Slick and Pacific Vegetable Oil Complete Drew Acquisition

Pacific Vegetable Oil Corporation (PVO) has completed its acquisition of the Foods, Industrial Chemical and Catalyst Divisions of Drew Chemical Corporation from The Slick Corporation, New York.

R. H. Beeby, PVO president, said that Drew will be operated as a division of PVO. "We will make full use of the extensive and successful line of Drew products, preserve Drew's customer relationships and continue the Drew products and its well-known trademarks." Drew owns more than 20 trademarks, including Wecobee, Drew-Tex and Chocobee hard butters, Drewmulse esters, and Tri-Nut, Mountain Lakes and Flavor Fresh margarines.

Among PVO's best known trademarks are Saffola safflower oil-based foods, and PVO 44–0 and Staff-White vehicles for paints.

• *Obituaries*

R. O. Davison, president of Dairy & Food Industries Supply Assn. in 1960 and 1961, died February 4 in his hometown of Westfield, N.J.

We have been informed of the death of P. H. Eaves ('55), Chemist at USDA, Southern Util. Res. Br., New Orleans, La., on Sept. 6, 1970.

J. H. Kane ('46), President of Acme-Hardesty Co., Inc., Jenkintown, Pa., died February 14, 1971, of a heart attack.

D. Q. Kern ('49), President of D. Q. Kern Associates, Cleveland, Ohio, died March 2, 1971.

Werner Mauersberg ('59), General Manager of Konigswarter and Ebell Chem. Fabrik G.m.b.H., Hagen, Westf., Germany, died March 16, 1971.

Blaw-Knox Sees Upward Trend in Oil Seeds Processing Capacity

Plants that can process a total of 25,000 tons per day of soybeans will be built in the U.S. over the next five years, predicts K. W. Becker, Manager, Extraction, Food and Bio-Chemicals Dept., Blaw-Knox Chemical Plants, Inc., Pittsburgh. Also, he states, oilseed plants in other parts of the world will be built at a faster rate than in the past.

Mr. Becker's forecasts are based on several facts. Historically, the oilseeds industry has trended upward at the rate of 9% a year. Peaks and valleys typically show a growth period of 3 to 5 years, followed by a 2 to 3 year period of little or no growth. The most recent period of expansion extended through 1968 leaving some excess capacity in the U.S. The point has now been reached where some plants must operate in excess of design capacity.

Crop failures in other countries are expected to place additional demands on U.S. production. The Russian sunflowerseed crop is less than originally expected. American oilseeds, particularly soybeans, will fill the gap. Because fish catches are down for unknown reasons, fish meal from Peru has decreased substantially.

Improvements in solvent extraction technology (used in removing oil from seeds) and increased plant sizes have decreased manpower requirements per ton processed. For example, comparing a 2000 ton plant with a 200 ton plant built ten years ago will show about the same number of people required to operate both plants. Steam requirements per ton processed are 30% less in the case of the larger plants. Solvent losses have been reduced from 14 lb. per not processed to 3 lb.

The new equipment is simpler and more mechanically reliable, according to Mr. Becker. Better control and process improvements, he says, enable new plants to be run more uniformly with less downtime. While techniques of solvent extraction technology are different for each material, an improvement for one material can be adapted to another.

Solvent extraction in developing countries is expected to expand as many plants turn to solvent extraction rather than full screw processing. Mr. Becker anticipates that within ten years seed processing in developing countries will at least double.

About 27% of world production of edible vegetable oils is represented by soybeans. Most of the world's protein production will be supplied by soybeans over the next several decades. Next is sunflowerseeds, about 18%, where considerable expansion can also be expected. Peanut oil is about 16% of the total and will probably expand at a slower rate than the other leading oilseeds. Cottonseeds account for 14%, but this figure is not expected to change much even though cottonseed protein products are beginning to move out of the development stage. They have the advantage of being soluble in soft drinks and grow in areas where other seeds do not. India and Pakistan represent good growth areas for cottonseed. But being a by-product, seed supply is affected by competition of synthetic textiles and cottonseed oil production overall can be expected to hold even.

Rapeseed at 10% will not likely expand during the next several years but corn oil production will increase proportionally to the crop yields.

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