

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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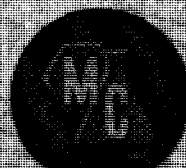
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News of the Month

"Soil Testing is Good Business" is to be produced by NPFI in cooperation with Washington State College. The leaflet is to be distributed by the state extension service to dealers and county agents.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

**Monsanto Sales Up;
Farm Purchases 8% of Sales**

Agriculture ranks fifth among the customers of Monsanto, accounting for nearly 8% of Monsanto's \$541.9 million in total sales for 1956. In 1955, agriculture contributed nearly 10% to Monsanto's sales of \$525.7 million.

Net earnings after taxes were \$38.6 million or \$1.80 per common share, down 8.4% from 1955's \$42.2 million or \$1.98 a share.

During 1956, the Lion Oil Division's ammonia plants were operating at 75% of capacity, with that level maintained only because of overseas sales. Monsanto and its associated companies expect to increase their use of Lion ammonia from the present level of 7% of capacity to 20%.

**Du Pont Sales Hit
\$1888 Million, 2nd Highest**

Sales, earnings, and dividends of Du Pont in 1956 were the second highest in the company's history, exceeded only by the record highs established in 1955, it is disclosed in the annual report.

Sales were \$1888 million, or 1% lower than in 1955, while physical volume of sales was about 3% higher. For the fourth quarter of 1956, sales were at an all-time high of \$495 million.

Net earnings from operations decreased 13% because of both higher operating expenses and lower dollar sales, while average operating investment was 7% greater than in 1955.

Earnings for 1956 were \$8.20 per share of common stock, including \$2.55 from General Motors dividends, as compared with \$9.26 in 1955, including \$2.75 from General Motors.

**American Potash Sets
New High in Sales, Earnings**

Sales and earnings of American Potash & Chemical Corp. surpassed all previous records in the year ended Dec. 31, 1956, it is announced.

Net sales of the company during 1956 were \$41,750,628 as compared with \$27,731,612 for the preceding