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WORKERS SPURRED TO GREATER EFFORT FOR POLISH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY EXPANSION

FAIL TO ACHIEVE SULFURIC ACID PLAN

Work competition between the sulfuric acid plants of the chemical industry and those of the Association of Nonferrous Metals to increase production, improve quality, and achieve higher productivity has been active since April 1949. The chemical industry's plants held the first three places in the last quarter 1949 and the first and second place in the first quarter 1950, despite the fact that the over-all production plan for sulfuric acid and superphosphates was not achieved 100 percent.

When the State Economic Planning Commission published a report at the end of 6 months, the crews which exceeded the plan were greatly disappointed. Through their initiative a 2-day conference of representatives of the inorganic chemical industry was called at Torun.

The Torun Conference was preceded by individual plant conferences at which workers of each plant discussed the reasons for failure to achieve the plan and the possibilities of increasing production in their own plant.

The Torun Conference, which was very successful, showed untapped reserves which could be released to complete the plan for the second half of 1950, thus permitting the yearly plan to be achieved 100 percent.

Sulfuric Acid Plant No I in Katowice had completed its production quota and the workers were surprised to learn that the over-all plan for the industry had not been completed. It was decided that the plan must not be allowed to bog down for lack of discipline, carelessness, and the low productivity of certain crews.

Disregarding outside difficulties over which the plant has no direct control, such as import of raw material and lack of new machines and equipment, it was decided that the plan could be achieved better and more cheaply with the

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present equipment by taking the following steps: (a) raising the index of productivity, which differs in various plants for the same type of work, as high as possible; (b) improving preparation by repair teams and maintenance divisions and thus increasing the productivity of equipment; (c) increasing the productivity index of raw materials by economic and efficient handling; (d) increasing vigilance against damage to machines; (e) eliminating completely unjustified absences still occurring in some plants; (f) more efficient deliveries of sulfuric acid to superphosphate plants; and (g) introducing innovations from one plant to other plants with the greatest possible speed.

INNOVATIONS CREDITED TO WANDER PLANT RATIONALIZER

In a recent interview, Edward Wiatr, a worker at the Wander Plant, member of the Chemical Workers' Union, one of the top rationalizers and shockworkers in Krakow, and one of the initiators of work competition, described the innovations he has introduced at the plant.

Wiatr joined the work competition program on 1 May 1948 as a worker in the pharmaceutical division. After achieving limited success, he called on heads of divisions to join the movement and production continued to improve. He said that his chief aim was to improve quality through more efficient operations. His first innovation was a blow-type dryer for drying barium sulfate. The plant had two vacuum dryers capable of producing 500 kilograms of barium sulfate. These dryers were also used for drying other preparations. Wiatr's new dryer has a capacity of 3,000 kilograms of barium sulfate. The vacuum dryers were released for other purposes, thus reducing production costs.

His second innovation pertains to hydrochloric acid. In the production of barium sulfate, a certain volume of waste liquid was being washed down the drain. Wiatr took a sample of this liquid for a laboratory test of its chemical composition. It was found that the liquid contained a 7-percent concentration of hydrochloric acid which could easily be recovered. The plant now obtains 7,000 kilograms of hydrochloric acid from one month's production of barium sulfate.

His third innovation is in connection with the dryer, for which the plant's boiler could not produce the required volume of steam. When the plant started production of "garbon," a preparation for tanning leather, it had difficulties because garbon loses 5 percent of its efficiency if dried in the cold. Wiatr utilized the hot water collected in the hot water tank flowing from the condenser for drying the garbon. An ordinary drying shed would cost 200,000 zlotys to build, but Wiatr and his colleagues built one from material on hand at no cost to the plant. The plant is now utilizing the heat to dry the garbon and other products such as "tanalbina."

Wiatr usually exceeds the norms. Using the same equipment, he exceeded the norm of 3 kilograms of "aluzal" per hour and gradually increased his output to 7 kilograms per hour or 151 percent of the norm. He obtained the same results on barium sulfate. He exceeded the original norm of 5 kilograms per hour and is now producing 8.50 kilograms per hour or 156 percent of the norm.

The matter of premiums has been very badly handled. To achieve more efficiency in barium production, Wiatr received 5,000 zlotys from the directors' fund. For separating the hydrochloric acid and for the dryer, he has not received a premium to date. He was originally awarded a premium of 49,000 zlotys, later cut to 24,000 zlotys, but to date he has received none of the money. The matter has been delayed since January and nothing is being done about it. Wiatr feels that since the factory has derived great benefits and savings from his

innovations he should receive the premiums due him. This state of affairs is a poor example for others who might be interested in improving the efficiency of the plant.

