

MCCORMICK & CO INC
Form S-3
January 28, 2005

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 28, 2005

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

McCormick & Company, Incorporated

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

52-0408290

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**18 Loveton Circle
Sparks, Maryland**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

21152

(Zip Code)

**Robert W. Skelton
McCormick & Company, Incorporated
18 Loveton Circle
Sparks, Maryland 21152
(410) 771-7563**

(Name, address and telephone of agent for service)

Copies to:

**Alan L. Dye
Joseph E. Gilligan
Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-1109
(202) 637-5600**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this registration statement becomes effective.

Edgar Filing: MCCORMICK & CO INC - Form S-3

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee (1)
Debt Securities	\$500,000,000	100%	\$500,000,000 (1)	\$58,850

(1)

Or, if such securities are issued at original issue discount, such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price of \$500,000,000. Securities may be denominated in U.S. Dollars or in one or more foreign currencies of units of two or more foreign currencies or composite currencies.

The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated January 28, 2005

PROSPECTUS

\$500,000,000

McCormick & Company, Incorporated

Debt Securities

We may from time to time issue up to \$500,000,000 aggregate initial offering price of Debt Securities. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. The accompanying prospectus supplement will specify the terms of the securities.

We may sell these securities through agents designated from time to time, through underwriters or dealers or we may sell them directly ourselves. The names of the underwriters or agents will be set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

See "Risk Factors" on page 5 herein and, if applicable, in the accompanying prospectus supplement for risks relating to an investment in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated _____, 2005

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") utilizing a "shelf" registration process. Under this process, we may offer and sell any combination of Debt Securities in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$500,000,000 or the equivalent if any of the securities are denominated in a currency, currency unit or composite currency other than the U.S. dollar.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, or in any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus is correct as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents.

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. We have omitted parts of the registration statement as permitted by the SEC's rules and regulations. For further information, we refer you to the registration statement on Form S-3, which can be read at the SEC web site or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information." The registration statement on Form S-3 also includes exhibits. Statements contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement about the provisions or contents of any agreement or other document are not necessarily complete. If SEC rules and regulations require that any agreement or document be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should refer to that agreement or document for a complete description of these matters.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the offered securities. Each time we sell the offered securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change any information contained in this prospectus, and any statement in this prospectus will be modified or superseded by any inconsistent statement in a prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

When we refer to "McCormick," "we," "us" or "our" in this prospectus, we mean McCormick & Company, Incorporated and its subsidiaries or, as the context may require, McCormick & Company, Incorporated only.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference rooms at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20549, and in New York, New York and Chicago, Illinois. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Our non-voting and voting common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and information about us also is available there.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC. The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents that we identify as part of this prospectus. Our subsequent filings of similar documents with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the document listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (1) after the date of the filing of this registration statement and before its effectiveness and (2) until our offering of securities has been completed:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended November 30, 2004, filed on January 27, 2005; and

Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on January 7, 2005.

You may obtain a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

McCormick & Company, Incorporated
Attn: Office of the Treasurer
18 Loveton Circle
Sparks, Maryland 21152
(telephone: 410-771-7301)

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. This prospectus is an offer to sell or buy only the securities described in this document, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus is current only as of the date of this prospectus.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in it include "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act. We intend the forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in these sections.

All statements regarding our expected financial position and operating results, our business strategy, our financing plans, our future capital requirements, forecasted demographic and economic trends relating to our industry, our ability to complete acquisitions, to realize anticipated cost savings and other benefits from acquisitions and to recover acquisition-related costs, and similar matters are forward-looking statements.

These statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the statements. The forward-looking information is based on various factors and was derived using numerous assumptions.

In some cases, you can identify these statements by our use of forward-looking words such as "may," "will," "would," "should," "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "plan," "believe," "predict," "project," "potential" or "intend." You should be aware that these statements only reflect our predictions. Actual events or results may differ substantially.

Important factors that could cause our actual results to be materially different from our expectations include:

actions of competitors,

customer relationships,

market acceptance of new products,

actual amounts and timing of special charge items,

removal and disposal costs and final negotiations of third-party contracts,

the impact of stock market conditions on our share repurchase program,

fluctuations in the cost and availability of supply-chain resources,

global economic conditions, including interest and currency rate fluctuations and inflation rates, and

other factors discussed in this prospectus under the caption "Risk Factors."

We undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

RISK FACTORS

Prospective investors should consider carefully the following risk factors before investing in any of the securities offered hereby.

