

News of the Month . . .

INDUSTRY

Diamond Black Leaf Integrated with Diamond Alkali

Operations of Diamond Black Leaf Co., producer of agricultural chemicals for farm use and lawn and garden products for home use, have been integrated with the business interests of Diamond Alkali Co., according to an announcement from the parent organization.

Loren P. Scoville, general manager of Diamond Alkali's chlorinated products division, said that the former Diamond Black Leaf Co. organization now becomes Diamond Black Leaf Products, a unit of Diamond Alkali Co.

"The consolidation of Diamond Black Leaf operations and the addition of the extensive research and production facilities of Diamond Alkali will enable Diamond Black Leaf to provide better service to customers of both farm and home products," he said.

This action represents a still further step in broadening Diamond's position as a producer of basic agricultural chemicals, the announcement said.

Stauffer Chemical Will Enlarge Its Richmond Plant

Stauffer Chemical will enlarge its Richmond, Calif., plant to produce 50,000 tons annually of pelletized single superphosphate, Roger W. Gunder, Stauffer vice president for western operations has announced.

The new plant will use a process developed by Stauffer engineers, in cooperation with a Southwestern engineering firm, and is expected to be in production about March 15, 1958. To cost about \$350,000, the new plant will supply single superphosphate, widely used by Western growers, in a uniform, pelleted, dust-free form.

Wilson & Geo. Meyer & Co., exclusive sales agents for Stauffer's three superphosphate plants on the Pacific Coast, will handle the sale of this new product.

Gunder states, until the new plant is in production next March, growers will be supplied with pelletized single superphosphate from Stauffer's Vernon, Calif., plant which was built in 1955.

Rohm & Haas Withdraws Yellow Cuproicide from Market

Rohm & Haas discontinued sale of its copper-based fungicide, Yellow

Cuproicide, on Nov. 1. The product, a finely divided form of cuprous oxide, has virtually been supplanted in recent years by the company's organic fungicides, Dithane D-14, Z-78, and M-22, according to Carlos Kampmeier, head of the company's agricultural and sanitary chemicals department.

Mercks Cuts Gibrel Price from \$10 to \$4

Gibrel, Merck's gibberellin product has been reduced in price from \$10 to \$4 per gram, it was announced recently.

The 60% reduction has been made possible by substantial improvements in the manufacturing process and by increased demands that are expected as a result of new research findings, according to the announcement.

The results to date indicate that Gibrel will help farmers and gardeners in three basic ways: by hastening seed germination and plant emergence, promoting faster seedling growth, and by increasing vegetative growth. With Gibrel now available at a practical agricultural economic level for many purposes, Merck expects that these results will shortly find profitable application on the farm through the recommendations of extension service specialists and county agents.

U. S. Borax Completes New Mine and Refinery

U. S. Borax & Chemical is completing a new open pit mine and refinery in the Mojave Desert "to meet the steadily increasing demand for borate products by agricultural chemical manufacturers and other industries . . ."

To be officially placed in production on Nov. 14, the facility will boost American output by 30%.

The fully mechanical operation from pit to finished product represents an investment of \$20 million and more than two years' work, the company said.

Nott Mfg. Acquires Control of Rose Mfg.

Nott Mfg. Co. has acquired control of Rose Mfg. Co., Beacon, N.Y., manufacturers of the Tri-Ogen line of pesticides and plant food for roses.

Nott President Bob Harkins stated that the acquisition of Rose was part of Nott's general expansion program to offer its distributors a full and com-

plete line of nationally established brands of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, specialty fertilizers, rodenticides and related products.

Herb Harkins, who has been actively associated with the Nott organization, has been elected president of Rose.

The present Beacon plant will continue to serve Rose customers without interruption.

American Agricultural Buys Buhner Fertilizer Plants

American Agricultural Chemical Co. has completed negotiations for the purchase of the 68-year-old Buhner Fertilizer Co. of Seymour, Ind. The Buhner Co., founded in 1889 by John R. Buhner, was one of the pioneers in the fertilizer industry. The sale price was not disclosed.

The new owner has already started operations at the three Buhner plants located at Seymour, Ind., and Danville and Havana, Ill.

