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### Calspray Buys Assets Of Mid-State Chemicals Supply

California-Spray Chemical Corp. has announced the acquisition of assets of Mid-State Chemical Supply Co. in San Joaquin Valley of California. The line of fertilizer formerly sold by Mid-State will be a new venture for Calspray. About two thirds of Mid-State's business has been in fertilizer and the rest in pesticides.

Cliff Gay will be the branch manager at the former Lindsay office of Mid-State and Louis Grabe will be manager at Bakersfield.

### Frito Buys Two Texas Vegetable Oil Firms

Frito Co. of Dallas, Tex., has announced the purchase of Texas Vegetable Oil Co. and its subsidiary, Vegetable Oil Refining Co. Both of the vegetable oil companies are located in San Antonio, Tex. C. E. Doolin, president of Frito, was elected president of the two new firms after the acquisition. Amount of the purchase was not disclosed.

### Continental Can Buys Squeeze Bottle Manufacturer

Continental Can Co., in a step to round out its diversification in the packaging field, has announced the purchase

### Herbicides Field Day at Beltsville

One of the test plots inspected by Herbicide Producers on Herbicide Field Day at the USDA's Beltsville Experiment Station recently. This sugar beet plot was sprayed with six pounds of TCA and two pounds of Endothal to test pre-emergence herbicides. Annual grasses and broadleafed weeds were controlled for 45 days in the sprayed portion. On the right is the heavy infestation of weeds in the untreated area



### On The Cover

#### Progress in Food Preservation

**T**HE PRESERVATION OF food, so that mankind is freed from dependence on the annual harvest of the field, fruit of the orchard, and catch of the sea, was one of the most important discoveries in man's effort to attain a degree of freedom from, often-merciless nature. Since Appert first discovered the principle of canning, science has been able to apply it more efficiently, but the principle has gone almost unchanged.

In the 3500 canneries in the U. S., which turn out about 20 billion cans and jars of food annually at a \$4 billion retail value, modern scientists

and technologists apply their knowledge to maintaining product quality and improving container serviceability. In the frozen food industry, preparations are being made for a research program into the nutritional qualities of frozen foods.

Science has contributed new techniques to food preservation—frozen foods, dehydrated foods—and scientists are now talking much about supersonics, antibiotics, and ionizing radiations. Canning, however, remains as the most utilized method of preserving food

of all the outstanding stock of the Elmer E. Mills Corp., Chicago.

The Mills company, producer of plastic products including flexible bottles, tubes, and pipe and tubing, has one plant in Chicago which will continue to operate under the supervision of Mr. Mills.

### Chemical Enterprises Buys into Georgia Ammonia Distributor

Chemical Enterprises, Inc., has announced its plans to purchase a major interest in the Southeastern Liquid Fertilizer Co. of Albany, Ga., thus increasing its investment in the field of anhydrous ammonia distribution.

Chemical Enterprises has similar interests in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Its latest acquisition is the company's first venture in the southeast.

Chemical Enterprises is a joint venture of Lee Higginson Corp., investment bankers, and a group of chemical engineering consultants, including Singmaster & Breyer, C. O. Brown, and C. R. Downs.

### Foreign

#### British Ministry of Agriculture To Develop Research Institute

The British Ministry of Agriculture has announced plans to develop an independent agricultural research institute. The present British research facility at Cheshnut Experimental and Research Station which has been supported by the government is no longer adequate for a national research station and the site is not favorable for expansion.

The agricultural research Council has now acquired a 1000 acre tract in Sussex. The new institute will begin with the transfer of apparatus and personnel from the old station. However eventual plans call for the construction of a new and expanded research establishment.

#### British Find Amyl Alcohol Inhibits Potato Sprouting

The report of the British Food Investigation Board for 1952 contains a note on the use of amyl alcohol mists for the storage of potatoes. The British are investigating various cold storage techniques for the preservation of potatoes in commercial quantities. They report that sprouting was completely inhibited by storage at 10° C. in an atmosphere of 1 part per million of amyl alco-

hol vapor. They also say that commercial trails so far made under ordinary farm conditions without cooling, the addition of amyl alcohol to the atmosphere appreciably inhibited sprouting.

### Government

#### USDA Publishers Report on Uses for Fats and Oils

The Production and Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture this month published a report on uses of fats and oils in manufacture of detergents and emulsifiers.

The marketing report covers one phase of a study of possible ways of increasing the market outlets for inedible agricultural fats and oils. The utilization of these products by the soap industry has declined in recent years, while the sale of detergents as cleansers to replace soap has increased.

