

Gas Cos. Aid Dye Development

Bradford Association Seeks Co-Operation of British Alkali Concerns to Extend Industry.

A striking view of the great development of the dye industry under war conditions, was given at the annual meeting of the Bradford Dyers' Association by Milton S. Sharp, chairman of the board of directors.

In citing the need for co-operative action in Great Britain, Mr. Sharp pointed out that all the German color and chemical works and allied branches of trade had been combined in one organization, with a capital of £57,000,000. In the United States, he added, £35,000,000 had been invested in the dye industry. To meet the competition certain to come, he advocated aid by the British Government and co-operation on the part of the great gas and alkali companies.

In part, Mr. Sharp said:

"It will be within your recollection that at our last two meetings I devoted the greater part of my address to an earnest endeavor to bring home a lesson which has been taught so vividly by the war—namely, that the plainest dictates of sound policy, viewed from the highest, that is, the national, standpoint require and demand the establishment of the aniline dye industry in this country. I may be thought to be rather obsessed by my own sense of the greatness and importance of this subject, but a recently published book entitled 'Deductions from the World War,' written by Lieutenant General Baran Feytag-Loringhoven, of the German Imperial Staff, shows that so far from having exaggerated the part played in this war by the great German color works, I probably greatly underestimate it. He says: 'Altogether, this war, as a result of the development of modern technical science, has led to inventions and improvements such as no war has ever witnessed. It will always redound to the special glory of German industry, and, above all, of Germany's chemical industry, that in this sphere it engaged in and carried through a struggle against the industry of the whole world.'

"The earlier and the close consideration of the question by the British Government has no doubt been sacrificed to even more important matters, but we are officially informed that the War Cabinet has now determined its policy, which we understand will shortly be announced in Parliament. We can only hope that this will show a statesmanlike insight into existing conditions, and that their proposals will be such as will command general approval. Even yet I doubt whether there is adequate appreciation of the magnitude of the problem or of the powerful and stupendous organization in Germany with which we have to contend. All the German color and chemical works, and many ancillary businesses are now embraced in one huge organization with a working capital approaching £50,000,000, and only recently this was increased by another £7,000,000, which it is stated will not suffice for the outlay on new plant, and that their Government will again have to provide assistance; and when I tell you that since the outbreak of war £35,000,000 is said to have been embarked in the establishment of the industry in the United States of America, you will realize that it would be a mere pretense and deceit to imagine that what we have done is even nearly sufficient.

"Indeed, it seems to me, looking at the enormous resources of the German industry, that we can only hope successfully to contend against it within a reasonable time by invoking the aid of the great alkali and gas companies, many of whose productions are so vital to color production. With the wholehearted co-operation of such powerful organizations as Brunner Mond's, Castner Kellner's, the United Alkali Company, the Gas, Light & Coke Company, the South Metropolitan Gas Company and others, the difficulty of securing the necessary financial strength would disappear, and color makers would be left free to utilize all the capital they can command for what is their proper field of activity—the production of colors. But what we need above all is something of that impelling force which we have seen in the production of high explosives and other munitions of war. The position would have been incalculably different to-day had it been recognized by the Government three and a half years ago that the dye industry is essentially a war industry, and its establishment undertaken by a like authority side by side with the manufacture of high explosives, so nearly akin in nature and origin to aniline dyes.

"But, I must make clear, I am not one of those who belittle what has been done by British color makers, who have done great things already. In every direction solid and substantial progress has been made which gives much ground for thankfulness and hope, and when we recognize that they were faced with problems almost oppressively vast, and with what appeared at first sight a hopeless enterprise, namely, the replacement of at least 80 per cent. of the aniline dyes used in this country, aided only by most inadequate resources and without any co-ordination of effort, the surprise is that they have done so well. Very much more, however, remains to be done, as no proposition is more undeniably true than that unless after the war the textile trades of this country can be given colors as good, as cheap and in as great variety as Germany can supply the inevitable consequence must be that our export of textiles will be placed in serious peril.

"The extent of this will be best appreciated by looking at our exports of dyed and printed textiles and tissues, which in 1913—the last complete pre-war year—amounted to a value of considerably over £100,000,000. In such exports we have to face the competition of the world, against which we must be alive to and prevent any danger from threatening our ability to contend successfully. What has been done to make us independent of German colors is valuable so far as it goes, but it does not go nearly far enough for the purpose, and it is of vital importance that there should be the utmost celerity in covering the whole field. In this a grave responsibility rests upon the Government as the textile trades alone give sustenance to probably not less than five millions of our population, employing as they do more than one and a half million work people, the larger part of whom are dependent on dyeing and printing, and it is inconceivable that the Government should fail to protect the livelihood of such a large percentage of our population by allowing any situation to arise in regard to aniline dyes which would be materially detrimental to the strength and stability of our great textile trade. No matter how effectually and extensively Government aid is applied, there is another factor of the utmost value and importance—that is, our attitude as color users to British makers. By our sympathy and help we can make the way to the desired end shorter, surer, smoother, and by aiding their efforts to the utmost of our power we shall hasten the day when our great textile industries will be free from dependence on Germany and at the same time be assisting in building up for our country a solid insurance against future war.

