

COLLECTIVE NUMERICAL PATENT INDEX

to
Volumes 31-40 of
**CHEMICAL
ABSTRACTS**

- Contains more than 143,000 entries; classified by countries in numerical order.
- Index references give volume, page and location of patent abstract in **CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS**.
- Classification by patent number is an enormous timesaver.
- Cloth bound, 182 pages, 7½" x 10" overall, 8 columns of listings per page covering all patents abstracted in **CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS** from 1937-46, inclusive.

PRICE \$6.50 POSTPAID

Send orders and inquiries to:

Special Publications Department
American Chemical Society
1155 Sixteenth St., N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Caution in advance purchases of pesticides . . . Fertilizers seasonally quiet; active buying in ammonium nitrate

BUSINESS IN AGRICULTURAL insecticides is not shaping up this year as satisfactorily as indicated a few months ago. After the disappointing 1952 season which resulted from drought which, in turn, sharply curtailed the use of pesticides, it had been expected that marketing of these products might return to a more normal pattern.

Manufacturers report that dealers, mixers, and consumers generally are still averse to buying their requirements in advance. With last year's experience still fresh in their minds, buyers are proceeding with caution in ordering pesticide materials, if producers are correct.

Conditions in the cotton-growing states evidently are none too satisfactory for the pesticide manufacturer this year so far, although there were signs of increased infestation of weevils and other cotton pests earlier this year. There have been flash rains in parts of the belt rather than periods of wet weather, and dry spots are showing in a number of areas.

Prices Unchanged

A good deal of variation is shown in manufacturers' quotations for cotton insecticides, but generally they have not changed greatly during the past few weeks. Benzene hexachloride is being held at around 8½ cents per gamma unit, and the DDT price to formulators evidently is maintained at the carlot basis of 23 cents per pound. Demands in the cotton country are led, it appears, by combinations of DDT and benzene HEX, and by toxaphene dusts and liquid.

Supplies on the whole are ample to meet demand, and in saying this, market factors are hoping that entire seasonal requirements will not be dumped upon them, should infestation become critical. One manufacturer who earlier said his supply of 10% gamma BHC spray powder was short now reports adequate stocks.

Emulsifiable concentrates of gamma BHC and DDT are adequate for cotton demands. The Army worm and horn worm this year are being fought with BHC, toxaphene, and other materials.

Contract Prices Higher

Fertilizer industry is now entering the slowest period of the year, and it is unlikely that any worthwhile activity will be witnessed until September or October,

when plans are made for the new spring season. And as previously reported, prices in contracts dating from July 1 will be higher for superphosphate, ammonium sulfate urea, and some other nitrogen products.

We have also witnessed some active buying in ammonium nitrate on part of consuming interests who were seeking to place business in this material before July 1. As a result, there has been a reduction in available supplies. An exception to the trend is calcium cyanamide, prices for which were reduced for the new season just getting under way.

National Fertilizer Association recently issued figures which tend to support the charge that European ammonium sulfate is being sent to this market in quantities great enough to warrant official action. Imports of ammonium sulfate from July 1952 through February 1953 were 256,786 tons, or more than double the amount sent here during the corresponding period of 1951-52.

Importations of calcium cyanamide were almost double during the same period at 91,461 tons. Arrivals of potash salts on the other hand have been reduced substantially. The amount brought in during the July 1952-February 1953 period was 145,726 tons, as compared with 328,887 tons in the 1951-52 period.

Normal superphosphate prices are quoted at Baltimore over a three-cent range, some of the large manufacturers naming 88 cents and others 91 cents per unit of available phosphoric acid.

Better Profits on Food Enable Armour to Increase Earnings

Armour & Co. reports a decline in sales for the 13- and 26-week periods ending May 2, but earnings are substantially higher than those for the corresponding periods of last year.

For the 26 weeks, Armour showed a net income of \$5,634,252, equal to \$1.02 a share on the common stock. Net income a year ago was \$3,144,446 or 40 cents a common share.

Food operations accounted for \$976,663 of the 1953 net, while other operations produced \$4,657,589 in profit. This compared with the 1952 period result of \$9 million loss from food operations and a profit of over \$5 million from other operations.