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THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE HUNGARIAN HEAVY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

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The Present Status of the Hungarian Heavy Chemical Industry

The Hungarian heavy chemical industry suffered heavy damage during World War II. Everything is being done in Hungary at present to put this industry back on its feet and to develop it still further. The following are the goals to be achieved:

1. ^{Assurance of} ~~To ensure~~ production for domestic requirements with the present installations
2. Nationalization of the existing installations, improvement in methods, and utilization of the by-products obtained.
3. Increase in the capacity of the installations to cover the export possibilities
4. Conversion of production to ~~the purpose of~~ utilize domestic raw materials and auxiliary materials
5. Research on new domestic raw materials and adaptation of production methods to the results of these findings
6. ^{Supplying} ~~To supply~~ Hungarian industry with finished chemical products produced with minimum utilization of imported raw materials
7. ^{Appreciation Planned breakdown of the production program} ~~The planned introduction of the planned production program~~ for the ~~entire~~ entire heavy chemical industry, in order to assure quality and rational production.

Since Hungarian industry in its present status is not producing cheaply, it cannot utilize the available export possibilities to the desired extent, and therefore it cannot by itself acquire the necessary capital for rationalization and investment.

The most difficult problem confronting Hungarian industry is the very expensive electric power. Appreciable quantities of certain chemical products are being produced for which the electric power constitutes the principal cost factor; because of their importance for the people's economy these goods must unquestionably continue to be produced, in spite of the

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~~in foreign exchange.~~

difficulty mentioned. The only expedient for counteracting the high price of current is increased production.

Likewise, the necessary coal is too expensive compared to 1938, especially when one takes into account the fact that the quality of the coal has dropped sharply and that coal, ^{which is} suitable for the various ^{heating} installations, ^{and} which will burn economically, cannot be used because the Government Office for Materials does not have it available.

It is also very important to make it possible to use domestic supplies of some raw materials. Some raw materials which are of primary importance for the entire heavy chemical industry are: sulfur and soda. The water obtained from the deep artesian wells at Bukszek contains more soda than the total amount consumed in Hungary. This water also contains more salt than is required for the entire Hungarian production of caustic soda. The value of the iodine and bromine which could be obtained at the same time would make it possible to conserve more than 30 million forints per year in foreign exchange.

Furthermore, if a fraction of the Hungarian coal production were utilized in such a way that the sulfur content of the coal were made available, the sulfur produced would be more than that required for the entire sulfuric acid output at the end of the three-year plan.

Following these preliminary remarks, we shall take a look at the present capacity of the Hungarian heavy chemical industry ~~product by product:~~
~~product~~

Sulfuric acid: Present capacity is 46,000 tons. This covers ~~the~~ Hungary's entire domestic demand, and because of the decrease in the production of copper sulfate it also makes it possible to export sulfuric acid. The ~~decrease~~ decrease in production of copper sulfate is due in part to the ~~decrease~~ copper sulfate imports ^{from Yugoslavia.}

Chlorosulfonic acid: Yearly capacity is 300 tons. This is more than

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adequate for domestic consumption and export would also be possible.

Chemically pure sulfuric acid: capacity 200 tons.

Battery acid: Capacity 300 tons. The capacity for both these items is greater than the domestic consumption.

Copper sulfate: Yearly capacity 14,000 - 15,000 tons. This covers Hungary's maximum domestic requirements. Because of the imports of copper sulfate from Yugoslavia only 2,500 tons were produced in 1948.

Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate): Yearly capacity 1,000 tons. Sufficient for domestic consumption.

Sodium sulfate: Yearly capacity 780 tons, which also covers the requirements ~~for~~ for;

Glauber salt: (600 tons per year).

Sodium thiosulfate (Hype): Yearly capacity 60 tons, which is sufficient for domestic requirements at the present time.

Trisodium phosphate: Capacity 1,000 tons per year. This covers domestic requirements at present, ~~but since~~ but since this is the only suitable solvent and preventive of boiler scale, production will soon be increased.

Potassium metabisulfite: Yearly production 50 tons.

Sodium sulfite (crystalline): Yearly capacity 50 tons.

Photosulfite ~~/sic/~~: Yearly capacity 30 tons.

Sodium bisulfite (solid): Yearly capacity 160 tons. The capacity for the last three items covers internal consumption and there is also a possibility for export.

Hydrochloric acid: Yearly production 7,300 tons. This is a by-product, and its disposal constitutes a major problem. Production will increase still further under the three-year plan, and export is not possible because of the shortage of suitable cars for transporting it. Production is in excess of domestic requirements.

Chemically pure hydrochloric acid: Yearly capacity 120 tons.

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~~Hyposulfite:~~ **SECRET**

Magnesium chloride (crystalline): Yearly capacity 50 tons.

Magnesium chloride (liquid): Yearly capacity 150 tons.

Magnesium chloride solution: Yearly capacity 700 tons. The capacity of these last four chemicals not only covers domestic requirements but could also be considered for export.

Caustic soda: Present capacity is about 6,100 tons. This production is not sufficient for domestic requirements, even if we take into consideration the expansion contemplated under the three-year plan. This item constitutes a significant import; eliminating this import is solely a matter of electric power.

Liquid chlorine: Yearly capacity 850 tons. Since no special cars are available for shipping it, export cannot be considered, and this production covers domestic requirements completely.

Hydrogen peroxide: Yearly capacity 170 tons, which barely covers domestic requirements.

Hyposulfite: Yearly capacity 350 tons.

Reducit [sic]: Yearly capacity 240 tons.

Bone glue: Yearly capacity 540 tons.

Benzine bone grease: Yearly capacity 270 tons. Production of the last four items is encountering great raw material difficulties.

Hide glue: Yearly capacity with the present installations is 180 tons, which does not cover domestic requirements. A solution must be found for the production of this item, especially if we take into account ^{the fact} that by the end of the three-year plan domestic requirements are expected to be 600 tons.

Chrome alum: Yearly capacity 720 tons.

Zinc sulfate: Yearly capacity 33 tons.

Nitrogen: Total capacity 75,000 tons. The capacity of the last three chemicals covers domestic requirements and is entirely utilized.

Carbon disulfide: Yearly capacity 1,200 tons. This capacity is com-

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pletely utilized for present domestic requirements.

Trichlorethylene: Yearly capacity 360 tons. Capacity is not entirely utilized because of the shortage of raw material (carbide).

Zinc oxide: Yearly capacity about 1,600 tons, which covered domestic requirements in 1938. Production is minimal today because of the shortage of zinc; and the shortage of zinc oxide is catastrophic, especially in the rubber and varnish industries.

Lithopone: Yearly capacity 1,400 - 1,500 tons. In addition to satisfying domestic requirements, this item constitutes a significant export.

Chemical dyes: Yearly capacity 600 tons. Capacity is only 70 percent utilized, because of the shortage of raw materials and because this amount covers domestic requirements.

Varnish: Yearly capacity 800 tons, 70 percent utilized. The main difficulty is the linseed oil; it is being replaced by sunflower oil.

Miscellaneous lacquers: Yearly capacity 1,300 tons. Utilization is only 70 percent, because domestic ^{requirement} is covered thereby.

Oil paints: Yearly capacity 1,100 tons, 70 percent utilized.

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