

News of the Month . . .

IMC to Spend \$20 Million On Canadian Potash Mine

International Minerals & Chemical Corp. plans to spend more than \$20 million on construction near Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, on "the most modern and efficient potash mine in the world."

Louis Ware, president of IMC and its Canadian subsidiary, International Minerals & Chemical Corp. (Canada), Ltd., said that the new mine, for which a 3000-foot shaft is now being sunk, would play an important part in "making the North American continent self-sufficient in its need for potash for centuries to come."

"With continued development of Saskatchewan's ore reserves by this company and others, Canada and the United States ultimately will account for a major part of the world potash supply," he said.

The new mine shaft, to be more than a half mile deep and 18 feet in diameter, will cost about \$4 million, Mr. Ware said. Mining equipment, a refinery, large storage buildings, machine and repair shops, and additional plant facilities will account for the remainder of the estimated cost. The Utah Construction Company, of San Francisco, is constructing the mine shaft and several surface structures at Esterhazy. The development area includes 450,000 acres which IMC controls under permits.

Hazleton Opens Western Lab

Hazleton Laboratories, of Falls Church, Va., opened its western division in Palo Alto, Calif., on Sept. 1.

The western laboratory will specialize in determining the amounts of pesticide residues left on foods and crops after dusting or spraying, and how long they persist.

Palo Alto facilities include arrangement for field experimentation and procurement of crop samplings. A major part of the studies there will involve development of sensitive analytical methods for pesticides. The laboratory is equipped with up-to-date instruments for microanalysis, including infrared and ultraviolet spectrophotometers.

With the addition of the western division, Hazleton Laboratories will be one of the first firms in this country to offer complete biological research services to industry in connection with the development of agricultural chemicals. Lloyd W. Hazleton, president, stated.

The new laboratory will also conduct research on other chemical products, such as intentional food additives and food packaging materials.

Ralph Fogleman, former head of the agricultural chemicals department at Hazleton Laboratories, has been named manager of the western division. Robert Bruce will supervise residue analysis. Theodore Tuft, entomologist, formerly with the research and development staff of American Cyanamid Co., will conduct field trials and supervise crop sampling.

Hercules to Make Urea

Hercules Powder announces it will start construction immediately of facilities to produce 10,000 tons per year of urea at its Hercules, Calif., plant. Anhydrous ammonia and carbon dioxide, both necessary raw materials, are produced at the plant. Completion of the urea facilities is expected by late 1958.

Urea solutions from the plant will be sold for agricultural and industrial purposes.

Grace Chemical Making Microprills of Urea

Grace Chemical has announced it is making microprilled urea for use in animal feeds. The feed-grade urea is being manufactured at its plant in Woodstock, Tenn. Ralston Purina purchased the first carload of the product recently.

Microprills are said to be free-flowing and noncaking under normal storage conditions, which makes them easier to blend into feed formulations. Microprills, developed after two years of research by Grace chemists and engineers, are manufactured by dropping urea through an opening at the top of a tall tower. The urea solidifies into small spheres as it falls to the bottom of the tower.

Spencer Urea Plant to Use Fauser-Montecatini Process

Spencer Chemical's urea plant now under construction at Henderson, Ky., will utilize the Fauser-Montecatini process for urea manufacture.

According to Montecatini, this will be the third American plant to utilize the Fauser-Montecatini process to produce urea. Spencer is already successfully operating a urea plant at Vicksburg, Miss., and Shell Chemical Co. is producing urea by the Fauser-Montecatini process at its plant in Ventura, Calif., the company reports.

The new Spencer facility at Henderson, Ky. is reported to have a capacity of 100 tons per day. It will bring the number of Fauser-Montecatini plants all over the world to a total of 65—twenty-five of which are designed for the production of urea.

Velsicol to Make Ethyl Parathion

Velsicol Chemical Corp. announces it will produce ethyl parathion at its Memphis, Tenn., plant. According to J. F. Kirk, vice president, production will start in November. At that time, methyl parathion operations will be transferred to Memphis. In addition to the plant at Memphis, Velsicol has a plant at Marshall, Ill.

Calspray Opens Lab For Fertilizer Quality Control

Calspray has put into operation a quality control laboratory at its \$16-million fertilizer plant in Richmond, Calif. The company says the laboratory is equipped with the latest scientific instruments for maintaining close chemical control of the processing in liquid or dry plants from the raw materials stage on to the finished product. The lab is to operate on a 24-hour basis under the supervision of John C. Maier.

A. R. Maas to Build Phosphoric Acid Plant

The A. R. Maas Division of Victor Chemical broke ground late in August for a phosphoric acid and catalyst plant at Richmond, Calif. Plant output will be sold to the food and agricultural industries. No details about capacity were revealed in the announcement.

American Agricultural Buying Buhner Fertilizer

American Agricultural Chemical Co. has contracted to purchase the physical assets of the Buhner Fertilizer Co., Inc., of Seymour, Ind., and Danville, Ill.

The announcement gave no details about the purchase price.

Chemagro Research Group Moves to Kansas City

Sections of Chemagro's research department moved from Pittsburgh to Kansas City, Mo., on Oct. 1. The new address for Gordon M. Williams, assistant director of research, the research library, and the analytical, formulation, and product development

sections will be: Chemagro Corp., P. O. Box 4913, Hawthorn Road, Kansas City 20, Mo.

