

MATHIESON CHEMICAL CORPORATION

Established in 1892 as The Mathieson Alkali Works, with an initial capital of \$1,710,000 Mathieson has grown in 62 years to a company with total assets of \$339,261,000, a diversified line of over 400 chemical and drug products, and some 18,000 employees in 41 plants and 97 offices throughout the world.

Of this growth, the largest part has taken place since 1947. In that year Mathieson was still primarily a regional alkali producer, with plants in Niagara Falls, N. Y., Saltville, Va., and Lake Charles, La. Sales of \$24,630,000 were not spectacular but represented a substantial share of the alkali business of the country, and the company enjoyed an excellent reputation for the quality of its products.

From this as a base, management embarked upon a program of expansion and diversification which has led to (1) a broader and considerably more substantial position in basic inorganic chemicals, (2) a growing organic chemicals operation based on both coal and natural gas, (3) a position as one of the country's principal producers of fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals, and (4) a major place in the drug manufacturing industry through merger with one of the world's leading drug and pharmaceutical houses.

Mathieson's operations today fall within three broad classifications: basic industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, and pharmaceutical and related products.

INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

Of the basic chemicals produced domestically in largest volume, Mathieson is an important producer of six. These are soda ash, caustic soda, chlorine, sulphuric acid, ammonia and methanol. Soda ash is widely used throughout industry and is manufactured at Saltville, Va., and Lake Charles, La., from salt and limestone or shell lime. The glass industry consumes more of this chemical than any other, and important tonnages go also into the manufacture of aluminum, paper, textiles, detergents, and other chemicals.

Caustic soda and chlorine are made at Saltville, Va., Niagara Falls, N. Y., and McIntosh, Ala., by electrolysis of salt. Caustic from soda ash by the ammonia-soda process is also made at Saltville and Lake Charles. Through its three southern plants, Mathieson is in a favorable position to supply both caustic and chlorine to the large and growing textile, rayon, cellophane, paper, glass, and aluminum industries of the South and Southwest.

The company is also an important producer of bicarbonate of soda and is one of the world's largest manufacturers of carbon dioxide and "dry ice".

With the acquisition of Standard Wholesale

Phosphate & Acid Works, Inc., and Southern Acid & Sulphur Company, Inc., in 1949, Mathieson became a major producer of sulphuric acid. Today the Corporation is one of the largest producers of this important product in the United States.

Mathieson pioneered in the production of synthetic ammonia at its Niagara Falls plant during World War I. Following World War II, it purchased and expanded the Government-built ammonia plant at Lake Charles, La., where ammonia is produced from natural gas, and in 1951 it leased the former Morgantown Ordnance Works in Morgantown, W. Va., built during World War II at a cost of \$75,000,000, where ammonia is produced from coal. The output of these plants today makes Mathieson one of the country's major producers of ammonia. Principal uses for ammonia are in the manufacture of fertilizers, synthetic fibers, explosives, and in the refining of petroleum and in other important manufacturing industries.

Other inorganic industrial chemicals made by the Corporation include sodium chlorite and hypochlorite products, nitric acid, elemental sulphur, sodium nitrate, sodium methylate and sulphate of alumina.

Methanol, or methyl alcohol, which is produced in the same equipment as ammonia, is the basis of one of the two popular types of anti-freeze.

Mathieson has a major interest in the new chemical, hydrazine, of promise as a rocket fuel and as an industrial chemical. This interest is shared with Olin Industries, Inc., through a jointly owned subsidiary, Matholin Corporation, formed to exploit developments in this field. Early in 1954, Mathieson further extended its participation in the rocket field with the acquisition of 50% of the stock of Reaction Motors, Inc., one of the country's leading manufacturers of rocket engines and related devices.

Mathieson entered the rapidly-growing organic chemicals field in 1952 with the completion of its plant at Doe Run, Ky., to produce ethylene-based chemicals from natural gas. Principal products made at this plant are ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol. The oxide is used as an intermediate in the production of ethylene glycol, acrylonitrile for fibers and plastics, synthetic detergents, and other chemicals. The glycol is the main ingredient in permanent type anti-freeze and also finds application as a moisture stabilizer for cellophane, fibers, paper and leather.

Other organic chemicals produced at Doe Run include ethylene dichloride and dichloroethylene, used as industrial solvents; triethylene glycol, which finds uses as a moisture stabilizer and in the manufacture of emulsifiers and lubricants; and propane and butane, which are sold as liquefied petroleum gas, or "bottled gas".