Business Newsletter . . .

Phillips into Northwest

Phillips Chemical and Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp. have formed a jointly owned company, **Phillips Pacific Chemical,** to construct and operate a 200-ton-per-day anhydrous ammonia plant in southwestern Washington. Plant was made possible by long distance gas transmission line from New Mexico now being constructed by Pacific Northwest. Plant is scheduled to go **into operation in late 1956.**

Lion Merges with Monsanto

Negotations have been completed for merger of **Lion Oil Co. into Monsanto.** Merger, to be effected by stock exchange, will be submitted to stockholders for approval in Fall. Lion will be operated as a division of Monsanto. Important object of the negotiations seems to have been Lion's basic ammonia production, about 275,000 tons of which is sold in form of anhydrous, aqua, ammonium nitrate, and ammonium sulfate. Monsanto, large producer of phosphorus, has processes for combining ammonia and phosphates for concentrated fertilizers in solid and liquid forms. **Lion also has retail marketing outlets** which Monsanto might utilize for its new marketing program of ag chemicals.

Monsanto Goes to Farmer

Monsanto will market agricultural chemical **formulations with the Monsanto labels** in the midwestern area beginning in 1956. Until now Monsanto has supplied technical chemicals to formulators who in turn packaged and sold mixtures under their own labels. Move will bring Monsanto into **direct relation with farmer** buying herbicides, insecticides, and dessicants.

Agricultural Zoning Legislation

California has become the first state to enact agricultural zoning legislation. Farm interests in the nation's leading agricultural state (agricultural income $2.5 billion) have been concerned over loss of about **400,000 acres of farmland to homesites** and real estate developments during the past 10 years. Under new law land can be zoned for agricultural use and not be annexed to a city without consent of owners.

Food Additives Legislation

Two new bills on food additives were put into the hopper last week by Congressman Priest both marked "by request." One developed by the Manufacturing Chemists' Association and several food industry groups takes the **injunctive approach** (AG AND FOOD, June, p. 459). The other, a modification of the O'Hara bill, also presents some chemical industry point of view. **Advisory committee has been abolished** in new O'Hara bill, also the bill may be intended to apply only to **deliberate additives.** FDA Commissioner would have to approve use of additive if it could be established with reasonable probability that the additive would not be harmful.

- Department of Health, Education and Welfare will have to face up to some pressing problems in near future, most concern Food and Drug Administration (**p. 641**)
- Increasing tendency for nitrogen producers to offer discounts for off-season delivery, ammonium nitrate is latest nitrogen product to be offered at discount (**p. 646**)
- Synthetic amino acids are being pushed for animal feed enrichment, extensive use in human food not likely in near future (**p. 646**)
- Monsanto group reports on pilot plant for liquid fertilizer manufacture (**p. 656**)

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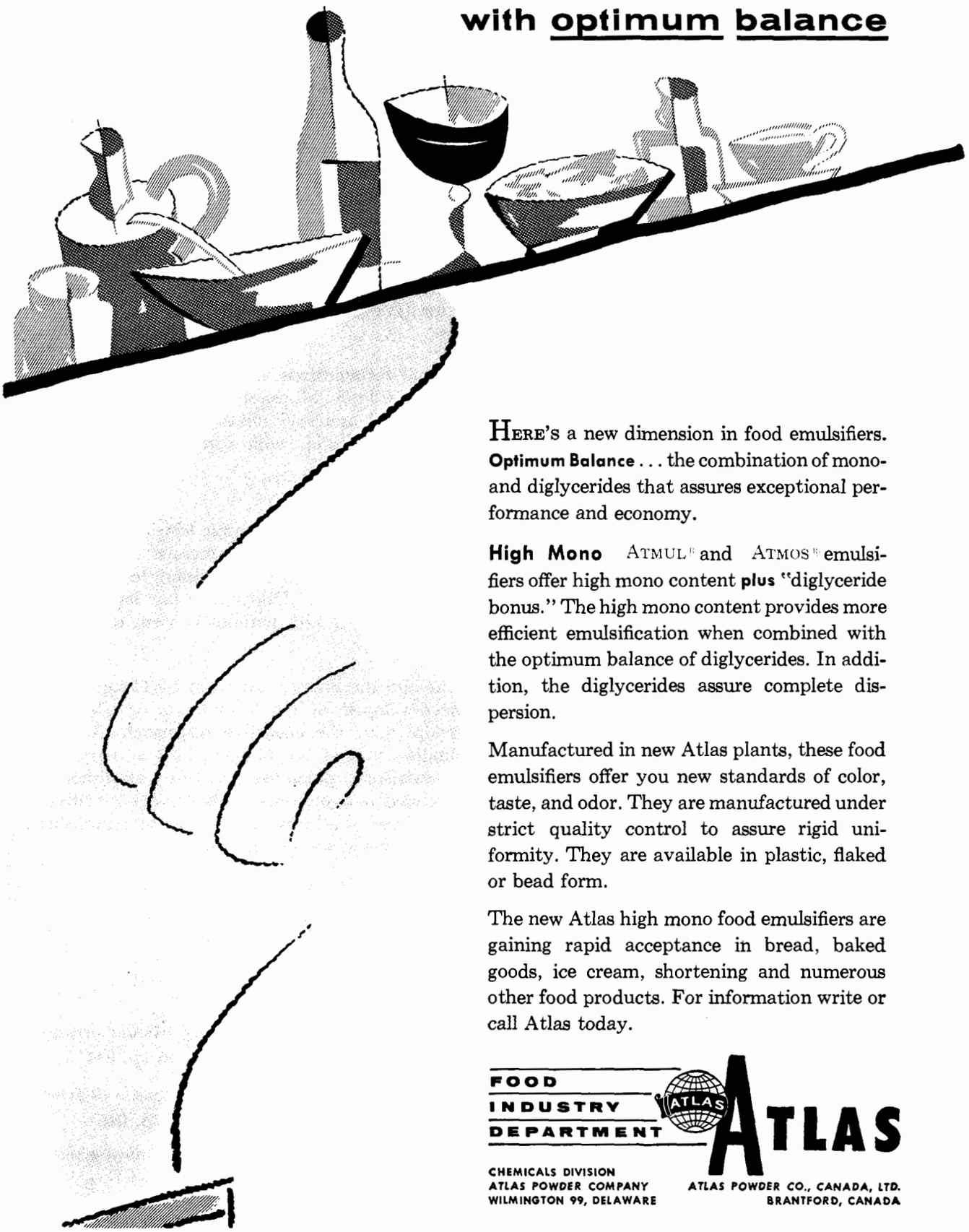

