

News of the Month . . .

Du Pont Expanding Urea-Ammoniating Solutions

Du Pont is planning to expand production for Uramon ammonia liquors at its Belle, W. Va., plant, it is announced. The new facilities for urea-ammoniating solutions are part of an over-all expansion of the Belle works, which is to be completed in 1959.

In conjunction with the modernization, Du Pont is also expanding research in new ammoniating formulations and its technical service to customers.

The expansion at Belle includes gradual conversion of the high pressure synthesis facilities from use of coal to natural gas as the basic raw material.

The company recently appointed three technical specialists in the field who will provide customer services in connection with Uramon. They are: Ove F. Jensen for the midwestern states; John Spicer, Jr., for the southeastern states; and Philip B. Turner for the northeastern states. Both Jensen and Spicer have been nitrogen products sales representatives for Du Pont. Dr. Turner recently joined the staff after managing a fertilizer plant for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

American Potash Building Sodium Chlorate Plant

American Potash & Chemical Corp. has announced it will construct a \$5-million chemical manufacturing plant at Aberdeen, Miss., for the production of sodium chlorate.

Construction will start immediately at a 586-acre site on the Tombigbee River seven miles outside of Aberdeen, with completion scheduled for mid-1958. Initial production at the Aberdeen plant will be at the rate of 15,000 tons of sodium chlorate per year, with provisions for possible future expansion into other chemical fields.

American Potash currently manufactures sodium chlorate at its Henderson, Nev., plant.

Quebec Warehouse Opened by Chipman

Opening of a Québec sales office and pesticides warehouse at 2295 Aird Ave., Montreal, is announced by Chipman Chemicals Ltd. These new facilities are designed to serve more adequately the province of Québec by placing stocks of herbicides, seed treat-

ments, insecticides and fungicides close to Québec consumers. They will also provide accommodations for office and sales personnel.

Guy Hamilton, formerly with Canadian Industries, Ltd., agricultural chemicals division, will be in charge of the completely bilingual office staff.

Chipman Chemicals, Ltd., was reorganized in 1956 to merge its operations with the pesticides operations of Canadian Industries, Ltd.

Court Approves Plan for Texas City Chemicals

The U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas has approved the plan for reorganizing Texas City Chemicals. Under the plan, Smith-Douglass, Inc., becomes the sole stockholder.

To be managed by Coronet Phosphate Co., a Smith-Douglass division, the plant will produce dicalcium phosphate and sulfuric and phosphoric acids. Texas City Chemicals will be operated as a separate division.

The plant was completed in 1953 and ceased operating in January 1956. In February of this year, the plant went back on stream, with the first carload of dicalcium phosphate being shipped then.

Shea Moves to New York

Shea Chemical has just transferred its executive offices to the Murray Hill section of New York City (11 East 40th St.). This move from Jeffersonville, Ind., was necessitated by the corporation's rapid expansion over the past couple of years and its expected doubling again by 1957, the company reports.

Shea's agricultural sales will continue to be based in Jeffersonville, although industrial sales are being directed from New York. Product development at the Adams lab is now administered from the new offices, where engineering and central purchasing also are centered.

Fertilizer Burns at Allied's South Point, Ohio, Plant

A fire at Allied Chemical's Nitrogen Division plant at South Point, Ohio, began late the night of March 8 and was brought under control the following day. The following is Allied's statement concerning the fire. It was issued on March 9.

"Fire of undetermined origin started

in the bulk fertilizer storage building about midnight last night (Friday) at Allied Chemical's Nitrogen Division South Point, Ohio, plant. Water was immediately poured on to the fire by the plant fire-fighting crew but the fire burned stubbornly. Assistance of the fire departments in Ironton, Ohio, Ashland, Ky., and Huntington, W. Va., was requested after 1:00 A.M. and they immediately responded. Also, the Volunteer Fire Department from Westwood in Ashland responded. Additional water was poured on to the burning fertilizer at the rate of approximately several thousand gallons per minute during the night and at approximately 10:00 A.M. the fire was brought under control.

"The fumes from the burning fertilizer, which have been noticed in the area, have been constantly checked by the plant's chemists and are chlorine and oxides of nitrogen, which have not been in sufficient concentration to be injurious to either life or property. Residents in the area adjacent to the plant were advised by plant employees, the Lawrence County Sheriff, and officers of the State Highway Patrol early this morning to leave their homes if the fumes became irritating. No full estimate of damage has been made.

