News of the Month . . .

INDUSTRY

Grace Chemical's Nitrogen Plant at Memphis on Stream

Grace Chemical officially dedicated its $20 million ammonia and urea plant near Memphis, Tenn., on Jan. 6 and expected the plant to reach top capacity of 250 tons a day of ammonia and 150 tons a day of urea in the near future. The first tank car of ammonia left the plant on Dec. 21 for Swift & Co.

Ammonia, most of which will go to the agricultural market, is to be sold as anhydrous for direct application, as solutions for mixed fertilizers, and as a nitrogen supplement for ruminant feeds. Urea is to be produced in two grades, for fertilizer and feed supplements and for chemical manufacture.

The new plant produces synthesis gas by the Texaco partial oxidation process, ammonia by the Italian Casale process, and urea by the French Pechiney process.

Organized in 1952, Grace Chemical's president is William P. Gage, formerly vice president in charge of Shell Chemical manufacturing; vice presidents are William Haude, former president of Pittsburgh Agricultural Chemical Co.; and Ralph Lulek, former director and vice president of Heyden Chemical. Charles E. Wilson, former president of General Electric, vice chairman of the War Production Board during World War II, and Chairman of the Defense Mobilization Board during the Korean war, joined Grace Chemical as chairman of the board of directors and the parent firm as chairman of the executive committee in 1952. John G. Carriere, who managed engineering and construction of the Hanford Works of AEC, is plant manager.

W. R. Grace, the parent firm of Grace Chemical, has become in a few years the fourth largest producer of mixed fertilizers. Two years ago, the company's only chemical interest was the Naco Fertilizer Co. Since then it has acquired Davison Chemical Co., under which is organized Naco and the recently acquired Thurston Chemical. Grace Chemical and the also recently purchased Dewey & Almy Chemical are the other chemical divisions. W. R. Grace was organized in 1854 in South America as an import-export firm. Some 60 companies now form the Grace organization with interests in ocean shipping, air transportation, trading, banking, and various diversified manufacturing operations in South America. Now it is rapidly expanding its industrial interests in the U. S. J. Peter Grace, president of the parent company, speaking at the dedication ceremonies, said that the company is concentrating its efforts on locating in the South, Southwest, and Far West.

NCI Proceeding with Maine Ammonia Plant

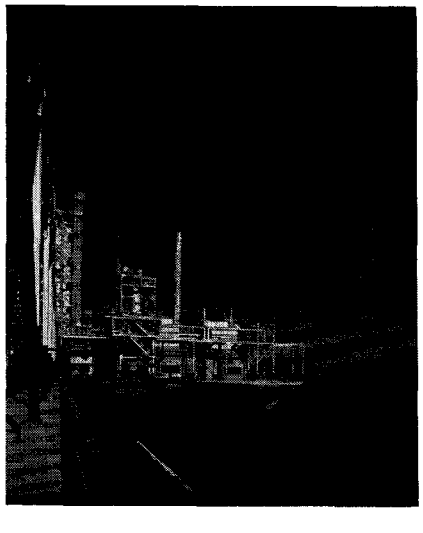
Northern Chemical Industries has announced that plans are now complete for its anhydrous ammonia plant to be built in Searsport, Me. Plans have been under way since the company was awarded a certificate of necessity about a year ago.

Funds for the $9 million plant are being provided by the sales of first mortgage bonds, subordinated debentures, and common stock.

Northern Chemical Industries, founded in 1943 as an affiliate of Summers Fertilizer Co., will sell about 48% of its rated 43,000 tons of ammonia to the parent company. About 18,000 tons of the ammonia will be used to produce some 32,000 tons of nitrogen solutions for making mixed fertilizers. The remainder will be sold to sulfite pulp producers located close to Searsport, and for general industrial use in New England.

The plant will use the Texaco-Hydrocarbon Research process for producing ammonia synthesis gas from Bunker C fuel oil by partial oxidation with oxygen.

