

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

World report shows strong nitrogen demand, especially in Europe

LONDON.—The nitrogen market has been strong with an active demand from consumers in practically every country, according to the highly regarded half-

yearly report on the nitrogen industry by Aikman Ltd. of London, issued here June 1. This has slackened some in recent weeks because of the drought in

Europe, but nevertheless, states the report, world stocks and especially European stocks are expected to be exceptionally low at mid-year. Prices have continued to firm up according to the report. European export prices today are about \$51.50 to \$52.50 for ammonium sulfate, and \$48 to \$49 for ammonium nitrate, 20.5%, per ton, in bags, f.o.b. European ports.

New and existing plants in Europe and Egypt are expected to show a further increase of 250,000 tons of nitrogen by 1956-57 over current figure of 3,045,000 tons. In other parts of the world, outside U. S. A., production is expected to increase by 150,000 tons over the current figure of 1,190,000. World nitrogen production for 1956-57 is predicted at 7,735,000 tons.

an ounce of moly—

or a ton of lime?

Moly is the trace element MOLYBDENUM, essential to plant life. **One ounce** of sodium molybdate per acre has increased crop yields as much as **one ton** of limestone in some areas.

Moly is most often needed on acid soils where the moly in the soil is not available to the plant. It can be released by liming, but can be supplied far more cheaply by treating the soil with traces of moly—generally as sodium molybdate.

Of course, most acid soils should be limed, but less lime may be needed when moly is used. In fact, moly may completely replace lime in some soils.

Experiment station workers are studying the effect of moly on many soils and crops. Over a million acres have been successfully treated here and abroad.

Write for our bulletin
"Testing for Molybdenum Deficiency."

Climax Molybdenum Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, N. Y.

Aikman Estimates on World Nitrogen

		ESTIMATED PRODUCTION (× 1,000 metric tons)		ESTIMATED CONSUMPTION (× 1,000 metric tons)	
		Agri- culture	In- dustry	Agri- culture	In- dustry
1948	49	3,440	570	3,180	570
1949	50	3,890	670	3,525	670
1950	51	4,035	770	3,985	770
1951	52	4,435	810	4,360	810
1952	53	4,905	910	4,885	910
1953	54	5,310	1,020	5,350	1,020
1954	55	5,690	1,080
1955	56	6,105	1,140
1956	57	6,535	1,200

World consumption of nitrogen has increased from 3,750,000 tons in 1948-49 to 6,375,000 tons in 1953-54. Of this, 2,175,000 tons has been used for fertilizers

CALENDAR

Institute of Food Technologists.
 Hotel Biltmore, Los Angeles,
 Calif. June 27-July 1.

Pacific Northwest Regional Fertilizer Conference. Klamath Falls, Ore. July 20-22.

Ohio Pesticide Institute. Summer Tour, Wooster, Ohio. Aug. 10-12.

American Soybean Association, annual meeting. Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 30-Sept. 1.

American Chemical Society. 126th National Meeting, New York, N. Y. Sept. 12-17.

and 450,000 tons for industrial purposes. Imports from Europe to the United States have fallen off during the past year and this is expected to continue. Any European surplus in the opinion of Aikman, will be disposed of in the Far East. In the Far East, demand continues to expand but at present is almost entirely for ammonium sulfate. It seems probable that there will have to be a change over there to obtain the supplies required in the future. In Europe the demand increased for nitric nitrogen products and in some European

countries, plants are being converted from ammonium sulfate to ammonium nitrate.

Iron Curtain Trade

Imports of nitrogen behind the iron curtain into Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland from Western European countries are estimated to total about 100,000 tons of materials, chiefly 20.5% ammonium nitrate. About 55,000 tons of Chilean nitrate has gone over that route. For the coming year, require-

ments of those countries for imports from the West is estimated at a minimum of 200,000 tons of product.

No reliable figures are obtainable from the USSR, but Aikman reports indications that consumption last year from their own production was about 340,000 tons nitrogen, and, under the five-year plan, it is estimated to increase by 1959 to a total of 800,000 tons. The U.S.S.R. is not expected to be able to supply more than its own home market and Satellite countries, which, it is reported, have been instructed to produce foodstuffs instead of erecting nitrogen plants.

Aikman Estimates of Distribution

(in thousands of metric tons nitrogen)

	1950-51		1951-52		1952-53		1953-54		1954-55 1955-56 1956-57		
	PROD.	CON.	PROD.	CON.	PROD.	CON.	PROD.	CON.	ESTIMATED PRODUCTION		
Europe and Egypt	2,420	2,285	2,690	2,385	2,830	2,525	3,045	2,745	3,080	3,205	3,295
United States	1,415	1,550	1,550	1,750	1,800	2,060	2,095	2,325	2,495	2,800	3,100
Canada and rest of America	457	153	464	165	475	180	460	180	460	480	520
Asia	487	655	507	753	669	925	689	1,012	694	714	774
Other Countries	26	112	34	117	41	105	41	108	41	46	46
Total	4,805	4,755	5,245	5,170	5,815	5,795	6,330	6,370	6,770	7,245	7,735
Less for industrial purposes	770	770	810	810	910	910	1,020	1,020	1,080	1,040	1,200
Total for fertilizers	4,035	3,985	4,435	4,360	4,905	4,885	5,310	5,350	5,690	6,105	6,535



Here's the way to solve your nitrogen determination problems once and for all

LABCONCO KJELDAHL

Durable LABCONCO KJELDAHL nitrogen apparatus is made in many sizes and combination arrangements—one suitable for your lab. Six to 96 flask capacity, separate or combined distillation and digestion units. Gas or electric heat; safe, sure fume disposal without hoods.

In nitrogen equipment as well as other lab needs, look to LABCONCO — designer and leader in modern Kjeldahl apparatus since 1927.

FREE ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET

fully describes protein, fat and fiber apparatus; shows installations and arrangements; lists many users. Write today for catalog F-54.



LABORATORY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
1115 Holmes Street Kansas City, Missouri