"The plant continued to run without interruption. Late in the afternoon the water succeeded in subduing the fire and the volume of smoke was noticeably diminishing."

Emulsol Chemical Corporation Moves To Larger Quarters

As part of an expansion program for 1957, Emulsol Chemical Corp., will move its sales and administrative offices from 59 East Madison St. to larger quarters at 75 East Wacker Drive, Chicago.

Emulsol's laboratory will remain at 59 East Madison St.

Du Pont Building Sulfuric Plant Near Detroit

A modern sulfuric acid plant will be built by Du Pont on the Detroit River at Ecorse, Mich., about eight miles south of Detroit, it is announced. The new unit, to be built on the company's present plant site, will replace an existing plant which has become obsolete.

This plant, known as the Ecorse Works, serves principally the fertilizer, automobile, steel, oil, and chemical industries in the greater Detroit industrial area.

The new unit will substantially expand production over the present facilities and will enable the company to meet increases in customer demand for sulfuric acid, it is said.

Present production of sulfuric acid will not be interrupted, since the old plant will not be dismantled until the new plant is in operation. Construction will begin this month and the new unit is expected to be in operation early in 1958.

Takamine to Sell Dole's Bromelin

Dole Hawaiian Pineapple Co. and Takamine Laboratory, a division of Miles Laboratories, Inc., have concluded an arrangement under which Takamine will handle industrial sales and market development of Dole's proteolytic enzyme, bromelin.

Bromelin is a protein-digesting enzyme extracted from the stump of the pineapple plant. Its suggested applications include use in meat tenderizers, chillproofing compounds for beer, animal feeds, protein hydrolysates, baked goods, and others. The company is now in limited commercial production of the enzyme at its Honolulu plant and is expanding production facilities.

1250 Boys Participate in Spencer Corn Growing Contest

A total of 1250 boys enrolled in Spencer's efficient corn growing contest last year in 16 states. The contest came to a climax recently when Spencer brought the 34 winners to celebrations in Memphis or Kansas City.

To qualify for the three-day trip each participant was required to grow two one-acre plots of corn side by side. On one plot he followed the usual corn-growing practices used on his farm. On the other plot he used practices which, in his judgment, would contribute to a more efficient and profitable yield.

Although increasing efficiency and use of up-to-date practices were stressed above an attempt at maximum yield, the average of all the "new practices" plots harvested by the winners was 114 bushels as compared to 74.6 bushels for the "old practices" plots.

Despite greater expenditures for fertilizer, seed, herbicides, and pesticides on the new practices plot, the increase in yield also brought a decrease in unit cost of production. Average per bushel cost on the "new" plot was 62 cents, 20 cents less than it cost to raise a bushel of corn on the "old" plot.

Basic reasons for the improved prof-

its and efficiency were increases in the number of plants per acre (9600 "old"; 13,800 "new") and the use of fertilizer. Average application of nitrogen went from 27.5 to 97.7 pounds per acre. Phosphorus went from 27.3 to 65.8 and potash from 23.9 to 65.1.

Evans Research Establishes Group for Enzyme Studies

A new research group for studies in enzymology has been established at Evans Research, with Norman Lazaroff as research project leader, according to an announcement from the New York City consulting firm.

Mr. Lazaroff was formerly with Schwarz Laboratories as a microbiologist and the Research Foundation of the State University of New York as a biochemist. His past research has centered on chemical aspects of microbial and plant activities with stress on enzyme relationships.

An important part of the activities of the group will be to study the fundamental enzyme chemistry involved in the latent flavor concept of enzymatic restoration of natural flavor to processed foods. This concept, developed at Evans Research under the sponsorship of the U. S. Quartermaster Research & Development Command, is

now being studied at Evans Research by fundamental research, applied research, and product development groups.

EDUCATION

NPFI Sponsors Fertilizer Education in West

The National Plant Food Institute has announced it is sponsoring projects, at educational institutions of three western states, on the importance of using fertilizer more efficiently.

In California, NPFI has arranged with the state department of education for a \$1500 fellowship at California State Polytechnic College. Recipient of the fellowship is to develop subject matter materials and teaching plans dealing with fertilizer use. Teachers of vocational agriculture throughout the state are to receive copies of the findings.

In Oregon, NPFI is sponsoring production of a large color poster, with the advice and assistance of Oregon State College, on soil testing and proper use of fertilizer. The poster is to be displayed in the offices of fertilizer dealers, county agents, Federal agricultural workers, and others.

In Washington, a leaflet entitled

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