View of Grace Chemical's recently dedicated $20 million anhydrous ammonia and urea plant near Memphis, Tenn. The first tank car of ammonia left the plant on Dec. 21 and was assigned to Swift & Co.'s plant food division



The fuel oil will be used as a source of both hydrogen and power.

The 125-ton-per-day ammonia plant will be built by Girdler, as well as the 60-ton-per-day nitric acid plant, the nitrogen solutions plant, and the 7500-kw. power plant.

Although New England soil is not suitable to application of nitrogen as anhydrous, NCI believes that farmers in the area will increase nitrogen usage, via nitrogen solutions and ammonium sulfate, which the company plans to manufacture. Lack of an ammonia plant in New England, and the consequent high cost of nitrogen brought in from Virginia, is thought to have prevented many farmers from making maximum use of nitrogen fertilizer.

USI Dedicates 50,000-Ton NH_3 Plant at Tuscola, Ill.

U. S. Industrial Chemicals dedicated its $7 million ammonia plant at Tuscola, Ill., on Jan. 21 and the first tank car of anhydrous was delivered to Central Illinois Fertilizer Co., distributor in the area around the plant.

USI, a division of National Distillers Products Corp., has a sulfuric acid plant on the site and takes its raw material hydrogen from the National Petro-Chemicals plant, also in Tuscola. Production capacity of the plant is 50,000 tons of ammonia a year, part of which will be used in manufacturing nitric acid, ammonium nitrate, and nitrogen solutions.

Mid-South Building NH_3 Storage-Distribution Center in Memphis

Mid-South Chemical Co. has announced plans to expand its anhydrous ammonia storage facilities at Memphis, Tenn., to provide it with river, rail, and highway distribution facilities. The company has planned a distribution center on an eight-acre site on Presidents Island, off the Memphis river front, with harbor facilities for Mississippi River transportation and truck and rail loading docks.

A specially constructed barge with six pressurized tanks will hold 800 tons of anhydrous. Fifteen 30,000-gallon tanks for storing ammonia will be located on the island. In addition, the company will have 100 railroad tank cars, each capable of holding 25 tons of ammonia.

The additional capacity, plus facilities at 85 other points in six states, gives Mid-South a total storage capacity for ammonia of 12,000 tons (5 million gal-

lons). With the new capacity and access to four synthetic ammonia plants, the company believes it can offer more prompt delivery at lower transportation rates.

According to the company's announcement, plans also call for building office and warehouse space on the island site, transfer of its oil testing laboratory from Woodstock, Tenn., to the new site, the establishment of additional distributorships, and the offering of application equipment to small farmers on a rental basis. The company now offers free soil test reports and fertilizer recommendations to its farmer customers.

Since the company was organized in 1947, it has distributed 65,000 to 75,000 tons of anhydrous in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Alabama.

Brea to Build 2nd Plant for Ammonium Phosphate Solution

Brea Chemicals has announced that it is building a 210,000-gallon unit for producing and distributing ammonium phosphate fertilizer solution at Fresno, Calif. The new unit will complement the company's 2,310,000-gallon aqua ammonia distribution terminal at Fresno and is the second of its kind for Brea. The company has another phosphate solution unit, completed last September, at its ammonia plant at Brea, Calif.

Pennsalt Opens Chemical Specialties Plants

Pennsylvania Salt Mfg. Co. announces the opening of a new plant at Delaware, Ohio, Jan. 18. This plant is a component of the company's Chemical Specialties Division. A similar installation nearing completion at Chicago Heights, Ill., will be dedicated Feb. 10.

These plants will serve as blending, packaging, and warehousing centers and are the first of a number of projected units designed exclusively for this purpose.

Included among products produced in the new plants are cleaners and sanitizing agents for dairies and milk plants and the Knox-Out line of insecticides.

Pratt Moves Plant and Office to Paterson, N. J.

