

# con & trates

Today's news of the chemical world likely to influence the happenings of tomorrow

- ▶ **Tightening money markets** and rising cost of long term borrowing are being felt in the process industries. Armstrong Rubber has canceled plans to sell \$9.2 million of convertible debentures, now is studying other means of raising funds for its plant expansion program. And National Distillers has declared a 2% stock dividend rather than boost its annual \$1.00 cash payment to its common stockholders. It prefers to conserve cash to finance its planned \$40 million expansion, instead of turning to outside sources for money at the present time.
- ▶ **Aluminum continues to rise and shine.** Last week president I. W. Wilson said Alcoa's installed capacity will be within hailing distance of the million-ton mark by 1958, as a result of recent expansion plans. Company's complete expansion and modernization program may involve capital expenditures of up to \$600 million in next five years. Kaiser too is optimistic after setting new production, sales, and earnings record during fiscal year ending May 31. Board chairman Henry J. Kaiser says: "It is our conviction . . . that by 1965 the United States will be using aluminum at twice the present rate—more than 4 million tons annually."
- ▶ **Three series of new polyglycols** are in pilot plant production by Dow. All are adaptable as intermediates in production of polyurethanes and in the surfactant field. Additionally, one of the series, polyepichlorohydrin, is also expected to be used in production of resins and coatings. Among its chief advantages: high viscosity even at low molecular weights.
- ▶ **Industrial users of radioactive isotopes** have multiplied more than fivefold within past five years. Atomic Industrial Forum survey shows activity at 1347 installations. According to AEC estimates, radioisotope applications now mean an annual savings to industry of \$200 million. AEC also estimates this savings will jump 500% within next 10 years.
- ▶ **Radioactive reserpine has been made** at Argonne labs by growing *Rauwolfia* in a radioactive carbon dioxide atmosphere. Tagged drug is being used at Columbia for studies on reserpine action in the body. Labeling is achieved by growing plant for six weeks in hermetically sealed greenhouses in CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere enriched with radioactive CO<sub>2</sub>.
- ▶ **An atomic power reactor for Alaska** is being planned jointly by Chugach Electric and Nuclear Development. Nuclear power would be competitive in a very high cost power area like Alaska much sooner than in lower cost areas. AEC is authorizing financial assistance for the Anchorage project, says this is the first time both liquid sodium coolant and heavy water moderator have been used in a single reactor.
- ▶ **Electromet's strike at Ashtabula, Ohio,** remained unsettled last week, although company officials have been promising the union an "attractive economic package." Strike has idled production at Detrex Chemical Industries and has affected operations at General Tire & Rubber and U. S. Industrial Chemicals. The tie-up: USI supplies sodium to Electromet and chlorine to Detrex; CT&R purchases acetylene from Electromet.
- ▶ **Imports of oil** show no significant indications of slacking off, despite repeated requests to importers by Office of Defense Mobilization to reduce imports on a voluntary basis (C&EN, July 9, page 3350). This week ODM plans to ask for further cuts in oil imports scheduled for last quarter of this year. While no exact figure has been set, it is believed that ODM will request a reduction of at least 4% under the amount of oil imported during the first six months of 1956.
- ▶ **Glycerol gets first price reduction** in over two years as Shell Chemical drops its price of the synthetic product 2 cents per pound. Actually, the glycerol market has been overstocked lately because of lagging demands. Also, the Office of Defense Mobilization has stopped issuing certificates of necessity, meaning, most likely, that its 325-million-pound goal by end of June 1957 has been met. Of that total, 185 million pounds would be synthetic glycerol capacity.
- ▶ **Kraft pulp will be moving soon by tanker** from 400-ton-per-day mill just started up at Duncan Bay, B. C., by Elk Falls Co., subsidiary of Crown Zellerbach Canada, Ltd. Tanker shipments will go to Crown's new paper mill and multiwall bag plant at Antioch, Calif. Part of Duncan Bay capacity, to reach 500 tons per day next year, will be made into paper there for Canadian market.