UNITY OF EFFORT NEEDED.

"Unquestionably one of the greatest stumbling blocks in the way of progress has been the entire absence of unity of effort. If Germany, already possessing by far the most powerful and highly organized chemical and color industry in the world, has felt the need for complete co-operation and co-ordination, how incomparably more urgent is the need for it here, where we had to begin from almost nothing. Then, look at what amalgamation of the various interests in the United States has already achieved; the growth of the American dye industry has truly been little short of marvellous. In the years before the war the average annual value of imported colors was \$10,000,000, but the progress of the industry in that country has been so great that during the ten months ended in October last the export of dyes reached a total value of \$1,500,000, and we are indebted to the United States for colors which up to now are not produced in this country. From the first month of the war your directors have never ceased to urge upon British color makers the vital importance of unity of effort, but for three and a half years we have been distressed by a complete absence of that spirit of mutual helpfulness by which alone the end in view can be attained; instead of this we have seen jealousies and strife disloyal to the national interests. Had there been from August, 1914, unity and concord among British dye-makers, in spite of all the difficulties and even without Government help, we should by now have secured a vastly more varied production, and I venture to make one more appeal to those concerned to act in

unison and to put every consideration in subordination to the national interests.

"I have seen so much of Germany that I think I know the German mind and heart, and I am confident that immediately peace is declared we shall be overwhelmed by German agents determined by any means and at any cost to recover their position in this country. When that time comes I trust there will be no user of dyes who will fail to remember that every pound of German dye he buys will strengthen an organization which incomparably more than any other has been used by the German Government for the production of those means by which it has broken all the bounds prescribed and recognized by civilized States for the conduct of war; also, the debt we owe to British and Swiss color makers for ability to carry on during the years of war; and that, this war having conclusively demonstrated that the establishment of the aniline dye industry in this country is essential to national safety, patriotism demands that those of us who have the power should use it to the very utmost to that end; but I would not for a moment have you think that I am an advocate of 'war after the war.' I wish to see a clean peace, and what I have said is dictated by what I most firmly believe is sound policy and not in the least degree by rancor.

"In the 'Board of Trade Journal,' dated February 14, appeared a paragraph urging greater co-operation between the different sections of the textile industry, with a view to developing overseas trade. You will, I am sure, be pleased to learn that in spite of severe handicaps we have been working on these lines, with the object of creating new types of textiles to replace foreign productions, particularly those of the present enemy countries, and there is little doubt that this will eventually lead to the founding of a home and export trade of important dimensions. Some of these productions are the results of experiments extending over a period of years, and are sure to prove of benefit to spinners, manufacturers and merchants, in addition to providing work for the occupation of our own machinery.

"As you know, we have a works in enemy territory. Beyond the fact that it was recently offered for sale by the German Government we have no information whatever about it, but you will be glad to have the assurance that we have made what we believe is ample provision against possible loss."

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL CENSUS.

The census of the manufactures of Canada taken in 1916 for the calendar year 1915 just issued shows a general expansion in the manufacturing business of the Dominion. The number of establishments in operation was 21,306, representing an invested capital of \$1,994,103,272, employing 52,683 persons on salaries and 462,200 on wages, and producing goods to the value of \$1,407,137,140 from raw material, valued at \$802,135,862.

During the decade 1905-1915 the number of establishments increased by approximately 34 per cent; capital, 135 per cent; employees on salaries, 44 per cent; employees on wages, 29 per cent; salaries, 96 per cent; wages, 70 per cent; and the value of products, 95 per cent.

The value of the products of factories in 1915 was \$1,407,137,140, as compared with \$718,352,803 in 1905, while wages paid totaled \$229,456,210, an increase of \$95,080,285.

There were in Canada during the year covered by the statistics 65 establishments employing over 500 hands, 25 employing over 1,000, 9 employing over 2,000, 5 over 3,000, and 3 over 4,000. Of these 3 establishments, 2 employed over 5,000 hands.

During the five-year period 1910 to 1915 the capitalization of Canadian industrial enterprises increased by \$745,520,863, or about 60 per cent.

SUCCESS.

Success maybe be likened to an engine — boilers fired by Ambition, pistons driven by Energy, and at the throttles, Engineers, Honesty, Perseverance and Pluck.—Mutual Life Points.