W. J. Turbeville, Jr., vice president, fertilizer sales, for the AAC, said most of the Buhner personnel have elected to join AAC.

With the acquisition of the Buhner plants, AAC Co. has enlarged its operations to include 31 fertilizer plants and sales offices in the U. S., Canada, and Cuba. The company has been in the fertilizer business for over 85 years. It has other Midwest plants at Fulton and National Stock Yards, Ill.; Cincinnati and Cairo, Ohio; and Detroit, Mich.

The present fertilizer plant at Seymour was built after a fire in 1929. The Danville works was opened in 1949 and the Havana plant, a warehouse for bulk and bagged fertilizer, was opened in 1955.

Molasses Processor Moves To Iowa from Kansas

C. K. Processing Co., manufacturers of dehydrated molasses materials for feed manufacturers and farmers to use in preserving silage, has started construction work on a new plant near Muscatine, Iowa. The company originated at Salina, Kan., and is moving to the Iowa location to take advantage of river transportation, company officials say. The plant is expected to be in operation early next year. Richard Nelson, former production manager for Vy-Lactos Laboratories, will be general manager of the company. President is John J. Vanier.

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**WHERE CREATIVE CHEMISTRY
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H. J. Baker to Sell Activated Chicago Sludge

H. J. Baker & Bro. has been appointed exclusive sales representative for heat-dried activated Chicago sludge, it is announced.

Chicago sludge tests about 5% nitrogen, 4% available P_2O_5 , 75% humus, and trace materials.

The company said that Chicago sludge is available in bulk to the fertilizer industry and can be shipped by freight car and barge. In addition to two primary plant foods and humus, the sludge contains calcium, magnesium, boron, manganese, copper, zinc, iron, and potassium. Samples may be obtained from H. J. Baker & Bro. in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Savannah, and Tampa.

Hodag Chemical Expands Production Facilities

A substantial increase in production capacity is announced by Hodag Chemical Corp., Chicago manufacturer of antifoams and other surface-active agents for food, chemical, and industrial processing applications. Expanded facilities include six new vessels for storing and processing animal and vegetable oils, new piping system to expedite tank car loading and unloading, and additional personnel. The new vessels give Hodag over half million pounds of new storage and processing capacity.

Laboratory facilities have also been expanded and new pilot plant equipment installed to produce drum quantities of new surface-active agents for specialized applications. In connection with this, Hodag has established a new product development department. This department will work closely with Hodag's regular technical service representatives to analyze field problems and develop custom surface-active agents to solve them.

RESEARCH

Rayonier Begins Fertilizer Experiment on Florida Tree Farm

A technique of fertilizing pulpwood forests with standard agricultural equipment has been developed by Rayonier, Inc., it is revealed.

As a new phase in the company's conservation programs, the experiment, held on a Rayonier tree farm in Florida, was undertaken primarily to test the response of southern pine to plant food. It also demonstrated that no special or costly new equipment is needed for fertilizing tree plantations.

"A standard farm tractor pulled a spreader we borrowed from a local

farmer who uses it for pasture fertilization," James T. Sheehy, executive vice president, said. Supervising the experiment, conducted by Rayonier's southeast timber division in cooperation with the Nitrogen Division of Allied Chemical & Dye Corp., is T. E. Maki, professor of forest management at North Carolina State College.

Rayonier's experimental area was divided into 84 plots. Eighteen different treatments were given to 72 of the plots and 12 were used as control plots. Fertilizers applied at varying rates and in several combinations were urea, ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate-limestone, triple superphosphate, and muriate of potash.

Mr. Sheehy said that detailed comparisons between trees in the control plots and the fertilized plots will be made in about five years and at intervals thereafter. Comparisons will also be made between size and general health of the fertilized trees now and later.

Rayonier, a producer of chemical cellulose, owns or controls nearly 2 million acres of farmed forests in the U. S. and Canada.

More recently Rayonier instituted a new study in nutrient uptake and annual growth by tagging infant pine trees with radioactive carbon-14, said to be the first use of "hot" atoms in the forest products industry.

