The Big Construction Programme to Meet the Big Demands of the Future

By W. R. Macklind

The beginning of the year 1920 finds The Sherwin-Williams Company broadening out at a tremendous rate. This fact applies to every phase of the company's affairs, finances, output, additional lines, the taking on of additional industries, the expansion abroad, and the developing of new products heretofore not on the market. All of these represent a tremendous growth and indicate a wonderful expansion programme built upon the supreme confidence of the business of this country and the world at large.

However, the most interesting phase of this wonderful expansion is the building of the many new plants, in which will be manufactured the great lines of Sherwin-Williams Products to be put into the commerce of the world.

The rapidity with which this expansion programme was launched by our President found the Engineering and Construction Department operating in rather narrow bounds, as up to the time the programme was launched very little construction work was being done. However, upon the decision to proceed, with the view of getting our plants under production early in the Summer of 1920, the Engineering Department immediately did a little expansion on its own hook, and increased its quarters threefold. The staff increased accordingly, and within a month the Department had reached a staff of some forty men, representing all phases in the engineering line.

Engineering Staff

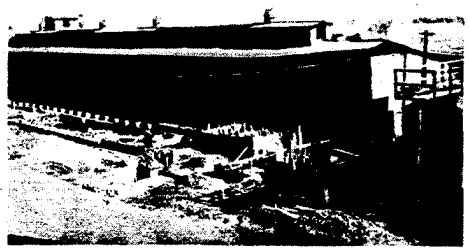
It is rather unusual to find an engineering staff, even though it may be in a large consulting concern, where all engineering work of whatever character is being taken care of in the one office, but in the office of this company there are no engineering problems which are passed, but all are taken care of as they are presented, regardless of their character. This means that we have an extraordinary diversified lot of work passing through the Department simultaneously, but we find that this leads to far better results, as it enables us to carry through all phases of our work to better advantage, as all phases can be compared in the same Department, which insures no interferences or bad flow conditions in the plant after it is completed.

An extensive programme necessarily means that the Department on a great part of the work must operate at a long range, as the location of the plants are either on the Atlantic or Pacific seaboard, middle west or south, and therefore, the work must be developed in such a way as to carry it through accurately in the field, and insure a rapid construction when the work starts. However, the Department has met all of these factors satisfactorily, and the great amount of work coming into the office strengthens the organization rather than weakens it.

The work now on the boards of the Department represents expenditures which will be divided up into the following plants, additions to plants, and reconstruction of certain units.

New Cappeau Kiln

At Coffeyville, Kansas, the Department is installing a new cappeau kiln, rebuilding B Pipe Line, and building a



Foundation for Cappeau Kiln

new ore crushing plant; also rebuilding the old No. 1 cappeau kiln. This large program represents smelter work throughout, and an outlay of $300,000.

New Can Plant to Produce 30 Million Cans Per Year

Our largest expansion is the new Can Plant, which will be erected in Chicago, and will represent the most modern and up-to-date, automatic can plant built in the United States or the world today. This plant will be in a building 140x300 feet, three stories high, and will accommodate a nine-line can layout, producing 30,000,000 or more cans per year. All types of cans will be made in this plant, ranging from smallest circular and rectangular to the largest circular and rectangular units. Later on there will be added to this unit, steel keg section, cooperage and carton section, and lithographing unit, ultimately bringing this plant up to one of the largest units and one of the most modern.

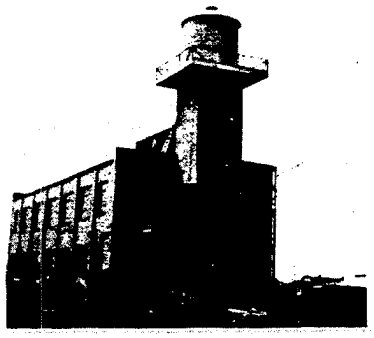
New Lead Plant to be Erected

Our next large unit is another Chicago addition, which is the building of a new lead plant. This plant will represent the most modern process in corrosion and will be housed in a reinforced concrete building, approximately 100x200 feet. This building will be partly one and three stories. The plant will have a capacity of 5000 to 6000 tons of product per year. There will be installed many new and novel devices to facilitate the manufacture of the product developed in this plant. Important improvements will be made in eliminating any dust in this plant.

In addition to the lead plant, a modern Red Lead and Litharge plant will be constructed which will be of reinforced concrete, four stories high, accommodating four furnaces, and the most modern red lead working equipment available will be used. The plant will be approximately 100 feet square, and will be a very pleasing structure of the modern daylight type, and modern improvements will be installed in this plant to facilitate the manufacture of material made therein.

Power Station

Last but not least we have a large power station programme of some kind, and it is more than likely for the present that this will be in the nature of a complete rearrangement of our electric distribution system, which will represent a considerable outlay. We then contemplate the rearrangement of our steam distribution and present boiler plant, which will represent a large amount of money, but at this time it has not been decided just how far the reconstruction and enlargement in the boiler plant will go, but it undoubtedly will be taken care of in 1920.



San Francisco Factory

New Buildings on West Coast

On the Pacific Coast at our Emeryville site, we are building a large warehouse and office building of modern type, and in addition to this we are

(Continued on page fifteen)