

## Nitrogen capacity of 3,332,000 tons seen in 1955 . . . Ammonium sulfate price breaks at ports here

**T**HERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY that more new capacity for nitrogen will come into operation during 1953 and 1954 than has been estimated in industry quarters. At least, this is the opinion in fertilizer trade quarters who have been studying the new capacity under construction throughout the nation for anhydrous ammonia.

According to these figures, synthetic nitrogen capacity was 1,876,000 tons as of July 1, 1953, in terms of nitrogen. To this total will be added by the year 1955, 1,456,000 tons, which will bring capacity up to 3,332,000 tons.

At least six new ammonia plants will be brought in during 1953. These are the Shell Chemical project at Ventura, Calif.; Spencer Chemical at Pittsburgh; Pennsylvania Salt Mfg. at Wyandotte, Mich.; San Jacinto Chemical at Houston; and possibly Atlantic Refining at Point Breeze, Pa. Further, expansion of the plant of Allied Chemical's Nitrogen Division at South Point, Ohio, has just been completed.

Ammonia installations which are expected to come into operation during 1954 include that of the Lion Oil Co. at Luling, La., and of Mississippi Chemical at Yazoo, Miss.

### Fertilizer Supplies To Show Increase

Fertilizer supplies in general will increase some 13% during the 1953-54 season, according to the Department of Agriculture the Figures are cited in a discussion of the outlook in *Fertilizer News*. The figures are compiled, it says, by simply adding to last year's trade delivery estimates the increases in production that could come from new plants scheduled to begin production in 1953-54.

In this forecast potash leads the list with an increase of 15% while increases of 12 and 11% respectively have been estimated for phosphate and nitrogen. The 1953-54 supply of potash is given as 1,995,000 tons in terms of  $K_2O$ ; the expected supply of phosphate materials is placed at 2.7 million tons of  $P_2O_5$ ; and nitrogen in terms of N at 2 million tons.

Imports may figure to some extent in the new supplies of potash and nitrogen, and in this connection it is of interest to

find that German and Italian ammonium sulfate is pressing for sale on this market at low prices. One result of this competition has been to send the price for domestic coke-oven sulfate down to \$44 per ton at southern ports, from \$47 which prevailed recently.

It is learned that East German ammonium sulfate is being offered here at \$43.50 per ton, and that shipments of the same nitrogen fertilizer are being sent to these shores, or offered to buyers here, by Italian Producers at \$45 per ton.

### Phosphate Program Is Rolling Along

Data made available recently by the chemical division of the National Production Authority indicate that new phosphate expansion projects to be completed between July 1953 and beyond 1955 total an estimated 793,600 tons capacity. This will bring the total

expansion in the industry dating before July 1, 1952, to beyond Jan. 1, 1955, to 1,203,400 tons,  $P_2O_5$ .

There are 56 plants completed, under construction, and planned. Of these, 20 will be devoted to normal superphosphate, 13 to triple superphosphate, 11 to nitrates, eight to phosphoric acid and miscellaneous products, and seven to ammonium phosphates.

Phosphates have also been given major attention by the Atomic Energy Commission in connection with the recovery of uranium. The new development commanding attention at the moment is the recovery of uranium through the "leached zone" or "aluminum phosphate zone" technique which occurs in the Florida phosphate area as a weathered material overlying the phosphate rock matrix.

A statement by the AEC also indicated that western phosphate reserves lend themselves to the production of by-product uranium. Substantial production is contemplated there, it was stated. The western phosphate mining and fertilizer industry is expanding very rapidly, and rock requirements for phosphate fertilizers and chemicals there have grown to 1.5 million tons annually.

## Record Sales and Earnings Reported by Smith-Douglass

Smith-Douglass reports an increase of 23% in net sales for the year ended July 31 and of 48% in earnings. The 1953 fiscal year produced the highest sales and earnings in the company's history. Its annual report was the first to be issued since the company's shares were publicly offered and listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Consolidated net sales amounted to \$37,160,524, compared with \$30,211,177 for the preceding year. Net earnings after taxes were \$2,175,162, compared with the previous year's \$1,467,423. Earnings are equivalent to \$2.26 per common share, compared with \$1.77 for the 1952 fiscal year.

The year's results include 12 months' sales by Coronet Phosphate Co. and three months' sales by San Jacinto Chemical Corp., both of which were acquired by Smith-Douglass during the year. Even before taking these acquisitions' results into account, the company's sales had reached a new high, according to Ralph B. Douglass, company president.

Mr. Douglass reported to shareholders that the past year had seen accomplishment of the company's integration and expansion plans. He pointed out that

the company acquired large reserves of phosphate rock and mining facilities from Coronet and availability of anhydrous ammonia from San Jacinto. Organic nitrogen materials continued to be available from the Smith-Rowland Co.

Commenting on the outlook for next year, he said that he does not expect acreage allotments to decrease the total usage of fertilizer. On the contrary, he said, acreage controls have often caused farmers to apply more fertilizer.

Smith-Douglass' plants are located in Norfolk and Danville, Va.; Kinston and Wilmington, N. C.; Houston, Tex.; Streater and Granite City, Ill.; Albert Lea, Minn.; Selbyville, Del.; and Plant City, Fla.

### Hooker Earns \$840,000 In Quarter Ended in August

Hooker Electrochemical reports estimated net income of \$1,896,600 before taxes for the quarter ended Aug. 31 and \$841,600 after taxes. After preferred dividends, earnings are equivalent to 70 cents a share on the common, the same per-share earnings as were reported for the similar period of 1952.