"We hope that our Florida experiment with chemical fertilizers will result in improved tree quality as well as growth," Mr. Sheehy said. Rayonier also looks for the experiment to show the practicality of fertilizing nutrient-deficient soil, particularly in the South. There it has been estimated that some 15 million acres of forest land might well be made more completely productive through fertilization.

If successful, Rayonier believes this could provide the answer for future, increased world demands for cellulose and other forest products. At the same time the new forests will protect water sheds and top soil; supply both cover and forage for wild life; create new recreational areas; generally help strengthen the economy, and offer sources of employment. "This is in line with Rayonier's persistent calling for a real multiple-uses forest policy at the national level," Mr. Sheehy said.

"The cost of fertilization is indeed cheap if we can accomplish these aims," Mr. Sheehy commented. As yet the economics have not been worked out, as it is still too early to determine costs.

New Labs for USDA

Three new laboratories are to be

built for the Department of Agriculture—for the study of seed preservation, for plant disease research, and for work on improving utilization of fruits and vegetables.

The seed storage laboratory, costing \$405,643, will be built at Fort Collins, Colo., on the campus of Colorado A&M College. It will be two stories, with 17,000 sq. ft. of floor area and no basement.

The plant disease laboratory is to go up at Weslaco, Tex. It is to be one story, with no basement, providing 12,300 sq. ft. of floor space. There will be laboratories for soil physics, chemistry, and fertility and allied areas of investigation. Two greenhouses, of 24,000 sq. ft. each, are to be built later.

The fruit and vegetable utilization laboratory will be built at Winter Park, Fla., and is to provide 26,000 sq. ft. of floor space. It will have a pilot plant for preparing food products, particularly from citrus fruit.

UC to Put Up Soils and Plant Nutrition Building at Davis

A new soils and plant nutrition building is to be built on the Davis campus of the University of California. The two-story reinforced concrete building is to house the departments of soils and plant nutrition, agricultural biochemistry, and plant nematology. It will contain two classrooms, three teaching laboratories, 13 research laboratories, and faculty offices.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

23% Gain in IMC Profits

International Minerals & Chemical reports a 23% gain in net earnings after taxes on an 11% increase in sales for the first fiscal quarter ended Sept. 30.

Earnings were \$754,000 compared with \$614,000 for the same period a year ago. Sales for the quarter just ended totalled \$20,553,000, compared with \$18,477,000 in the corresponding 1956-57 period, and Louis Ware, IMC president, noted that this was the sixth consecutive quarter in which sales have exceeded those for the same quarter of the previous year.

Mr. Ware said that the generally improved picture for the first quarter was largely attributable to steadily continuing gains at the company's phosphate chemical processing plant at Bonnie, Fla.

Earnings per share of common stock for the period were 28 cents, compared with 22 cents a year ago.

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Earnings before taxes were \$1,019,000 compared with \$856,000 for the first quarter of the 1956-57 fiscal year.

Monsanto Sales, Profits Up

Sales for the first nine months of 1957 for Monsanto and its subsidiaries amounted to \$436,790,000, an increase of 7% over the sales of \$407,381,000, for the corresponding period in 1956.

Earnings were \$30,974,000, equal to \$1.44 a share. For the same period last year, the amounts were \$28,813,000 and \$1.35, respectively.

Third quarter sales in 1957 were \$139,644,000, an increase of 10% over sales of \$127,124,000 for the same quarter in 1956. Net income for the third quarter of 1957 was \$8,810,000, equal to 41 cents a share, which compares with \$6,838,000, or 32 cents a share, for the same quarter of 1956.

Atlas Earnings Dip

Atlas Powder reports third quarter sales and operating revenues of \$18,119,467—a 6% increase over the \$17,039,007 reported for the same quarter last year.

Third quarter net earnings for 1957 were \$1,021,573, or \$1.34 a common share—compared with \$1,059,291, or \$1.41 a share earned in the third quarter of 1956.

For the first nine months of 1957, sales and operating revenues were \$53,252,811, a 6% increase over the \$49,999,496 reported for the first nine months of 1956. Net earnings for the first nine months of 1957 were \$3,019,490, or \$4.00 a share, compared with \$3,294,608, or \$4.40 a share, for the same period in 1956.

Net earnings for the third quarter of 1957 were down 4% from those reported for the same period in 1956. The net earnings for the first six months of 1957 declined 11% from 1956.