Fluctuations in the foreign currency markets may negatively impact us.

We are exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency cash flows primarily related to raw material purchases. We are also exposed to fluctuations in the value of foreign currency investments in subsidiaries and unconsolidated affiliates and cash flows related to repatriation of these investments. Additionally, we are exposed to volatility in the translation of foreign currency earnings to U.S. dollars. Primary exposures include the U.S. dollar versus the functional currencies of our major markets (Euro, British pound sterling, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, Mexican peso, Chinese renminbi and Japanese yen). On occasion, we may enter into forward and option contracts to manage these foreign currency risks. However, these contracts may not effectively limit or eliminate our exposure to a decline in operating results due to foreign currency translation. Therefore, we cannot assure you that future exchange rate fluctuations will not have a negative impact on our business, financial position or operating results.

Increases in interest rates may negatively impact us.

We had total outstanding short-term borrowings of approximately \$140 million at an average interest rate of approximately 2.1% on November 30, 2004. Our policy is to manage our interest costs using a mix of fixed and variable rate debt. We also use interest rate swaps to achieve a desired proportion of fixed and variable rate debt. We utilize derivative financial instruments to enhance our ability to manage risk, including foreign exchange and interest rate exposures that exist as part of our ongoing business operations. We do not enter into contracts for trading purposes, nor are we a party to any leveraged derivative instrument. Our use of derivative financial instruments is monitored through regular communication with senior management and the utilization of written guidelines. However, our use of these instruments may not effectively limit or eliminate our exposure to a decline in operating results due to changes in interest rates. Therefore, we cannot assure you that future interest rate increases will not have a negative impact on our business, financial position or operating results.

Price Fluctuations In The Commodity Markets May Negatively Impact Us.

We purchase certain raw materials that are subject to price volatility caused by weather and other unpredictable factors. The most significant raw materials are vanilla, cheese, pepper, packaging supplies, garlic, onion and capsicums. While future movements of raw material costs are uncertain, a variety of programs, including strategic raw material purchases, purchases of raw material for future delivery and customer price adjustments, help us address this risk. Generally, we do not use derivatives to manage the volatility related to this risk. Even if we did use such instruments, however, their use might not effectively limit or eliminate our exposure to a decline in operating results due to changes in commodity prices. Therefore, we cannot assure you that future commodity price fluctuations will not have a negative impact on our business, financial position or operating results.

OUR COMPANY

McCormick & Company, Incorporated is a global leader in the manufacture, marketing and distribution of spices, herbs, seasonings and flavors to the entire food industry.

We operate in two segments, consumer and industrial, which serve two distinct customer bases. Customers for the consumer segment span a variety of retail outlets and include grocery, drug, dollar and mass merchandise stores. These customers are serviced either through direct shipments or through the food wholesale channel. Products for the consumer segment include spices, herbs, extracts, seasoning blends, sauces, marinades and specialty food products.

Customers for the industrial segment include food processors and the restaurant industry, supplied both directly and through distributors and warehouse clubs. Products for the industrial segment include spices, blended seasonings, condiments, coatings and compound flavors.

We have a worldwide workforce of approximately 8,000 employees and our principal executive offices are located at 18 Loveton Circle, Sparks, Maryland 21152 (telephone: 410-771-7301).

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our ratios of earnings to fixed charges were 6.86, 6.89, 5.94, 4.58 and 5.16 for the years ended November 30, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001 and 2000, respectively. For the purpose of this ratio, "earnings" consist of income from consolidated operations before income taxes, plus fixed charges (net of capitalized interest), amortization of capitalized interest and dividends from unconsolidated subsidiaries. "Fixed charges" consist of interest, whether expensed or capitalized (including amortization of debt discount), and that portion of rental expense that is representative of interest.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may be described otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Debt Securities under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including refinancing existing indebtedness, future acquisitions, capital expenditures and working capital. Until we apply the net proceeds for specific purposes, we may invest such net proceeds in short-term or marketable securities.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the terms of the Debt Securities sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the Debt Securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The Debt Securities are to be issued under an Indenture, dated as of December 5, 2000 (the "Indenture"), between McCormick and SunTrust Bank, a banking corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Georgia, as Trustee (the "Trustee"), a copy of which has been filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement and is incorporated by reference herein. The following summaries of certain provisions of the Indenture do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all provisions of the Indenture. Capitalized terms are defined in the Indenture unless otherwise defined herein. Wherever particular provisions or defined terms of the Indenture are referred to, such provisions or defined terms are incorporated herein by reference.

