

bait is usually so apparent that it would seem no one would bite—and yet some always do. The losses are pocketed, and shame and regret serve as cloaks to conceal the rawness of the deal.

At present chemical industry is afflicted with a transfer of such activities to its field. The mails are being flooded with literature, even the daily papers are yielding their advertising columns to the announcement of get-rich-quick chemical processes whose impossibilities are too apparent ever to delude chemists. There are those, however, to whom it does not occur to turn to a chemist for advice before investing in a so-called chemical enterprise.

Here is an opportunity for public service which the chemist must embrace, a service of exposure due the public and due the continued healthy growth of chemical industry. We may have something more specific to say on this matter in a later issue if, meanwhile, the duly constituted authorities have not dispersed these money sharks, here dignified by the term "camp followers."

ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE DYESTUFF INDUSTRY

Efforts made during the past two months to organize the dyestuff industry developed the fact that two distinct interests were involved, the manufacturers and the dealers. At the preliminary meeting it was evident that a strong desire existed among the manufacturers to confine the membership to this class alone, but a compromise was effected whereby the dealers were admitted to associate membership without voting power. Thinking it over, the manufacturers decided that this policy was not sound and that the membership should be confined to manufacturers. The second meeting, held on March 6, developed a most unusual situation, the dealers insisting that they be included in the organization, while the manufacturers said, "Nay, nay." Of course the manufacturers' fight was won from the outset. No one could compel them to be part of an organization whose composition was not to their liking.

Unfortunately for the dealers the two main arguments put forward in behalf of their contention were neither good strategy nor popular propaganda. First, the plea for general harmony implied that, lacking such harmony, the dealers would be forced into Teutonic arms after the war is over, a position no body of loyal Americans could contemplate at the present time with any degree of satisfaction on the one part or admiration on the other. Second, the threat that, unless admitted, the dealers might as a safeguard to their own interest oppose before Congress a tariff sufficiently high to protect the American against the German industry was so amazing that it suggested that, although some of the leading dealers may not have been conscious of the fact, German agents may have been the real promoters of this argument. The joke is that those who put forward the latter argument failed to realize the fact as we see it that sentiment in Congress favoring the

thorough guarding of the American dyestuff interest exceeds even that of the country at large, for Congress has fully grasped the idea that the dyestuff industry is not only an economic necessity as a key industry, but, more important still, that it constitutes an invaluable reserve for high explosives manufacture.

Perhaps, after all, these arguments were simply childishness.

WOOD WASTE

In this issue we have segregated a number of contributions dealing with wood as the raw material of certain lines of chemical industry. The topic is especially timely in view of the need of acetic acid for the aviation program, spruce turpentine for munitions, and paper for the daily chroniclers of the stirring events of the war.

There is now in progress within the organization of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY a campaign for the constant discussion of national wastes, and the subject of wood waste is certainly a preëminently suitable topic. According to A. D. Little, "two-thirds of the tree is at present wasted either as litter in the field or as mill waste." According to the same authority 6.48 per cent of the tree is stump, the name carrying with it the idea of sheer waste.

Is it too great a tax upon the imagination to conceive a vision of the mounting financial liabilities of this war converted into actual assets through the focussing of the thought and attention of chemists upon the subject of national wastes? By no means.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In the March issue of THIS JOURNAL, page 237, there was published a communication from J. R. Healy, Federal Licensing Agent for Greater New York, regarding "Licenses Required for Explosives and Their Ingredients." Mr. Healy pointed out the necessity, under the recent Act of Congress, of securing licenses from the Bureau of Mines or authorized agents and gave a list of explosives and ingredients of explosives requiring license, the latter when purchased in amounts of one ounce or more.

We are informed by dealers that many orders for these products, especially the ingredients of explosives, are being received without license attached. Endless trouble is therefore accumulating for all concerned. For this reason we urge upon all who are responsible for the ordering of chemicals a careful reading of the notice in the March issue.

To those who have been accustomed to order potassium chlorate, lead nitrate, etc., without any thought save the cost of the article, the trouble involved in securing licenses may seem like a further evidence of red tape, but chemists above all others will at once recognize the absolute necessity of such a law at this time.

If explosives or ingredients of explosives are to be purchased licenses must be secured.