

acid tank, regenerator and acid cooler and the inspection of the reactor section. An inventory of feed stocks was built up during the shutdown, which, when supplemented by the C4 cut received directly from Imperial Oil, will enable the butyl rubber plant to operate at capacity during the shutdown of the Light Ends Unit.

Product purity of 98% has been maintained.

(c) Butylene Concentration Unit

This unit operated almost continuously during the months of January and February except for 8 days in the early part of the latter month, when the unit was shut down for metal inspection and general turnaround. Operations were unsteady the first week in March with fluctuating butylene recovery and purity. All instruments were checked and a new liquid level controller was installed in the reboiler condensate on the extractor tower. As a result, operations smoothed out and recovery and product purity returned to normal.

BUTYL RUBBER PLANT

This unit operated satisfactorily throughout the quarter. Production during the months of January and February was limited by the shortage of ethylene, although it was maintained at a high level. 83% of the rubber produced during February was unplasticized.

The overload switch to the reactor drives kicked out on February 23 causing the agitators to stop, with the result that the two reactors then on stream filled with polymer. They had to be cleaned mechanically. A similar failure occurred on March 14 resulting in the loss of one day's production. Repairs were made to the starting switches which caused the failure. Both drier chains in the finishing building were cleaned during March. Conversion and reactor runs are being increased and very good Mooney control is being maintained.

The unit cost of the specification material produced during the Month of February was 18.356¢ per lb.

Production of butyl rubber during the first quarter of 1945 was as follows:

January	1,537,335 lbs.
February	1,455,180 lbs.
March	1,681,055 lbs.

BUTADIENE UNIT

Dehydrogenation Section A operated almost continuously throughout the months of January and February. It was charged at the rate of 3,500 bbls. of hydrocarbons per day during March. Trouble was experienced with the stabilizer tower which had become fouled due to the large quantity of recycle material which had been run. This section was taken off stream on March 4 for cleaning and has operated smoothly since being started up on March 22.

Facilities for burning fuel oil in the superheater were installed in Section B. This section was shut down on February 4 for a general turn-around and metal inspection. The reactors and other equipment were found to be in excellent condition.

The Extraction Section operated smoothly throughout the quarter. It was shut down on March 4 for six days for metal inspection and a general turn-around. The equipment was found to be in good condition. Product purity and recovery were maintained at 98%.

In order to maintain the very high GR-S production rate, it was necessary to import butadiene from the U.S.A. during February and March to supplement the local production.