



### Western Ag Chemicals Group Meets

Paul Mayfield, general manager, Hercules naval stores division, and former president of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, was the featured speaker at the recent 25th annual convention of the Western Agricultural Chemicals Association. From the left are: Stanley Strew of Chipman, re-elected WACA president; Charles E. Cody of Calspray, WACA program chairman; and Charles Barnard, WACA secretary

programs on cotton pests probably account for the vast majority of the pesticide consumption of South America.

Agricultural production in South America, however, suffers extremely heavy losses due to crop pests. In Peru about 20% of the cotton, 5 to 15% of the corn, and 20 to 30% of the potatoes are lost to pests each year. In Brazil pests have been reported to rob the cotton grower of about 50% of his potential production.

An efficient crop protection program could make a great contribution to increased production of agricultural commodities in Latin America. The UN report says that a moderately efficient pesticide program could make a greater contribution to increased production than all the irrigation programs planned for the next few years. A pesticide program would also contribute more to increasing production than several other forms of agricultural development which at present have high priority in the region.

Under present cultural and economic conditions it is not likely that scientific pest control will make a major contribution to the 1956-57 production targets for Latin America. This forecast could change if more countries would undertake more active pest control programs, for pest control is one activity which would allow the achievement of more or less immediate results.

The production targets set for 1956-57, if they can be realized, would constitute a major step forward for the people of Latin America both from a nutritional

and economic standpoint. If the region could become less dependent upon food imports, then foreign exchange resources could be diverted to purchasing technological aid, from fertilizers to tractors, which would result in a more productive agricultural economy. The widespread use of fertilizer and pesticides in increasing the productivity of Latin American farmland will probably have to wait until the people there somehow become efficient enough to buy these aids.

### Atlas Completes Canadian Emulsifier Plant

Atlas Powder's new esterification plant in Brantford, Ont., began production on Oct. 7, according to F. E. Sterne, managing director of Atlas Powder Co., Canada, Ltd. The new plant is now producing Atmul 82, a mono and diglyceride food emulsifier, and has facilities to produce the ester-type emulsifiers used by the insecticide and other industries.

Plans are being made for the possible addition of a second unit on the same site, to produce ethylene oxide type derivatives. With the completion of the Canadian plant and a second major unit now under construction in Memphis, Tenn., Atlas will produce emulsifiers for food and industrial use from agricultural sources at Brantford, Memphis, and Wilmington.

The capacity of the new Canadian plant, according to Mr. Sterne, is large enough to supply the emulsifier needs of

the entire Canadian baking industry. The new plant will also undertake production of custom-made emulsifiers for specific uses and for sale under the private label of industrial distributors.

R. T. Vanderbilt Co., Inc., will distribute the Atmul products to the baking industry. Sale of the other materials will be handled by the sales representatives of the Canadian company from offices in Brantford, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver.

### Industry

#### Fluor to Build NH<sub>3</sub> Plant for Hercules-Alabama By-Products

Fluor Corp. has been awarded the contract to engineer and build the projected anhydrous ammonia plant for Hercules Power and Alabama By-Products at Ketona, Ala. The two companies have organized a jointly owned firm, Ketona Chemical Corp., to build and operate the plant.

The plant is to utilize hydrogen from coke oven gas produced at Alabama By-Products' coke plant at Tarrant, Ala.

Auxiliary facilities required for the plant are to be provided by Ketona under separately negotiated contracts, engineering for which will be supplied by Hercules.

The capacity of the plant, which is expected to be finished late next year, is 45,000 tons of anhydrous ammonia a year. The tract to be occupied by the plant is near two large lakes and the I&N Railroad and is close to the coke plant of Alabama By-Products.

#### IM&C Opens Quality Control Lab in Georgia

A new analytical control laboratory has been opened at East Point, Ga., by International Minerals & Chemical according to Maurice H. Lockwood, vice president in charge of the company's plant food division.

The laboratory runs analyses for nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash in various grades manufactured by each of International's 26 fertilizer plants located in as many states across the country. Its principal function is quality control. Its capacity is approximately 100,000 determinations a year.

East Point, near Atlanta, was selected as the site of the laboratory after a study of eight other cities established it convenient as a mailing center.

Designed by Heery and Heery, Atlanta and Athens architectural firm, the building has modern lines in red brick. A patio at the entrance is planted with leriopie grass 12" high, azaleas and burfodi holly.

All laboratory rooms lead from the balance room which is the central point. Its central feature is a custom-built

balance table designed by Chief Chemist J. A. Archer. Built along "lazy susan" lines the table permits samples to move on three revolving tiers making it possible for five chemists to work on the samples at once.

The new laboratory includes a spectrophotometer for potash determinations. Formerly more than five hours were required to measure one sample—a job the spectrophotometer can perform in 45 minutes.

