News of the Month . . .

Union Oil Merges Brea and R. T. Collier

Union Oil Co. of California has announced the merger of two of its subsidiary corporations, Brea Chemicals, Inc., operating in the petrochemical field, and the R. T. Collier Corp., operating in the carbon and allied fields.

The new corporation will be known as the Collier Carbon & Chemical Corp., with headquarters at 714 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles. This corporation will continue to manufacture and market Brea brand chemicals and will conduct its petrochemical and carbon businesses as corporate divisions.

In 1954, Brea began to market aqua ammonia to agriculture, and has since added ammonium phosphate, nitric acid, and ammonium nitrate, the latter in both prilled and solution form.

The carbon division of the new corporation, with its main plant at Santa Clara, Calif., is a producer of industrial carbon for chemical and metallurgical processors. This division also markets charcoal briquets and several other products made from active carbon.

R. T. Collier, as president, will be chief executive officer of the new corporation. For the past 11 years he has been president of R. T. Collier Corp.

"With this merger," reports Mr. Collier, "we will widen our scope of activity, with a new combination of technical experience and manufacturing and research facilities for developing new products in the petrochemical and carbon field."

Homer Reed will be vice president of the new corporation. Mr. Reed has been president of Brea Chemicals, Inc. since it was organized Oct. 28, 1952. Prior to that he had been chief engineer of Union Oil.

Stauffer Gets Patent On Phosphate Insecticides

A patent which covers the manufacture, composition, and use of a series of phosphate insecticides and acaricides has been obtained by Stauffer Chemical. Issued as U. S. Patent 2,795,224, it is cited by the company as a basic patent on the development of the insecticide which Stauffer is now marketing under the trade name of Trithion.

The U. S. Patent Office granted 12 claims to the inventor. These include, as new compositions of matter, *p*-chlorophenyl-mercaptomethyl dialkyl dithiophosphates (and, in addition, specifically the ethyl and isopropyl compounds); method of making these dialkyl dithiophosphates; method of killing pests by the use of the dialkyl dithiophosphates; formulations of the dialkyl dithiophosphates with inert adjuvants.

It is also mentioned that these dialkyl dithiophosphates have proved to be effective even in controlling phosphate-resistant strains of mites.

Superphosphoric Acid Ammoniated

Superphosphoric acid, developed by TVA, was successfully ammoniated in June in an ammoniation reactor developed by J. C. Carlile Corp. of Denver, Colo. The ammoniation was carried out at Hopkinsville, Ky., in the plant of West Kentucky Liquid Fertilizer Corp. The formulas were 11-33-0 and 10-10-10.

Complex Fertilizer Plant To Be Built in Italy

A complex fertilizer plant is to be built in Italy for Societa Azienda Nationale Idrogenazione Combusibili of Milan. The plant is to be built by Potasse & Engrais Chimiques. It will use the PEC carbonitric process to produce 400 to 600 tons per day of a 13-10-12 fertilizer.

Hercules Changes Name of Missouri Ammonia Works

Hercules Powder announces it has changed the name of its Missouri Ammonia Works at Louisiana, Mo. to Missouri Chemical Works.

The company said that the increasing number of chemical materials produced at the site caused the former name to be misleading.

Missouri Chemical Works produced only anhydrous ammonia from the time Hercules purchased the plant in the spring of 1954 until a few months ago when production of pentaerythritol and formaldehyde began. A new methanol plant also is nearing completion at the site.

Liquid Fertilizer Plant Begins Operation Near Chicago

Bisbee Agrichemical Co., Inc., has started production of liquid fertilizer in Chicago Heights, Ill. Capacity of its plant is in excess of 15,000 tons a year. The new company will manufacture nine standard mixtures containing all three plant nutrients. It will also formulate custom mixes for specific soil needs.

ASSOCIATIONS

NPFI to Study Dues Structure; Potash Producers Resign

A five-man committee to study the dues structure of the National Plant Food Institute to "determine whether there are any inequities" has been appointed by the new president of NPFI, John A. Miller. The committee is to report its findings to the board of directors on Oct. 30.

On the committee are: William E. McGuirk, Jr., president of Davison Chemical; B. W. Bellinger, executive vice president of Tennessee Corp.; J. C. Crissey, division manager, GLF Soil Building Service; Hugo Riemer, president of Allied Chemical's Nitrogen Division; and Richard C. Wells, president of National Potash Co. McGuirk is committee chairman.

Decision to appoint this committee is the result presumably of the resignation of the six potash producers who belonged to both NPFI and the American Potash Institute. Those six companies are American Potash & Chemical, Duval Sulphur & Potash, National Potash, Potash Co. of America, Southwest Potash Corp., and the U. S. Potash Division of U. S. Borax & Chemical. The nation's other major potash producer, International Minerals, not an API member, retained its NPFI membership.

The six potash producers who resigned (effective June 30) cite as the cause what they consider to be an inequitable assessment for the financing of NPFI's expanded program of activities (Ag and Food, July 1957, page 483). Fred Coope, president of Potash Co. of America, and spokesman for the resigning members, said the proposed dues were "extremely inequitable . . . for the great majority of potash companies who have for years supported the American Potash Institute . . . for a program of research, education, and promotion which benefits the entire fertilizer industry."

"We were already deeply committed to the expense of the American Potash Institute," he continued, "and we concluded we could not bear the additional burden of this NPFI program."