IDEAL CEMENT CO.—The bulk cement distribution terminal of Ideal Cement at West Lake receives the product by barge from several of the firm's manufacturing plants. Here it is bagged or re-shipped in hopper cars or trucks.

Industrial plants make chemicals for every use

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What do the industrial plants of Calcasieu parish produce, particularly those plants connected with the oil and gas industry?

Everyone knows, of course, that the Cities Service and Continental refineries produce gasoline. And most everyone knows that synthetic rubber is produced out at the Firestone plant.

And you'll be surprised to know that just about everything you can think of made from rubber is now derived from petroleum.

Most people don't associate milk with oil but if you buy your milk in paper cartons chances are that the milk on your carton was made at the Oil-Cot plant.

The plant produced 144 million pounds of paraffin wax last year, used mainly for milk cartons and to provide the wax coating on boxes that keeps breakfast cereals fresh.

At Petroleum Chemicals Inc., the new ethylene plant is supplying ethylene to Spencer Chemicals and the DuPont plant in Orange where it is made into polyethylene.

Polyethylene is a new product and new uses are being found for it constantly. Uses familiar to everyone now are the transparent bags used in dry cleaning shops and the bales used to package potatoes, onions and all types of fruit.

The burlap hogs were also made of polyethylene and the squeeze bottles, in which almost every conceivable type of liquid and even some solids such as cheese are being packaged, are also made of ethylene.

PCI has an anhydrous ammonia plant and Olin Mathieson also produces anhydrous ammonia. The primary use of anhydrous ammonia is for fertilizer by Southern cotton farmers, but it is also used as a refrigerant.

The ethylene glycol plant owned by Calcasieu Chemicals and operated by PCI, turns out the base for permanent type anti-freeze but an intermediary product, ethylene oxide, can be used in the manufacture of detergents and plastics.

The most common use for carbon black, produced by Continental Carbon company where capacity is being raised from 40 million to 70 million pounds a year, is to make tires black. But it is also used as a rubber agent in printing inks, plastics and p.v.c.

So it can be seen that the oil and petrochemical industry is now so new there is no measure of predicting just what might be made from petroleum in the future. There seems to be room enough in sight that the laboratories are constantly seeking—usually finding—new items that can be made from oil.