The recovered hydrochloric acid which at first was being utilized by the Romanowicz Plant is accumulating and is not being utilized. The Romanowicz Plant now requires a 10-percent acid and is no longer interested. The supply of the recovered acid, of which there is now 15 tons, is constantly increasing. It is high time that someone looked into the matter.

The editor of Pracownik Chemiczny would also like to know who has buried Wiatr's innovations and premiums, and why nothing is being done. He would like to know what dimensions the supply of hydrochloric acid must reach before the Associated Pharmaceutical Plants become interested and distribute it to those who need it and who, like Wiatr, are fighting to achieve the Six-Year Plan.

CHEMICAL PLANTS PLEDGE INCREASES, SAVINGS

The various divisions of Czarna Huta [according to Rocznik Przemyslu Odrodzonej Polski (Polish Industrial Yearbook), Czarna Huta produces activated lampblack] in Tarnowskie Gory pledged additional production valued at 129,140 zlotys calculated at base year prices. Pawel Pietryka, a turner who makes railroad track screws one inch in diameter and 160 millimeters long, pledged to make 55 instead of 40, his usual output in an 8-hour day.

The workers of Plant I of the Slask Dabrowski Phosphorus Plant pledged an increase in the daily production of superphosphate from nine to ten chamberfuls by a systematic utilization of innovations and a further shortening of production cycle. They also pledged to reduce production costs to such an extent as to make their product the cheapest in the industry.

The technical engineer and the innovators pledged to mechanize partially the loading of raw materials, to organize special brigades to guard against damage in the diluting room, to eliminate manually operated trucks in transporting material to the packing room and adopt the use of storage battery carts, to consume less raw material in the production of superphosphate than any other plant and at the same time comply with the technical quality norms by a systematic control and inspection of technological processes.

The packing crew pledged to pack an additional 40,000 bags, or 2,000 tons of superphosphate to hasten the scheduled consignments of fertilizer for the fall program.

The following divisions of the Azot Nitrogen Plant in Chorzow also pledged their cooperation as follows.

The analytical laboratory pledged to save 60,000 zlotys in the next quarter by care in the use of glass equipment and chemicals.

The conveyor crew, Skwarzynski and Semba, pledged to work singly instead of in twos.

Crane operators in the furnace room pledged to work in pairs instead of in threes.

Crew V of the carbide furnace in the calcium carbide plant pledged to repair the furnace in half the usual time.

The ML Division of the Research Laboratory pledged to economize in the use of raw materials, chemicals, and auxiliary materials, to exercise care in the use of equipment effecting a saving in time and costs of 5 percent in laboratory glass equipment, and 2 percent in electrical equipment and metal parts.

A brigade of the Nitrate Division pledged to reduce waste in potassium salt, K_2O, by one percent as compared to August.

The TAZ Division pledged to speed up the repair of the air compressor by 6 days and the oxygen compressor by 4 days.

The Electrical Division agreed to adopt the high-speed method on the machines in the shop and to make transport more efficient by using carts of their own production.

NEW TARGETS, PRODUCTS FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The Six-Year Plan foresees great development for the chemical industry. In Dwory near Oswiecim, in Klodow Kujawski, and in Kedzierzyn existing plants will be expanded and new plants built. Production of soda will increase 178 percent over 1949 production and production of pigments will increase twofold. Nitrogen content in fertilizers will be increased fourfold and phosphorus content 2.5 percent.

Production of insecticides will increase ninefold and production of pharmaceuticals eightfold. The value of the rubber industry's production and the production of synthetics will increase 243 percent, with an increase of 78 percent in industrial employment. Production of tires will increase fourfold, and tractor tire production will increase to 56 percent of the over-all production of the rubber industry. Rayon cord will also be used to a great extent in the manufacture of tires. Production will be modernized by adopting automatic mixers, universal calenders, high-speed extrusion presses, and automatic vulcanizing presses. The tire plant will be expanded and a new reclaimed rubber plant will be built.

Production of sulfite cellulose from pine wood will be greatly increased and a viscose plant will be activated. The sulfite plant will be completed within the Six-Year Plan, two paper and cellulose combines and a viscose plant will be activated, a cellulose bleach plant will be rebuilt, and a straw cellulose and newsprint plant will be activated. Technological processes and manufacturing equipment will be modernized. Obsolete machinery will be gradually replaced with modern machines.

Two new electrical porcelain and acid-resistant-clay products factories will be built in the 6-year period. Two new glassware plants, one laminated glass plant, and one glass fiber plant will be activated. Production of construction glass, glass fiber, laminated glass, and special stained glass not manufactured to date will be activated. Automatic production of glass bottles will be introduced.

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