General

The Indenture does not limit the amount of Debt Securities which can be issued thereunder and provides that Debt Securities may be issued thereunder up to the aggregate principal amount which may be authorized from time to time by us. The Debt Securities will be unsecured and will rank on a parity with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of McCormick.

Reference is hereby made to the prospectus supplement relating to the applicable series of Debt Securities for the terms of such Debt Securities, including where applicable:

- (i) the title of the securities of the series;
- (ii) any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the securities of the series which may be authenticated and delivered under the Indenture;
- (iii) the date or dates on which the principal of the securities is payable;
- (iv) the rate or rates at which the securities of the series shall bear interest, if any, the date or dates from which such interest shall accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest shall be payable and the regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date;
- (v) the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on securities of the series shall be payable, any securities of that series may be surrendered for exchange and notices and demands to or upon McCormick in respect of the securities of that series and the Indenture may be served;
- (vi) the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, the currency or currency unit in which, and the terms and conditions upon which securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of McCormick;
- (vii) the obligation, if any, of McCormick to redeem or purchase securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder thereof and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, the currency or currency unit in which, and the terms and conditions upon which securities of the series shall be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation;
- (viii) if other than denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof, the denominations in which securities of the series shall be issuable;
- (ix) if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of securities of the series which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof pursuant to the Indenture;

Edgar Filing: MCCORMICK & CO INC - Form S-3

- (x) any Events of Default and covenants of McCormick with respect to the securities of that series, whether or not such Events of Default or covenants are consistent with the Events of Default or covenants set forth in the Indenture;
- (xi) if other than the currency of the United States of America, the currency or currency unit in which payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the securities of that series shall be made or in which securities of that series shall be denominated and the particular provisions applicable thereto;
- (xii) if the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on the securities of that series are to be payable, at the election of McCormick or a holder thereof, in a currency or currency unit other than that in which such securities are denominated or stated to be payable, the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made, and the time and manner of determining the exchange rate between the currency or currency unit in which such securities are denominated or stated to be payable and the currency or currency unit in which such securities are to be so payable;
- (xiii) if the amount of payments or principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index based on a currency or currency unit other than that in which securities are denominated or stated to be payable or any other index, the manner in which such amounts shall be determined; and
- (xiv) any other terms of the series (which terms shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Indenture).

The Debt Securities may be issued in one or more series with the same or various maturities and will be issued only in full registered form without coupons.

The terms of the Debt Securities do not afford holders of the Debt Securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving McCormick that may adversely affect holders of the Debt Securities.

Transfer and Exchange

The Debt Securities of a series may be issued in either registered form ("Registered Securities") or global form. See "Book-Entry Securities." Registered Securities may be separated into smaller denominations or combined into larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. (Section 3.5 of the Indenture). This is called an "exchange."

You may transfer Registered Securities of a series and you may exchange Debt Securities of a series at the office of the Trustee. The Trustee will act as our agent for registering Registered Securities in the names of holders and transferring Debt Securities. We may designate someone else to perform this function. Whoever maintains the list of registered holders is called the "Security Registrar." The Security Registrar also will perform transfers. (Section 3.5 of the Indenture)

You will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange Debt Securities, but you may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The transfer or exchange will be made only if the Security Registrar is satisfied with your proof of ownership. (Section 3.5 of the Indenture)

If we designate additional transfer agents, we will name them in the accompanying prospectus supplement. We may cancel the designation of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If we redeem less than all of the Debt Securities of a redeemable series, we may block the transfer or exchange of Registered Securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day of the

selection for redemption of such Registered Securities and ending on the day of the mailing of the relevant notice of redemption in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also decline to register transfers or exchanges of Debt Securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any Debt Security being partially redeemed. (Section 3.5 of the Indenture)

If the offered Debt Securities are redeemable, we will describe the procedures for redemption in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

In this "Transfer and Exchange" section of this prospectus, "you" means direct holders and not indirect holders of Debt Securities.

Book-Entry Securities

The Debt Securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities (the "Global Securities") which will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (the "Depository") and registered in the name of the Depository's nominee. Except as set forth below, the Global Securities may be transferred, in whole and not in part, only to another nominee of the Depository or to a successor of the Depository or its nominee.

