

POWER NEWS

BUSINESS ITEMS • APPOINTMENTS • FOREIGN FIELDS
WASHINGTON NOTES • NEW DEVELOPMENTS • CONVENTIONS

Dual Synthetic Fuel Program in Development

Two projects are under way for gasoline-from-coal development: (1) US Bureau of Mines, government sponsored, practical application of Fischer-Tropsch process to lignite and other midwestern coals (2) research program by Gulf Oil Corp to determine the chemical reactions involved in that process.

Secretary of Interior J A Krug announced recently the award of a \$4,413,250 contract to Koppers Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa., for design and construction of a gas synthetals (Fischer-Tropsch process) demonstration plant near Louisiana, Mo., to produce oil from coal. This is the third and last of the plants on a demonstration or semi-commercial scale, planned under the synthetic-liquid-fuels research and development program of Bureau of Mines.

It is anticipated that the plant will be completed within 15 months after work begins, which will be in the near future. It will have a capacity of 80 barrels of oil and gasoline daily and will include a coal-gasification unit. The gas-synthesis plant will be erected adjacent to the Bureau's hydrogenation (Bergius process) demonstration plant now under construction near Louisiana, Mo., on site of Missouri Ordnance Works, a wartime synthetic-ammonia plant. The 200-barrel-a-day hydrogenation plant is expected to be completed next summer. Although using different processes, both plants will employ coal as the raw material for liquid fuels. An oil-shale demonstration plant is already in operation near Rifle, Colo.

To save government funds, the new gas-synthesis plant will use many existing facilities and services of the ordnance works that was made available to Bureau of Mines by Office of the Quartermaster General, Dept of National Defense, Secretary Krug stated. These include buildings, roads, shops, railroad sidings, sewers, and installations (Continued on page 160)



Diesels Rushed to Venezuelan Power Plant

Photo above shows installation of two 1440-hp turbo-supercharged Superior diesel engines at the power plant of La Electricidad de Caracas, Caracas, Venezuela. These diesels made a fast emergency trip from Springfield, Ohio, to prevent a power shortage during the first six months of 1948. The contract with Superior Engine Division of National Supply Co required diesel-engine shipment within five days, generators within twelve days and switchgear within six weeks.

COMING EVENTS

June 7-10—Smoke Prevention Assn of America, 41st annual meeting, Hotel Commodore, New York, N. Y. Columbus D Behan, publicity director, 139 N Clark St Bldg, Chicago 2, Ill.

June 10-11—Prime Movers Committee, Pennsylvania Electric Assn, spring meeting, Hotel Casey, Scranton, Pa. R L Hallman, chairman, Prime Movers Committee, Pennsylvania Electric Assn, Hazleton, Pa.

June 10-12—National Steam Specialty Club, annual meeting, The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va. Frank H Jones, secretary-treasurer of the club, c/o Schade Valve Mfg Co, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

June 21-25—American Institute of Electrical Engineers, summer general meeting, Mexico City, Mex. H H Henline, secretary, 33 W 39th St, New York.

June 24-26—Wisconsin State Assn of Power Engineers, annual confer-

ence, Northland Hotel, Green Bay, Wis. R S Crichton, 2925 W Hoop Ave, Milwaukee 9, Wis.

July 12-21—National Mechanical Handling Exhibition, National Hall, Olympia, London, England. Journal Mechanical Handling, Dorset House, Stamford St, London, S E 1, England.

Aug 2-6—Building & Maintenance Supplies Exposition, Grand Central Palace, New York, N. Y. Arthur Tarble, president, 36 W 47th St, New York 19, New York.

Aug 23-26—National Assn of Power Engineers, annual meeting, St. Paul Auditorium, St. Paul, Minn. A F Thompson, secretary, 176 W Adams St, Chicago 3, Ill.

Aug 24-27—American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Pacific general meeting, Davenport Hotel, Spokane, Wash. H H Henline, secretary, 33 W 39th St, New York 18, N. Y.

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