

tar solvents, aromatic petroleum oils, crude naphthalene, and phenothiazine.

Ansul to Begin Operation Of New Pyridine Plant

Ansul Chemical has scheduled Nov. 1 as the first day of production for its synthetic pyridine plant at Marinette, Wis. Among the products will be refined pyridine, α -picoline, γ -picoline, 2-methyl-5-ethyl pyridine, β -collidine, and a mixture of alkyl pyridine higher boilers.

Chief market for the pyridines is expected to be in the pharmaceutical industry, but other uses for the products are expected in insecticides, solvents, dyes and plastics.

Family Testing Panel Organized in Ohio

A family product testing panel has been organized in Columbus, Ohio, by Research Associates, 1513 High St., Columbus. The panel is composed of 500 families divided into three income groups for a complete cross section of Columbus population. According to Ernest L. Little, president, the families will test in their homes free samples of new products and report their finding on the value of the products, make suggestions for improvement, and note whether they would purchase the product if placed on sale. Products to be tested include any product used in the home. Several new food products are to be tested by the panel soon.

On The Cover

Browning a Complex Chemical Reaction

The production of a tempting loaf of bread demands a rich brown crust. Brown crust is so old and bread so basic that it never is thought of as a complicated product. But, during recent years the brown color, not only in bread where it is desirable, but in other foods where it is almost ruinous, has provided a very complex problem for the food research chemist.

Browning produces many a headache to the fruit packer or vegetable canner. With the development of food dehydration on a large scale it became especially important and drew a great deal of attention. In this issue, John Hodge (page 928) summarizes the great mass of research which has been done on the subject and presents some correlations and conclusions on this phenomenon so dear to the baker and coffee roaster but so little loved by many other food processors.

Photo Courtesy General Baking Co.

Government

Craft Unions at American Potash?

NLRB decision may have important implications throughout chemical industry

THE QUESTION of craft severance for unions in the chemical industry may be decided as a result of hearings which were conducted Oct. 7 in Washington.

The hearings before the National Labor Relations Board resulted from petitions of three separate unions for craft severance from the industry-wide union at the American Potash and Chemical Co. plant at Trona, Calif.

The NLRB, however, asked for the hearings to consider the whole question of severance of craft units from industry unions. The NLRB called representatives of labor and industry to present arguments to determine if the board should change its present policy on craft severance. Specifically the board asked for a discussion of the relative importance of a long history of stable labor relations under single industry-wide units and how this history should affect petitions for recognition of craft units desiring to be split off from the industry units. Another basic principle discussed was the importance of the integration within basic industries and how important this should be as a factor in deciding questions of craft severance.

The Manufacturing Chemists' Association, representing the major basic chemical producers, submitted evidence and argument contending that the high degree of integration in the basic chemical processing industry requires that single industry-wide bargaining unions be maintained. The MCA also pointed out that plant wide units are the most prevalent system of organization in the chemical industry and these units have been an important factor in the history of stable industrial relations for the industry.

The case which is considered to be of vital importance to the question of craft vs. industry units is concerned specifically with petitions filed by The International Union of Operating Engineers, AF of L, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers AF of L, and International Association of Machinists. These unions are seeking recognition as bargaining agents for their potential members who are employed by American Potash in its huge Trona, Calif., plant.

Previously American Potash has bargained with the United Mine Workers, District 50, representing all the Trona workers. Recently, however, there has been a movement for craft severance, and the company opposes them as being inappropriate for bargaining purposes.

NLRB has previously denied craft severance of unions in cases involving highly integrated industries such as aluminum refining, timber, and wet milling. In these cases the board found that production and maintenance workers were so interdependent for the production process that stability of the production process would be harmed if multiple unions were involved.

American Potash argues that in their process there is an even greater interdependence of maintenance and production workers. Unions which are seeking representation represent maintenance workers at Trona. As in many other continuous process plants the Trona maintenance workers are actually assigned to manufacturing units. Rather than a single maintenance organization, the maintenance people work in the production units alongside production people.

The company and the present industry union at Trona contend that craft severance in this case would not contribute to harmony of industrial relations, and it would be further inappropriate because the groups which seek severance do not constitute a craft group.

Red Tide Still Threatens Gulf Fishing

A recent outbreak of the "red tide" off the west coast of Florida seems to have temporarily subsided. The red tide is the popular name given to a discoloration of the sea water caused by a great increase in the microorganism *Gymnodinium brevis*. The amber-colored or red water causes a widespread death of fish and other marine animals which are subsequently thrown up on the beaches in great numbers. The loss to commercial fishing of these outbreaks cannot be estimated. The most recent outbreak, in 1946, was, however, regarded as a disaster to the commercial and sport fishing industries.

Last month there were reports that the red tide had been reported off the Florida coast. The stormy weather associated with the recent hurricane broke up the concentrations of the plankton before the bloom could become widespread. At present the threat seems to be fairly quiet although the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Board of Conservation of the State of Florida seem to be concerned about the possibility of a new outbreak.