Some use has been made of tallow and grease in the manufacturing of detergents and the report observes that there might be an increased market here if the prices of fats and oils were sufficiently low.

Another potential market for fats is the field of emulsifiers. Nearly all emulsifiers now commercially available contain some derivatives of fats and oils. In addition, these fat derived emulsifiers are finding increasing use in the food industries, especially baking.

Copies of the report, "Detergents, Emulsifiers and Emulsion Products as Market Outlets for Fats and Oils," are available from the Office of Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Price, 20 cents.

#### Recently Appointed Grain Sanitation Committee Meets

The organization meeting of the Advisory Committee on Grain Sanitation was held in Washington, August 11. The members of the committee, appointed jointly by the Departments of Agriculture and Health, Education and Welfare, are supposed to make recommendations for a workable grain sanitation enforcement program.

The committee was appointed as a result of the memorandum of understanding between Secretary Benson and Secretary Hobby which was announced April 6. Under the terms of the agreement the sanitary standards for grain contaminated with insects and rodent filth proposed by the Food and Drug Administration were not to be enforced, but a progressive program for the improvement of sanitary standards would be initiated.

Since April the problem of grain sanitation has been rather indefinite but all interested parties seemed to agree that an investigation of techniques available would be valuable.

In an opening statement to the members of the committee, Mrs. Hobby, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, outlined the responsibilities of her department in regard to grain sanitation. The Food and Drug Administration is an agency of Mrs. Hobby's department. She asked the committee to make recommendations which could form the basis for a sound program that will have the unqualified support of all interested groups, including the public.

Secretary Benson also reminded the committee of the importance of a grain sanitation program. He said, "It is not a question of whether we will have a grain sanitation program. The problem is to work one out that will be practical and in which we will all have confidence."

Charles Glen King, scientific director of the Nutrition Foundation, has been designated chairman of the committee. Three subcommittees were appointed to study the problems associated with education, rodent control, and insect control. These subcommittees will meet again at the call of the chairman to present their recommendations.

### People

#### Larner Elected President Of Chemurgic Process Corp.

**Herbert B. Larner** has been elected president of Chemurgic Process Corp., College Point, Long Island, N. Y. He was formerly with M. W. Kellogg Co.



**Joseph L. Brewer** has been appointed manager of the animal feed division of S. B. Penick & Co. He will serve Penick by promoting bulk sales of antibiotics and B complex vitamins for feed and veterinary uses.

**Burton B. Crocker** and **John F. Thompson** have been named assistant chief chemical engineers of Monsanto's phosphate division engineering department.

**Willem Lasthuysen** has accepted a position as flavor chemist with Dodge & Olcott, Inc. A native of Holland, where he was employed Naarden, Mr. Lasthuysen has been with the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. since he immigrated to the United States in 1947.

**Walter Jacobs** has been appointed yeast plant superintendent of Charmin Paper Mills, Inc., Green Bay, Wis. He has been with Lake States Yeast Corp. Mr. Jacobs will work on plant design and selection of equipment for the torula yeast plant which will manufacture edible yeast as a poultry feed from spent sulfite liquor. He will be in charge of all production when the plant begins full scale operations late in 1954.

**Charles Dwyer** has joined the flavor department of Dodge & Olcott, Inc., in New York. He has been a flavor chemist with the Philip Chaley organization for eight years.

**C. G. Krieger** has been appointed manager of agricultural chemical sales by Ethyl Corp. He joined the company in 1929 as an agricultural engineer and has been serving as assistant to the general sales manager, in charge of rural marketing and special development work, since 1944.

**J. V. O'Leary**, with CSC since 1927, has been appointed field sales manager for the industrial chemicals and animal nutrition division of Commercial Solvents Corp.



**Joseph D. Campbell** has been appointed horticulturist in the agriculture department of the agricultural chemicals division of Mathieson Chemical Corp. Dr. Campbell has been at the University of Massachusetts.

**Eugene P. Regan** has been appointed assistant chief in charge of regulatory activities for USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. He has been serving as an assistant leader of the division of plant quarantines.

**V. G. Vashbinder** has been promoted to branch plant manager at Davison Chemical's mixed fertilizer plant at Lansing, Mich. He was formerly assistant branch plant manager and now succeeds **B. C. Manker**, who was made district manager in July.

**Frank Wright**, former extension dairyman at the University of Massachusetts, has been appointed assistant professor of dairy husbandry at the Rutgers University college of agriculture. He will take over the teaching duties of the late John B. Kitchen.

**J. Howard Ellison** has been appointed associate research specialist in vegetable crops at the Rutgers University college of agriculture. He has been at the Riverhead, Long Island, vegetable research farm of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station.