### CSC Awards Contract for Nitroparaffin Plant in La.

Commercial Solvents has announced awarding of the contract to build its large-scale nitroparaffin plant to Ford, Bacon & Davis Construction Corp. of Monroe, La. The plant, to be built near Sterlington, La., at a total cost of \$5 million, is expected to go on stream next August. Construction has already started.

The company's existing small-scale nitroparaffin plant at Peoria is to be enlarged also.

### American Potash to Make Lithium Chemicals in Texas

American Potash & Chemical has announced plans to manufacture lithium

chemicals at a new plant to be built near San Antonio, Tex. The plant will be owned by a newly formed company, American Lithium Chemicals, Inc., 50.1% of whose stock is held by American Potash and the rest by Bikita Minerals (Private) Ltd. The latter company will supply lithium ores from its reserves in Southern Rhodesia, Africa.

### Oldbury Opens Sodium Chlorate Plant in Mississippi

Oldbury Electrochemical officially opened its sodium chlorate plant in Columbus, Miss., on Oct. 27. The plant has been under construction for two years and cost almost \$4 million. The company expects that the plant will be well located to serve industrial and agricultural users in the South and Southwest. Facilities for phosphorus pentasulfide are being built there also.

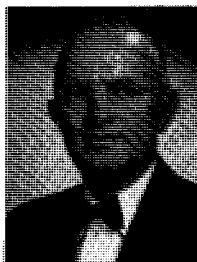
### People

#### Peterson Succeeds Coke as Assistant Sec'y of Agriculture

Ervin L. Peterson has been appointed to succeed J. Earl Coke as assistant secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Peterson's appointment will become effective on Nov. 15 and Mr. Coke's resignation is to become effective Nov. 13. The new Assistant Secretary has been director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture since 1943 and was a dairy farmer from 1931 to 1940. As assistant secretary he will be in charge of the department's work in the field of federal-states relations, in which are located USDA's conservation, research, and educational activities. Mr. Coke, who has been on leave from the directorship of the California agricultural extension service since 1953, will return to his work in California.

#### G. W. Irving Becomes Deputy Administrator of ARS

George W. Irving, Jr., has been appointed deputy administrator in charge of research for the Agricultural Research Service, USDA. He first joined the Department of Agriculture, in 1928, leaving in 1935 for a teaching and research fellowship at George Washington University. He later worked at Cornell and the Rockefeller Institute, returning to USDA in 1942 as a chemist for the Southern Regional Research



Laboratory. He went to the Beltsville, Md., research center in 1944 and became assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry in 1947, heading research on oil seeds and animal products. After USDA was reorganized, Dr. Irving became head of the biological sciences division of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Dr. Irving is well known for his work on plant growth regulators and the biochemistry of plant disease resistance. His work led to the isolation of the antibiotic tomatine.

Harold Mazza, research process engineer for American Potash & Chemical Corp. at Trona, Calif., has been appointed assistant director of research for the company and will direct activities of the new products division.

W. F. George, former district sales manager for Hooker Electrochemical, has joined Witco Chemical as special assistant president to the president.

Albert S. Allen of the Du Pont Film department has received the 1954 Hauck Produce Packaging Award for his "significant and outstanding contributions to the produce packaging industry."

Gerald Litwack, who recently completed postdoctoral research at the Sorbonne, has been appointed assistant professor of agricultural biochemistry at the College of Agriculture, Rutgers University.

William B. House has left National Alfalfa Dehydrating & Milling Co., Lamar, Colo., to join the staff of the Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City as a research chemist.

John Geraci has been promoted from plant manager of Gallowhur Chemical Corp. to vice president of the company in charge of production and development. He is located at the Ossining, N.Y., plant.

### Deaths

William Lloyd Evans, well-known carbohydrate chemist, former ACS president, and professor emeritus of Ohio State University, died Oct. 18 in Columbus, Ohio, at the age of 83. He had retired as head of the Ohio State department of chemistry in 1941. Dr. Evans was the coauthor of several chemical texts.

Arthur G. McCall, soil scientist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service from 1936 to 1944, died in Olney, Md., on Oct. 19 at the age of 79. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Ohio State, where he was later professor of Agronomy for 12 years. He was also professor of geology and soils at the University of Maryland.

### CALENDAR

Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association. Montebello, Que. Oct. 28-29.

American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America. St. Paul, Minn. Nov. 8-12.

National Fertilizer Association. Hollywood Beach Hotel, Hollywood, Fla. Nov. 10-12.

Ohio Pesticide Institute. Columbus, Ohio. Nov. 17-18.

Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association. New York. Dec. 6-8.

North Central Weed Control Conference. Gardner Hotel, Fargo, N. D. Dec. 6-9.

American Institute of Chemical Engineers. New York. Dec. 12-15.

Southwest Regional Meeting, American Chemical Society, Fort Worth, Tex. Dec. 2-4.

Agricultural Ammonia Institute. Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La. Dec. 5-8.

Entomological Society of America. Houston, Tex. Dec. 6-9.

Southern Weed Control Conference. Soreno Hotel, St. Petersburg, Fla. Jan. 17-19, 1955.