

News of the Month . . .

IM&C to Double Capacity of Bonnie Plant

International Minerals & Chemical has announced plans to double production capacity at its triple super and dicalcium phosphate plant near Bartow, Fla. The company plans to spend \$4 million in the first phase of the expansion, which includes a second sulfuric acid plant and new equipment for neutralization and recovery of plant effluents. When the expansion is complete, the Bonnie plant will be able to turn out 500,000 tons of product annually, the company said.

According to a statement from Louis Ware, company president, process developments and improvements have exceeded expectations. "The success of the new process for making dicalcium phosphate, as well as the peak operation at Bonnie during recent months, have combined to give very favorable costs of production and justify this further expansion." Market demand for dicalcium phosphate has exceeded production capacity, he said. He also stated that sales projections for triple superphosphate have had to be raised for the coming year.

Davison to Build Research Laboratory Near Baltimore

Davison Chemical has announced plans to build a new laboratory near Baltimore to house its agricultural, chemical catalyst, nuclear, and new products research. The 52,000-square foot, three-story building is to be located on a 148 acre site about midway between Washington, D. C., and Baltimore, Md., near the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics laboratory. Completion is expected for 1956.

Greek Firm Increases Phosphate Fertilizer Capacity

Hellenic Co. of Chemical Products & Fertilizers, Ltd., has increased chemical fertilizer output at its Piraeus, Greece, plant from 60 to 100 tons a day. A new 100-ton plant, designed for triple superphosphate or ammonium phosphate, is now turning out ammonium phosphate. The new plant replaces a 60-ton triple phosphate plant put into operation in 1934. Both the new and the old plant were designed by Dorr-Oliver, Inc.

Basic raw material at Piraeus, which is the port of Athens, is Gafsa phosphate rock imported from Tunisia, which is difficult to process into phos-

phoric acid, ammonium phosphate, or triple super. However, it is said that the company is having no difficulty with the rock at present, the process being used without calcining the rock before processing, as has been necessary in the past. Phosphoric acid is manufactured by the Dorco strong phosphoric acid process.

TVA Gets Patent on Ammoniating Superphosphate

TVA has been granted a patent on its process for the continuous ammoniation of superphosphate, but its application for a patent to cover the apparatus used in the process has still to be acted upon. Fifty-three companies have royalty-free license to use the process—38 to use it in their operations and 15 to manufacture the equipment.

American Potash to Build Parathion Plant

American Potash & Chemical has announced plans to build a technical parathion plant at Vernon, Calif., near the plant of its Eston Chemicals Division. The plant is expected to be producing early this year. Its output will be for the company's own needs and for the western requirements of California Spray-Chemical Corp.

J. M. Huber Forms New Marketing Group

J. M. Huber Corp. has formed a new sales division to handle marketing of its clays, carbon blacks, special pigments, and conditioners to the pesticide and food industries. Called the general industries division, it will also handle marketing to companies in the fields of ceramics, adhesives, ink, paint, plastic, and flooring. Ralph R. Browning, Jr., will be manager of the new division.

Lettuce First Seizure Under Miller Pesticides Amendment

Two carloads of lettuce were seized early last month in New York on charges by the Food and Drug Administration that they were contaminated with the insecticide endrin. FDA regulations under the Miller Pesticides Amendment, do not permit endrin to be used on lettuce. The lettuce had been shipped from El Centro, Calif., and was from a 40-acre field left unharvested after FDA inspectors sampled the first two cars. The

seizure is believed to be the first one under the Miller Amendment.

Organizational Change for Sheffield Chemical

Sheffield Chemical Co., Inc., Norwich, N. Y., became a separate operating division of Sheffield Farms Co., Inc., on Jan. 1 and will be known as Sheffield Chemical, Division of Sheffield Farms Co., Inc. Sheffield Farms is a subsidiary of National Dairy Products Corp. Main office of Sheffield Chemical will continue to be in Norwich.

Sheffield Chemical will continue to produce and sell products derived from milk, with emphasis on highly refined and edible items for pharmaceutical, food, and biochemical applications.

John R. Borst who was vice president of the chemical company becomes general manager of this new division. F. A. Baldauski, formerly the technical director of the subsidiary company, has been appointed sales manager, and G. C. Hooks, technical director of Sheffield Chemical. P. M. Reed and A. A. Sullivan have been appointed production manager and operations manager, respectively, of the new division.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Dow's 6-Month Earnings Up 51 Cents a Share

Dow Chemical reports sales of \$272,971,210 for the six months ended Nov. 30, 1955, as compared with \$222,096,806 for the corresponding period in 1954.

Net earnings were \$28,339,615, amounting to \$1.22 per share of common stock as against \$16,551,869 or 71 cents per common share in the previous year.

For the three months period ended November 30 Dow reported a rise in sales from \$114,274,296 to \$144,804,539. Net earnings were up from \$8,007,841 to \$16,615,968. The latter were equivalent to 35 cents and 71 cents per common share respectively.

Diamond Sales Over \$100 Million

Sales and earnings of Diamond Alkali, in 1955 climbed to record high levels, it is reported on the basis of unaudited figures by Raymond F. Evans, chairman and chief executive officer.