

MAKE MICHIGAN PAINT CENTER

MANAGEMENT OF THE ACME
WHITE LEAD & COLOR WORKS
OF DETROIT HAS AMBITIOUS PROGRAM.

WHITE LEAD MANUFACTURE
TO BE REVOLUTIONIZED

Now Process Owned Exclusively By
This Progressive Plant Makes It
Possible to Corrode Lead in
Six Instead of 120 Days.

Special to The Courier-Herald:

Detroit, Mich., June 17.—Within a few years Detroit is likely to be the world's paint, varnish and white lead center. If the plans of the Acme White Lead & Color Works of this city are carried out. Already this plant enjoys the distinction of being the largest of its kind in the world, and growing so rapidly that the day seems not far distant when it will have developed the paint and varnish business to such a capacity that Michigan will be the leading state of the union in this respect.

A few days since a party of Saginaw business men visited the mammoth plant in this city and were more than agreeably surprised to note the magnitude of its work and the enterprise and ambitions of its management. Within a half year the company has added a white lead corroding department, where it is revolutionizing the white lead business of the world. This department bids fair to be the most talked-of departure in lead business that has ever excited the attention of the world's scientists and business men, and already it has commanded the respect and investigation of the government's experts, as well as those from many states and colleges.

Corrode Lead in 6 Instead of 120 Days.

In this plant pig lead is corroded in six days, under what is termed the "mild process." For centuries past the corrosion of lead has been accomplished under somewhat medieval conditions, requiring from 120 to 130 days, and that with a partial loss of the material and at a considerable expense. The "mild process" employs six days, no loss of material and very little expense. It is a patent process that is so simple one is impelled to ask why so one had thought it out years ago, and yet in its simplicity not a thing lacks to turn out the best product at the minimum expense.

It is this department of the already large Acme establishment that promises a greater future than the paint and varnish department. It is this department that means great good for Michigan.

paint and varnish center.

The trip through a lead works was the most enjoyable part of the visit. Here was found an absolute fire-proof building, nothing employed in its construction being inflammable. And here the visitor is shown the various stages through which pig lead passes before, after a period of six days, it is turned out perfect, lead rust. Under the old Dutch process the lead was moulded into discs weighing about one pound each, and from sixteen to eighteen of these discs placed in metal pots containing acetic acid. These pots are arranged in layers, piled one upon another, board floors separating the different layers, each of which rests upon several inches of ground tan bark, which is also placed about the pots. These pots remain buried in the tan bark for a period averaging about 125 days, during which the chemical action caused by the heat of the fermenting tan bark and the acid, slowly converts the metallic into carbonic acid of lead, which is commonly termed "white lead." During all of this time the lead is buried and beyond the control of workmen. In addition it is a process requiring heavy expense, as much labor is employed in taking down the stacks and removing the pots of corroded metal, such as is also employed in building them and conveying the metal. The corrosion under this process has never been complete and requires a vigorous treatment of crushing, rolling, screening, grinding and floating to separate the partially corroded lead, tanbark and metallic lead. This in itself is also an expensive operation, and not entirely satisfactory.

To the layman the difficulties and handicaps of this process become at once apparent. It is costly and incomplete, requiring the use of great quantities of acids and expensive tan bark, pots, lumber, which must constantly be replaced, and does not develop satisfactorily.

Now Process Is Much Superior. All of these drawbacks are overcome in the "mild process," which neither requires acids, the burying of metal, the delay of three months for fermentation purposes, or the expensive outlay for tan bark, lumber, pots, etc., formerly needed. This saving alone would justify the new process, but it has other advantages. The full theoretical chemical increase of 55 per cent for metal corrosion being secured, as well as the utilization of all parts of the pig lead, which can be of the ordinary market product and not a special metal made for this purpose.

The new process has passed the experimental stage, its product having sold for five years and been thoroughly demonstrated. It is the invention of W. H. Rowley, formerly of St. Louis, but now the superintendent of this department of the Acme plant. The process is as follows: The lead after melting is at once atomized into an impalpable powder. Then the atomized lead is distributed by pumps and gravity in the desired places. The finely powdered lead is pumped into large metallic duplex cylinders supplied with powerful agitators, where it is kept continually agitated with water in the presence of air which is forced through the cylinders under low pressure. This operation is completed in less than two days. It is then passed through the separating system which removes any slight metallic residues remaining and is then pumped into the carbonating cylinders which are somewhat similar to the cylinders already described. Here the basic hydroxide of lead, as they are called, in the presence of a considerable amount of water, is

jected to a current of carbon dioxide gas which in less than 18 hours converts the hydroxide into white lead, which contains no impurities and is ready to be pumped into the drying pan without any washing or separating process whatever.

No Acid Is Used.

No acid, alkali, tan bark or pots are required in this process. It is simplicity and economy itself as well as practicality, and produces the best white lead the market has ever afforded.

With this great department still in its infancy, and the paint and varnish plants using for their own needs a considerable proportion of the output,

just what the future has in store for this plant cannot be definitely told, but it will be very successful beyond doubt. Ordinary developments mean that in a few years all lead manufacturers in this country will be seriously handicapped by the superior quality and reduced cost at which the Acme company can market its product and sooner or later branch establishments will have to be placed about the country, all of which will aid the Acme company in its effort to become a center of the paint and varnish business of the world.

Management Aggressive and Capable. Aside from the superior and exclusive process this company uses in the corrosion of pig lead, its established business and recognized standing as a leading paint and varnish manufacturer, the ambitions and energies of its officers and management is a power for great good. The company is perhaps as ably managed as any in the United States, its officers and directors taking a keen personal pride in its affairs, and closely devoting their entire time to its policy of progression and advancement. William L. Davies, the president, has long been identified with it, holding a large share of the stock and having been at the helm since 1884, when the company first branched out. Thomas Neal, the secretary and general manager, is also a large stockholder and the Acme plant of today, the most modern and successful of its kind in the world, represents the combined energy, ability and successful management of these two and other able business men. Every detail of the business has for years had their personal attention and both men are to be found at their desks during all hours of the business day. M. Kirk White and A. E. White, two of Detroit's best known capitalists, are also officers of the corporation, and although interested in scores of other large institutions take a very keen interest in the development of the Acme plant.

The office building of the company is said to be the finest in the land, and its established policy of acquiring and holding business is everywhere recognized as the most aggressive and successful pursued by any paint or varnish house in the world. Within a short period of less than twenty years it has made all of the products known the world over, and it looks upon every brand established. What has been accomplished in this one direction will be more than offset

ed in the white lead department, which, with the new and better process, is sure to revolutionize the business and command a position in Michigan and the leading position in the nation in this manufacture.

0007-SWP-037425