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FOOD INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

ATLAS

CHEMICALS DIVISION
ATLAS POWDER COMPANY
WILMINGTON 99, DELAWARE

ATLAS POWDER CO., CANADA, LTD.
BRANTFORD, CANADA

Research Newsletter . . .

Miller Pesticides Amendment

Food and Drug Administration has extended deadline for residue tolerances for about 60 pesticide chemicals. Original deadline, July 22, would have caught many growers and manufacturers in middle of growing season. Extension requests had to be supported with evidence to prove that the pesticide would not constitute a hazard to public health. Four requests for extension were denied: hexamethylene tetramine, sodium orthophenylphenate on citrus, methoxychlor in milk, and rotenone.

Superphosphate from Metaphosphate

Soluble phosphate fertilizer from elemental phosphorus **through calcium metaphosphate** intermediate is the basis for a new process. James Seymour, Illinois Farm Supply Co., recently told the American Farm Research Association that the "Seymour Process" **will hydrolyze calcium metaphosphate** in the presence of sulfuric acid and rock phosphate, to monocalcium orthophosphate. Then reaction with sulfuric acid will give phosphoric acid and eventually enriched superphosphate. Central Farmers Fertilizer Co., of which IFSC is a member, is planning production of elemental phosphorus in Georgetown, Idaho.

Chemical, Organic Fertilizers

After 79 years, chemical fertilizers are being added to the Morrow plots at the University of Illinois. The plots were set up in 1876 to settle controversy about whether prairie soils could be depleted by continuous cropping. The study of crop rotation on slowing down depletion and organic fertilizers for maintaining fertility were initiated in 1904 and are still underway. **Now chemical fertilizers will be matched** against the traditional organic materials. A strip across the 6 plots has received chemical fertilizers at the per acre rates of 200 pounds of nitrogen, 500 pounds of 20% superphosphate, and 200 pounds of 50% potash. Some of the strips have received no soil treatment for 79 years. Agronomists hope to answer the question of **how fast the soil can be returned to productivity.**

Water Insect Killers

USDA researchers are carrying out field tests this summer on **water soluble organic phosphates** for control of mosquitoes in irrigation ditches. Present water insoluble mosquito larvacides are effective only so long as they remain suspended in the water, usually for a few hours. Bayer L 13/59 [dimethyl (2,2,2-trichloro-1-hydroxyethyl) phosphonate] has proved one of most effective control agents. Highly water soluble, 4 gallons will **control mosquitoes in a million gallons** of flowing irrigation water. Control of weeds in irrigation ditches is also receiving attention of researchers (see page 643).

- Molybdenum is the most recent addition to the list of elements essential to plants. The element appears to play an essential role in nitrogen metabolism (**p. 666**)
- Surfactants do not have any significant effect in reducing the caking tendency of bagged fertilizers (**p. 669**)
- Sealed storage bins have been proposed as an alternative to drying and conventional storage of harvested grain. Corn can be stored in sealed bins with no impairment of feeding value (**p. 682**)
- Gossypol can be identified in the cephalin fraction of egg yolks from hens fed cottonseed meal (**p. 706**)