


SULPHIDE



ITS WORK AND ITS WORKERS

STAINLESS STEEL CONVEYOR

Sulphide Corporation has made use of many types of material handling equipment during the different phases of its operations at Cockle Creek, and the installation of a stainless steel band conveyor at the superphosphate Acidulating Plant represents a further step in the direction of determining the most efficient equipment to suit the working conditions which exist on these Works.

Developed in Sweden, the stainless band conveyor is similar to the conventional rubber belt in most details. It can be obtained in a range of thicknesses from .024 to .064 inches and in widths of band varying from 4 to 32 inches. Joining is accomplished by riveting the ends together and peening the rivets down to a minimum projection from the face of the band. In order to provide the "grip" necessary to drive the conveyor, the drive pulleys are of much larger diameter than is usually the case on rubber belts.

The main advantages claimed for this type of conveyor are that "sticky" materials can be removed from the surface of the band by steel scrapers, and that it is unaffected by temperatures which would be injurious to rubber belts. The type of stainless steel used in the band is selected to withstand the corrosive action of the material which is to be handled.

The conveyor at Cockle Creek is 32 inches wide and .040 inches thick. It conveys raw superphosphate from the Broadfield Mixer to the distributing belts which carry the super to the storage sheds. The conveyor was installed on the existing conveyor framework and makes use of the existing carrying idlers. Some difficulties have been encountered due to the extreme stickiness of our raw superphosphate and minor adjustments are being made to overcome them.

— A.T.T.

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

During the prolonged shut-down of the chamber units a considerable amount of special repair work was carried out and a centralised control room for A & B Chemico units completed. A new sulphur conveyor was installed at "C" Plant and a third 750 ton acid storage tank erected.

At the Fertilizer Dept. a new distribution belt was brought into service in No. 1 Storage shed. Good progress has been made with extensions in hand here. The erection of No. 3 Storage Shed, which has a capacity of 30,000 tons, was completed and work is well advanced on the extensions to the Rock Store, these consist of extending the shed to give double the storage capacity and a tunnel conveyor to facilitate rock recovery. Whilst the extension and conversion of the old bag store for handling mixed fertilizers is also well advanced.

Of the other capital works under-

taken, the neutralising plant for Works effluent has been commissioned and work on the new road weighbridge and concrete approach road is in the last stages of completion.

The Foremen's and Works Councils continued with regular meetings throughout the year and helped to ensure close contact between men and management during the difficult period following the Cement Plant closure. Full co-operation was extended by the trade union representatives to the Works Council discussions.

The Accident Prevention Committee functioned energetically under the control of the Works Council, and the first inter-departmental safety competition was won by the Engineers' team.

A new industrial agreement between Management and Sulphide Corporation Employees' Union was satisfactorily reached and became effective from June. In January, 1957 a Pensions

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