

Hercules Holders Approve Stock Split

Stockholders of Hercules Powder have approved a three-for-one split of the company's common stock. Also approved were an employee savings plan and a stock option plan.

Along with the stock split, shareholders approved a change from no par value to \$2.083 par value a share.

Holders of Hercules common on April 3 will receive two additional shares for each share held.

American Potash Sales Up 17%; Earnings, 62%

Sales and earnings of American Potash & Chemical Corp. in 1955 were the best attained to date, according to the annual report.

Sales increased 17% and earnings 62% over 1954. Net sales for the year ended Dec. 31, 1955, were \$27,731,612 compared to \$23,631,032 for the previous year. Net income was \$4,060,192. After preferred dividends, earnings were \$6.14 a share. In 1954 the company's net income was \$2,510,909, equivalent after pre-

ferred dividends to \$4.38 per share. Peter Colefax, president, stated that sales of potash increased over 1954. Shipments of potash to Japan were made for the first time since 1939. Sales of the company's agricultural chemicals showed significant gains.

Colefax stated that the continued growth of the company requires an intensive research program, and to this end the research budget was increased during 1955 to approximately 3.5% of sales and has been further expanded in 1956. Specific emphasis is being placed on boron and lithium chemicals. Construction of a \$200,000 addition to the laboratory at Whittier, Calif., was begun in December.

RESEARCH

Forest Insect Laboratory to Be Built at Oregon State

A \$35,000 forest insect laboratory is to be built at Oregon State College with completion expected by fall. The laboratory will be devoted to testing insecticides for use in controlling such forest insects as the Douglas fir bark beetle, spruce budworm, silver fir beetle, balsam woolly aphid, and western pine beetle. Sponsoring the project, which is to be headed by Julius Rudinsky, are the Northwest Forest Pest Action Committee, the Oregon State Board of Forestry, and the forest experiment station and department of entomology of Oregon State College.

Dow Opens New Lab for Biochemistry Research

Dow Chemical opened its new \$1.1 million biochemistry research building at Midland, Mich., last month. The new building will be used for toxicological investigation of chemical products and processes, development of new products, and fundamental research.

The air conditioned, one-story building provides 26 laboratories and eight animal rooms. Sixty-four men and women are on the staff and there is room for about 30 more. Head of biochemical research is Don D. Irish.

ASSOCIATIONS

Cereal Chemists to Discuss Amino Acid Supplements

Between 70 and 80 papers are scheduled to be presented when the

American Association of Cereal Chemists meets May 20 to 24 in New York. The meeting is to take place in the Hotel Commodore. At the opening session, Charles Glen King of the Nutrition Foundation will report on cereals in human nutrition, with special reference to present-day India. Raymond W. Miller of Harvard, formerly consultant to FAO, will discuss the problem of human relations in changing dietary patterns.

A series of papers on supplementing cereals for human foods is scheduled, with papers by N. W. Flodin of Du Pont, C. A. Elvehjem of the University of Wisconsin, and Norman Jolliffe and R. A. Peterman of the New York City Bureau of Nutrition.

IFT Meeting to Discuss Chemicals in Foods

Chemicals in foods will be a featured topic of discussion at the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists in St. Louis, June 10 to 14. Congressman A. L. Miller (R.-Neb.) will address the meeting on proposed legislation on chemicals in foods.

There will also be a symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Food and Drug Law, with Rep. Miller, FDA Commissioner George P. Larrick, and others on the platform.

Bernard L. Oser, director of Food Research Laboratories, will moderate a panel discussion on the current status of chemicals in foods on June 12.

CFA Meets in November

The California Fertilizer Association announces that its annual meeting dates are Nov. 11 through 13.

Soybean Meetings in August at U. of Ill.

The American Soybean Association and the National Soybean Processors Association will hold joint meetings on

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CALENDAR

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.
Atlantic City, N. J. April 16-20.

American Association of Cereal Chemists. Hotel Commodore, New York, N. Y. May 20-24.

Institute of Food Technologists.
St. Louis, Mo. June 10-14.