R. von Rumker, director of research, and the field research section remain at 437 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

Merck Enlarging Feed Supplements Plant

An expanded nutrients blending plant capable of tripling its present carrier supplement output for poultry and swine feeds is under construction at the St. Louis division of Merck & Co., Inc. Company engineers expect to have it in full operation next spring.

Equipment to be installed will make up two new lines. One will consist of new larger storage silos, additional auxiliary crushers, and new holding hoppers. Equipment for the other line will be entirely of stainless steel for blending of water-dispersible supplements, which are becoming increasingly popular.

The plans call for facilities for increasing custom mixing, employing the latest techniques for the safe, accurate handling of the newer micronutrients Merck research is developing. The manufacturing area will be more than doubled to provide storage space for finished products and raw materials.

ASSOCIATIONS

Fertilizer Round Table

No formal papers are to be given at this year's Fertilizer Round Table, which is to be held at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D. C. The five half-day sessions are to begin at 1:30 P.M. on Nov. 6 and continue through Nov. 8.

Each session will emphasize one phase of fertilizer manufacture. The first session will deal with: standardization of raw materials; formulation theory and practice; and chemical control. Problems associated with ammoniation will be the topic of the second session. Granulation is scheduled for discussion at the third session. The last two sessions will be devoted to: manufacture of superphosphates; liquid fertilizers; plant effluents; instrumentation; and maintenance.

About 30 persons have been assigned to lead the discussions.

Chemical Control Conference

A conference on chemical control procedures and problems in the fertilizer industry, sponsored by the chemical control committee of the National Plant Food Institute, will be held in the Park Room, Shoreham

Hotel, Washington, D. C., on Oct. 17. Vincent Sauchelli, chemical technologist for NPFI and chairman of the committee, has announced.

The meeting is scheduled for the period when the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists meets in Washington.

Chemists in the fertilizer industry and state regulatory service personnel particularly are invited.

Control Officials Set Dates

The Association of Official Agricultural Chemists will meet Oct. 14 through 16 at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington. The meetings will be followed by meetings of the Association of American Feed Control Officials, the Association of American Fertilizer Control Officials, and the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials.

Weed Control Meet and Exhibit in Iowa Next December

The North Central Weed Control Conference has set Dec. 10 to 12 for this year's annual meeting, its 14th. Meeting place will be Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines, Iowa, where space will be provided for about 150 exhibits of weed control chemicals and machinery.

Lloyd Van Patten, Iowa's assistant state secretary of agriculture, will be exhibit chairman, and E. P. Sylwester of Iowa State College, Ames, will be in charge of local arrangements.

Fertilizer Safety Meet

The fertilizer section of the National Safety Council has scheduled its 1957 meeting for Oct. 21 and 22 at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago. On the program will be E. V. Anderson of Johnson & Higgins, who will discuss "Visualizing Ammonia Hazards." "Using Acids and Nitrogen Solutions Without Hazard" will be the topic of Elmer Perrine of Allied's Nitrogen Division.

Fertility Meeting in Atlanta

Soil scientists and fertilizer industry representatives will meet in Atlanta, Ga., at the end of October to attend the annual Southeastern Fertilizer Conference and the annual Southern Soil Fertility Conference. Both sessions are slated for the Dinkler-Plaza Hotel.

The fertilizer conference, sponsored by the National Plant Food Institute, is intended primarily for NPFI members, although invitations have been extended to USDA and college personnel. It will be held Oct. 31.

The soil fertility conference, under joint sponsorship of the Southern Regional Soil Research Committee and NPFI, will follow on Nov. 1, and is open to NPFI members as well as college and USDA representatives.

A large part of the industry session will be devoted to a discussion of what influences farmers in the Southeast to purchase fertilizer. This discussion will be based on a study being conducted for NPFI by National Analysts, Inc., of Philadelphia.

M. S. Williams, NPFI chief agricultural economist, will report on the Philadelphia firm's study. This will be followed by an appraisal of factors influencing the use of fertilizer in the Southeast by H. L. Dunton, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and Webster Pendergrass, University of Tennessee.

Russell Coleman, NPFI Executive vice president, will speak at the session on the institute's expansion program.

Northern Weed Meet

The Northeastern Weed Control Conference will take place Jan. 8, 9, and 10 in New York City. The Hotel New Yorker will be headquarters for the meeting.

PEOPLE

Rose to Receive Spencer Award

William C. Rose, University of Illinois biochemist, will receive this year's Charles F. Spencer Award in Agricultural and Food Chemistry. The award, administered by the Kansas City Section of the ACS, will be made on Nov. 9 during the section's annual chemical conference. Now professor emeritus, Rose has spent 34 years delving into the problems of protein nutrition. Among his accomplishments is the isolation and identification of threonine, one of the essential amino acids. The award includes \$500 and a medallion. The first two winners of this award were Conrad Elvehjem and Ralph Hixon.

Jackson V. Vernon, president of the Niagara Chemical Division of Food Machinery, has been elected president of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association. He succeeds Fred Hatch of Shell. New vice president is Charles H. Sommer, vice president of Monsanto. New members of the NAC board are: George R. Ferguson of Geigy, John O. Logan of Olin Mathieson, and Warren H. Moyer of Chipman Chemical.

Oscar A. Lorenz, of the University of California's vegetable crops department, has been named chairman of