National Distillers Earnings Up \$933,739 Over 1956

National Distillers & Chemical reports that consolidated net income for the nine months ended Sept. 30 totaled \$15,450,550, an increase of \$933,739 over the \$14,516,811 earned in the first three quarters of 1956. Current earnings, after provision for preferred dividends, equal \$1.62 a share compared with \$1.54 a share on Sept. 30, 1956.

Net sales for the 1957 nine months totaled \$392,598,468. They compare with sales of \$388,905,924 for the first three quarters of 1956.

For the three months ended Sept. 30, National Distillers' earnings amounted to \$5,232,876 compared with \$4,409,110 in the similar period of 1956. Earnings per common share for the third quarter were 55 cents in 1957 and 46 cents in the previous year.

Third quarter net sales in 1957 totaled \$127,695,445 against net sales of \$123,995,802 for the third quarter of 1956.

Diamond's Sales Up, Profits Down

Sales of Diamond Alkali for the nine months ended Sept. 30 were 2% ahead of the same 1956 period but earnings declined 22%, it is reported by Raymond F. Evans, chairman and president.

Net sales of Diamond chemicals for the current nine months' period totaled \$97,634,209 compared with \$95,459,557 a year ago.

Net income for the first three quarters of 1957 amounted to \$6,165,791 against \$7,863,387 for the corresponding period in 1956. This is equivalent to \$2.28 per common share compared to \$2.91 per share in 1956 on the same number of shares.

Hercules Profit Up in 3rd Quarter

Hercules Powder reports for the nine months ended Sept. 30 net income equal after payment of preferred dividends to \$1.62 a share of common stock. Net income for the first nine months of 1956 was equal to \$1.66 a share of common stock.

For the third quarter of 1957, net income was equal after payment of preferred dividends to 59 cents a share of common stock. This compares with net income in the third quarter of 1956 equal to 48 cents a share.

Net sales and operating revenues for the nine months' period were \$187,988,540 compared with \$177,544,464 for the corresponding 1956 period.

ASSOCIATIONS

World Forestry Congress Set for U.S. in 1960

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has announced that the Fifth World Forestry Conference will be held in the United States in 1960. It is expected that the event will take place in Washington or Oregon. The last World Forestry Congress took place in India in 1954.

Cereal Chemists Set to Meet in Cincinnati in April

The American Association of Cereal Chemists will meet April 7 through 11, 1958, in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the Netherland Hilton Hotel. Program chairman is James W. Evans, director of research for American Maize Products Co.

Distillers Feed Conference

The 13th Distillers Feed Conference will be held at the Sheraton Gibson Hotel in Cincinnati on March 12, 1958. Details can be obtained from Lawrence E. Carpenter, executive director, Distillers Feed Research Council, 1232 Enquirer Bldg., Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

PEOPLE

C. L. Rumberger of H. J. Heinz Co. has been elected president of the Agricultural Research Institute. **B. P. Johnson** of the National Cotton Council is the new vice president. The secretary is **C. H. Mahoney** of National Cannery Association.

George R. Hawkes has been appointed to Calspray's staff of field agronomists. His headquarters will be Lindsay, Calif. Dr. Hawkes was formerly with USDA at Beltsville, Md.

Kendall S. Tomlinson has left the Nitrogen Division of Allied to become farm fertilizer sales manager of Lebanon Chemical Corp. of Lebanon, Pa.

Charles P. Hicks has been named director of sales education for A. E. Staley Mfg. Co.'s formula feed department, succeeding **D. F. Rentshler**, who has been named refined oil sales manager. Hicks was formerly with the Poultry and Egg National Board, St. Charles, Ill.

William B. Esselen has been named head of the department of food technology at the University of Massachusetts. He has been professor of food technology there since 1951.

William H. Stahl has been named research manager of McCormick & Co., Baltimore, Md. **Richard L. Hall** remains as director of the research and development division. Dr. Stahl was formerly chief of the analytical chemistry section of the Quartermaster Research & Engineering Center, Natick, Mass.

John H. Davidson and **Henry E. Gray** have been assigned to new positions with Dow's agricultural chemical development staff at Midland.