of the Society would not quite stand the expense of the plate, generously donated it himself. We owe him a real debt, and one of the keenest regrets at the coming change is that, just at the time when the Journal was beginning to pay him some little profit, he is losing its printing.

"The opportunity is still yours to make the Journal of Oil & Fat Industries a publication which will rank with other journals of American scientific societies throughout the world."

HERBERT S. BAILEY
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MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE. Herbert Bailey, in the final words of his last editorial above as he wrote them nearly forty years ago, presented the Society with a challenge to make the Journal one that would hold its place throughout the world. He had the vision and the faith to present that goal to the Society at a time when the infant Journal appeared frail and sickly. He should be proud to see his hope fulfilled.

Mr. Bailey has generously acknowledged his gratitude to those individuals who, in the early 1920's, helped him keep the Journal alive. The Society today is also indebted to them; and most of all it is indebted to Herbert Bailey, the Journal's first editor, for his vision, his faith, and his hard work.

New Sargent Building to Stock 38,000 Items

E. H. Sargent and Company's new western division office-warehouse has opened in Anaheim, California. Special feature of the western division headquarters will be a complete demonstration laboratory staffed by experienced technical personnel. The lab will have various complex types of instruments and equipment set up for immediate demonstration.

28th Exposition of Chemical Industries

The New York Coliseum will hold the Exposition of Chemical Industries from November 27 to December 1 this year. The 535 displays of materials, equipment, and supplies for all phases of chemical processing will make this the largest of these expositions ever held.

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