B. G. Pratt Co., 50-year-old manufacturer of insecticides, has moved its offices and plant from New York and Hackensack, N. J., to quarters in Paterson, N. J.

According to the company, the new plant affords the company more space for manufacturing, packaging, and warehousing operations, in addition to office space.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Glidden Reports $7 Million Net Profit

Net profit of Glidden Co. for the fiscal year ended Oct. 31, 1954, amounted to $7,093,043 after taxes and all charges, the company reports.

This was equal to $3.09 per share and compares with a net profit of $7,109,272, or $3.10 per share, for the 1953 fiscal year.

In 1954 net sales of the company were $209,083,579, third highest total in Glidden history and 1.3% below the total of $211,758,522 achieved in 1953.

Dwight P. Joyce, president, predicted continued expansion during 1955. "Glidden management expects accelerated growth by acquisition of profitable going enterprises or products, the creation of manufacturing facilities to expand present major activities, and by bringing into production new items created by Glidden or outside research laboratories."

He said that in the last three years Glidden's basic decision to eliminate activities or products which are divergent to its operations or unlikely to produce adequate profits has freed in excess of $6 million for more profitable investment. More than half this amount was made available in 1954, he added. Glidden's major new facilities completed or under construction at Baltimore, Chicago, Montreal, Toronto, and other plant locations will have a total value of more than $16 million.

"Research and development expenditures this year were the largest in Glidden history and we plan to emphasize and expand our research work still further," Mr. Joyce said.

CALENDAR

Symposium on the Nutrition of Plants, Animals, and Man. University of Michigan, East Lansing, Mich. Feb. 14–16.

National Canners Association. Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Ill. Feb. 19–23.

Indiana Conference on Use of Aerial Equipment in Agriculture. Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. Feb. 23–25.

National Agricultural Chemicals Association. The Chase and Park-Plaza Hotels, St. Louis, Mo. March 7–9.

National Farm Chemurgic Council. Deshler-Hilton Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. March 22–24.

American Chemical Society, 127th National Meeting. Cincinnati, Ohio. Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. March 30–April 2.

American Oil Chemists' Society. Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La. April 17–20.

American Society of Brewing Chemists. Hotel Bellevue-Stratford, Philadelphia, Pa. May 1–5.

American Association of Cereal Chemists. Chase Hotel, St. Louis, Mo. May 15–19.

National Fertilizer Association and **American Plant Food Council** (joint meeting). Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. June 13–15.

Pacific Northwest Plant Food Association. Regional Fertilizer Conference. Boise Hotel, Boise, Idaho. June 28–30.

International Seaweed Symposium. Trondheim, Norway. July 1–16.

American Society of Agronomy. Davis, Calif. Aug. 15–19.

Monsanto Reports Slightly Higher Sales in '54

Unaudited sales of Monsanto Chemical Co. and its subsidiaries for 1954 amounted to $341,822,557, an increase of 0.7% over sales for the year 1953, the company reports.

Unaudited net income for the year 1954 was $23,700,510, which, after provision for preference dividends, is equivalent to $4.39 a common share. Earnings for the year 1953 were equal to $4.88 a common share.

ASSOCIATIONS

NAC Moves Offices

The National Agricultural Chemicals Association has announced that its offices will be moved, effective Feb. 1, to the Associations Building, 1145 19th St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. NAC's offices have been located at 910 17th St., N.W., in Washington.

Midwest Soil Improvement Schedules 2-Day Meet in Chicago

Round table discussions of more efficient, cost-cutting methods of producing corn, small grains, and legume grass crops, and reports on the latest results of fertilizer research are on the program of the forthcoming annual joint meeting of Midwestern agronomists and fertilizer industry representatives at the Palmer House in Chicago.

The two-day meeting will open on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 17, and run through noon Friday, Feb. 18. Nearly 500 are expected to attend. The meeting is sponsored by the Middle West Soil Improvement Committee. F. W. Smith, Kansas State College, will be chairman of the meeting.