TRANSPORT

EL DORADO PLANT DAMAGED BY FIRE

Union Asphalt Co. Loses Buildings and Materials Valued at $10,000.

EL DORADO, Ark., Aug. 29—(Fire)—Union Asphalt Co. plant here today was destroyed by fire, causing damage estimated at $10,000.

A large steel and plank building was entirely burned out.

The plant manufactured asphalt and building materials for highway construction.

NEW MEXICO USES ARKANSAS ASPHALT

Other Western States Also Constructing Roads With Product, Highway Official Reports.

ASPHALT manufacturing at El Dorado is being used by New Mexico and other Western states for road construction.

Mr. W. E. Spencer, secretary of the state highway commissioner, said yesterday following his visit to the Arkansas town of Sperry, where he attended the annual convention of the American association of Highway Officials, that W. W. Stas, chief engineer of the Missouri highway department, was visiting the Arkansas plant to consider the production of asphalt for use in Missouri.

Plans for state and federal road construction next year will be under discussion at the convention, and the Arkansas demonstration of asphalt use is expected to be of great interest.

The Arkansas asphalt seems to be well adapted for many of the highway needs of the Western states, Mr. Spencer said.

Most of country's road asphalt produced in South

Eighty-eight per cent of the 748,500 tons of rock asphalt sold in the United States and valued at $4,971,732 during 1929 was produced in the South, according to census data. Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Utah and California.

States. The total tonnage was a decrease of 2.8 per cent from the quantity sold in 1928. The average sale value per ton rose from $5.40 to $5.62 in 1929.

The by-product of the sales of rock asphalt, which aggregated 138,714,000 tons in 1929, increased 6.8 per cent to 204,840,000 tons in 1928.

Of this, 1929 was $1,757,772, or an increase of one cent per pound. Prices, however, were lower than average sales value dropped 3.4 per cent, or from 99.98 cents per short ton to 97.18 cents.

Approximately 3,749,920 tons were sold in 1929, as compared with 3,889,933 tons in 1928. Stocks of petroleum asphalt held at Union companies January 1, 1929, were 50,000 short tons, representing a 3.2 per cent decrease from the 52,500 short tons produced in 1928, according to the tonnage rose from $352.40 in May to $355.40 in December.

Production of petroleum asphalt, influenced by an improved demand, was 15,537,933 tons in 1929, resulting in a 2.8 per cent increase from 1928. The average sales value per short ton increased 16.2 per cent, or from 92.24 to 105.69.

Lion Asphalt Roof Coating in Demand

High Quality Gives It Great Acceptance Among Jobbers and Dealers.

Asphalt, a petroleum by-product, is becoming of greater importance among materials for roof covering. For several years the Lion Oil Refining Co. has shipped large quantities of asphalt under the name of Lion,
Big Increase in Demand For Asphalt Products.

GREATLY INCREASED DURHAM, N.C., March 17—An increase in demand for asphalt products for reconstruction work in communities ravaged by the Ohio and Mississippi river floods has made it necessary for refineries to increase production, it is stated by Col. T. H. Barton, president of Lion Oil Refining Company, the largest producer of asphalt from domestic crude oil east of the Rocky Mountains. Normally, the demand for asphalt products is at its lowest during the winter but the destruction caused by the floods has created an emergency that will expand production materially above the usual output at this time,” Colonel Barton said.

The Lion refinery, which produces approximately one-fifth of all the asphalt manufactured from domestic crude in the United States, enlarged its capacity by 25,000 tons last year.

Injured Asphalt Plant Worker Dies at Waterloo

Prepott — Injured in a fall late yesterday afternoon at the plant of the Berry Asphalt Company, in the oil field at Waterloo, south of here, Leroi Fairchild, aged 30, an employee, died shortly after. Fairchild was tending a furnace at an asphalt distillery. A floor of oil fell on him and the oil plant caused Fairchild to fall 40 feet from a gallery around the top of the boiler. Both legs were broken and his skull fractured. Fairchild lived at Rouxton, near Waterloo, and is survived by his wife, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fairchild, and other relatives. A brother, Irwin Fairchild, was among about 20 persons injured the night of March 19. In a three-way car and truck collision near the Randolph county line, an auto went under the other vehicles. Funeral services for Leroi Fairchild were held at 4 o'clock this afternoon.