

entomology, at Iowa State, was awarded \$2500 for a project exploring the effectiveness of vermiculite as a carrier of insecticides, particularly those destroying corn rootworm. C. J. Nusbaum and J. N. Sassar, both of the division of biological sciences and plant pathology, North Carolina State, were granted \$1500 to further studies of solid carriers for fumigants and soil pesticides.

Lawrence L. Miller and T. B. Davich of Virginia Polytechnic's Agricultural Experiment Station and the Tidewater Research Station at Holland, Va., have been awarded a total of \$1500. Dr. Miller will receive \$1000 to carry on his basic studies of the habits of various plant parasites. Dr. Davich has been given \$500 for his investigations of the southern corn rootworm, tobacco thrips, and green June beetle larvae.

Ralph J. Hervey, assistant plant pathologist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, was given \$350 for studying vermiculite as a carrier for fighting fungus diseases of cotton.

General Foods Approves Plan for New Research Center

Final building plans for a new food research center at Tarrytown, N. Y., have been approved by the board of directors of General Foods.

The program provides for the construction of administration, laboratory, and engineering research buildings on a 55-acre site. The buildings will be air-conditioned and soundproofed and will furnish working space for an estimated 650 persons. Construction will begin in the fall and the center should be ready for occupancy by mid-1957.

Berkeley Chemical Completing Research and Control Lab

Berkeley Chemical Corp., Berkeley Heights, N. J., is completing this month a new research and control laboratory adjoining a new auxiliary warehouse. The new, single-story structure will contain more than 5500 square feet of space, more than half of which will be occupied by laboratory facilities. Space has also been provided for a library.

FOREIGN

Fisons to Sell Du Pont Ag Chemicals in U. K.

Fisons Pest Control, Ltd., has been appointed sole distributors for the Du Pont range of agricultural chemicals in the United Kingdom, Eire, and British possessions in Africa. These chemicals will be offered through the usual sales channels under Du Pont trade names and British patents.

The first of the chemicals to be introduced in the U. K. for farm use is the herbicide Karmex W, active ingredient of which is CMU [3-(*p*-chlorophenyl)-1-1 dimethyl urea]. Karmex W was first introduced by Du Pont in 1952 and was first marketed on a large scale in 1954.

New Velsicol Subsidiary To Handle Foreign Sales

Velsicol Corp. has announced formation of a separate company which will handle expanding foreign trade activities. The new company, Velsicol International Corp., C. A., will be responsible for foreign insecticide sales and will also market Velsicol resins, solvents, and saturates outside the U. S.



President of Velsicol International is E. T. Collinsworth, Jr., who is retaining his position as vice president and general manager of the parent company. Main office of the new organization will be in Chicago; a branch office is to be established in New York City.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Dow's Fiscal Year Best Yet

A new high sales record of \$470,742,000 is reported by Dow Chemical for its 1955 fiscal year, ended May 31, a 10% gain over 1954 sales of \$428 million and 9% better than its previous best year, 1953.

On the Cover

Is the Challenge Being Met?

Some 17% of the U. S. acreage in principal crops was sprayed or dusted with agricultural chemicals in 1952, according to an extensive USDA study issued earlier this year. Included was 48% of cotton acreage, 11% of corn acreage (mostly treated with herbicides), 75% of the potatoes, 79% of the tobacco, and 12% of the small grains.

That substantial acreages of U. S. crops were untreated for pest control represents a challenge to the agricultural chemicals industry. How its marketing of pesticides is meeting that challenge is discussed in the feature in this issue on page 738.

Dow's report also showed other income, including dividends from associated companies, amounting to \$8,105,000, bringing its total income for the year to \$478,847,000.

Net earnings showed a 12% improvement at \$37,414,000 as against \$33,425,000 in 1954. These were equivalent to \$1.64 and \$1.42 per share of common stock outstanding in the two years.

Dow reported capital expenditures of \$49 million during the year and predicted it would spend a comparable amount in the current year.

The company's sales revenue was attributed 58% to chemicals, 32% to plastics, and 10% to magnesium. Most lines were said to have enjoyed good growth, and while magnesium sales were adversely affected by the cessation of government stockpiling, commercial markets for the metal showed improvement.

National Distillers' Earnings at \$6,811,244 in First Half

Net earnings of National Distillers Products Corp. for the six months ended June 30 amounted to \$6,811,244, an increase of \$453,254 over those for the similar 1954 period. The current earnings, after preferred dividends, equal 69 cents a share, compared with 63 cents a share in 1954 first half.

For the quarter ended June 30, 1955, National Distillers reports net of \$3,452,579, or 35 cents a common share, compared with \$3,363,394, or 34 cents a share for the second quarter of 1954.

Sun Chemical's Sales Climb 3%; Profits Up 21%

Sun Chemical Corp.'s sales and earnings set new highs in the first half of this year and volume climbed to \$20,844,874, 3% above the initial six months of 1954, it is announced. Net profit for the first six months of 1955 shows an increase of 26.8% as compared with the same period of 1954.

On sales of \$20,844,874 in 1955's first six months, net profit was \$782,497. In the comparable period of 1954, sales were \$20,246,157 with a net profit of \$617,075.

Earnings in the six month period just past were 61.8 cents against 48 cents in 1954. Profit before taxes in the first half of 1955 was \$1,662,215; in 1954, \$1,371,436, a gain of 21.2%.

Pennsalt Reports Sales at 16% Above '54

Pennsylvania Salt Mfg. Co. reports net earnings totaling \$1,975,765 for the first six months of 1955, equivalent to