The red tide is caused by an increase in the number of unicellular flagellated protozoa first identified in 1946, called *Gymnodinium brevis*. These organisms are normally present in sea water in quantities of less than 1000 per quart. The discolored areas of water associated with the red tide commonly contain as many as 60 million of the organisms per quart. The sea water becomes viscous and slimy due to the great numbers of these flagellates, and the discolored water is, apparently, highly toxic to fish.

The sudden increase of the organisms

has not yet been completely explained. It seems that high concentrations of phosphate ions are necessary for their growth, and determinations taken from the sea which is discolored have revealed that the phosphate concentration was unusually high.

The high phosphate levels perhaps are the result of excessive run off from fresh water rivers in central Florida, coupled with relatively stable conditions on the surface of the sea which prevents normal distribution of the high phosphate water with the sea.

A. Barde Rogers has been named to head the dairy and poultry section of Armour & Co.'s research division. Mr. Rogers, who has been with Armour for 12 years, succeeds **R. H. Forsythe**.

Lowell F. Kruse has joined the Birds Eye Division of General Foods Corp. as engineering manager. He was formerly with Cresap, McCormick and Paget, management consultants.



John R. Taylor, Jr., has resigned his position as agronomist for the American Plant Food Council, effective Oct. 15, to become sales manager of the Grand River Chemical Division of Deere &

Co. His headquarters will be in Tulsa, Okla.

Herman Sokol has been appointed manager of the antibiotic division of Heyden Chemical Corp. Dr. Sokol has been with Heyden since 1944 and manager of antibiotic research since 1950.

John M. Butler and **Milton Kosmin** have been made section leaders in Monsanto's central research department. **Joseph E. Fields**, **Van R. Gaertner**, and **Robert J. Slocombe** have been promoted to group leaders.

Chester W. Christensen, **Arthur P. Kroeger**, and **Cyrus W. Merrell** are to become associate general managers of sales for Monsanto's organic chemicals division. **Tulius C. Tupper** and **William M. Russell** are promoted to assistant general sales managers.

Charles A. Farish and **Jack McAllister** have joined the staff of the testing laboratory of the National Sanitation Foundation at the University of Michigan. Both will work on the program of inspecting food service and other health-related equipment for compliance with NSF's uniform standards and "seal of approval." Mr. Farish was director of sanitation for the South Carolina State Board of Health and Mr. McAllister has been with the Indiana State Health Department.

Leland G. Merrill, Jr., formerly of Michigan State College, has been appointed associate extension specialist in entomology at the Rutgers college of agriculture.

R. L. Olcott, **D. W. Tator**, and **T. A. Graven** have transferred from Monsanto's organic chemicals division to the merchandising division. They will work on krlilium sales development.

Foreign

End of Sugar Rationing Signals Expansion in British Food Industries

ALL STATUTORY CONTROLS over the distribution, use, and prices of sugar, sirup, and molasses in Great Britain were removed by the Ministry of Food on Sept. 26. Sugar has been rationed since January 1940 when the initial per capita ration of 12 oz. per week was introduced.

The supply of sugar to manufacturers had been subject to allocation since the beginning of rationing. During the war the shortage became so critical that supplies were withdrawn entirely from certain industries.

Prewar consumption of sugar in the U. K. was 2,100,000 tons per annum or about 100 pounds per capita. Reliable estimates place the consumption today at over 2,250,000 tons per annum.

The Ministry of Food in making the decontrol announcement stated that much more sugar is now available from production at home and in the Commonwealth than before the war. Nevertheless an important factor in the decision was the purchase of one million tons of Cuban sugar last April.

The British food and drink industries are expected to react to decontrol by immediate announcement of expansion plans. In anticipation of the move the Tate & Lyle refinery in Liverpool, largest of its kind in the world, had already increased production to exceed 17,000 tons refined sugar a week as compared with 10,000 tons earlier in the year. Leading sugar demands in 1952:

Chocolate and Sweets	200,000	Tons
Jams and Preserves	194,000	"
Cakes and Flour Confectionery	108,000	"
Biscuits	50,000	"
Soft Drinks	30,000	"

The jam and preserve manufacturers have been meeting consumer demand for some time and it appears unlikely that sugar purchases of this group will in-

crease. Consumption by the chocolate and candy manufacturers may go as high as 350,000 tons in the first 12 months of derationing.

Important contracts have been made for American soft drinks. Full scale production in this field has apparently been held back only because of the previous limitations on sugar. The demand in this section of the industry will rise to 50,000 tons per year at a very early date.

People

Caskey Elected VP in Charge Of Naugatuck Chemical



John E. Caskey

John E. Caskey is elected vice president of U. S. Rubber and general manager of the company's Naugatuck Chemical Division. **George R. Vila**, former general sales manager of the division, becomes assistant general manager of the division. Mr. Caskey succeeds **John P. Coe** who is handling the company's interests in transfer of the synthetic rubber plants from government ownership to industry.

James H. Saunders has been made senior research group leader and **Herbert L. Heiss**, senior research chemist, for Monsanto's phosphate division research department in Anniston, Ala.

Paul W. Oman becomes head of the Division of Insect Detection and Identification for USDA. Recently returned from the Far East where he was a medical entomologist for the Armed Services, he replaces **C. F. W. Muesebeck**, who is a consultant for insect taxonomy for USDA.