The Depository has advised us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. The Depository was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. The Depository's participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of which (and/or their representatives) own the Depository. Access to the Depository's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly. Persons who are not participants may beneficially own securities held by the Depository only through participants.

Upon the issuance of Debt Securities by us represented by the Global Securities, the Depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the Debt Securities represented by such Global Securities to the accounts of participants. The accounts credited shall be initially designated by the underwriters or agents.

If the Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository, or if at any time there shall have occurred and be continuing an Event of Default under the Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities, we will issue Debt Securities in certificated form in exchange for the Global Securities. In addition, we may at any time determine not to have Debt Securities represented by the Global Securities, and, in such event will issue Debt Securities in certificated form in exchange for the Global Securities representing such Debt Securities. In any such instance, an owner of a beneficial interest in the Global Securities will be entitled to physical delivery in certificated form of Debt Securities equal in principal amount to such beneficial interest and to have such Debt Securities registered in its name.

Definitions

"Attributable Debt" with respect to any sale leaseback transaction that is subject to the restrictions described under "Certain of our Covenants Limitation On Sale and Leaseback" means the lesser of:

the total net amount of rent required to be paid during the remaining base term of the related lease or until the earliest date on which the lessee may terminate such lease upon payment of a penalty or a lump-sum termination payment (in which case the total net rent shall include such penalty or termination payment), discounted at the weighted average interest rate borne by the Outstanding Securities (as defined in the Indenture) under the Indenture, compounded semi-annually, or

the sale price of the property so leased multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the remaining base term of the related lease and the denominator of which is the base term of such lease.

"Consolidated Net Tangible Assets" means the total assets of McCormick and its consolidated subsidiaries, including the investment in (at equity) and the net amount of advances to and accounts receivable from corporations which are not consolidated subsidiaries less the following:

current liabilities of McCormick and its consolidated subsidiaries, including an amount equal to indebtedness required to be redeemed by reason of any sinking fund payment due in 12 months or less from the date as of which current liabilities are to be determined;

all other liabilities of McCormick and its consolidated subsidiaries other than Funded Debt, deferred income taxes and liabilities for employee post-retirement health plans other than pensions recognized in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 106;

all depreciation and valuation reserves and all other reserves (except for reserves for contingencies which have not been allocated to any particular purpose) of McCormick and its consolidated subsidiaries;

the book amount of all segregated intangible assets of McCormick and its consolidated subsidiaries, including, but without limitation, such items as goodwill, trademarks, trade names, patents and unamortized debt discount and expense less unamortized debt premium; and

appropriate adjustments on account of minority interests of other persons holding stock in subsidiaries.

Consolidated Net Tangible Assets shall be determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

"Funded Debt" means any indebtedness of McCormick or a Restricted Subsidiary for borrowed money having a maturity of more than 12 months from the date such indebtedness was incurred or having a maturity of less than 12 months but by its terms being renewable or extendable beyond 12 months from the date such indebtedness was incurred at the option of the obligor.

"Principal Property" means any manufacturing or processing plant or warehouse, together with the land upon which it is erected and any fixtures and equipment comprising a part thereof, owned by McCormick or any Restricted Subsidiary and located in the United States, the book value (net of depreciation) of which on the date as of which the determination is being made is an amount which exceeds 1% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets, other than any such manufacturing or processing plant or warehouse or any portion thereof or any such fixture or equipment (together with the land upon which it is erected and any fixtures and equipment comprising a part thereof) (i) which is

financed by Industrial Development Bonds or (ii) which, in the opinion of our board of directors, is not of material importance to the total business conducted by us and our Subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

"Restricted Subsidiary" means any Subsidiary that owns, operates or leases one or more Principal Properties.

"Subsidiary" means each corporation of which we, or we and one or more Subsidiaries, or any one or more Subsidiaries, directly or indirectly own securities entitling the holders thereof to elect a majority of the directors, either at all times or so long as there is no default or contingency that permits the holders of any other class or classes of securities to vote for the election of one or more directors.

Certain of Our Covenants

Limitations on Liens

Except as described below under "Exempted Indebtedness", we covenant that we will not, nor will we permit any Restricted Subsidiary to, create, assume or suffer to exist any mortgage, security interest, pledge or lien ("Lien") of or upon any Principal Property or any shares of capital stock or evidences of indebtedness for borrowed money issued by any Restricted Subsidiary and owned by us or any Restricted Subsidiary, without providing that the Debt Securities shall be secured equally and ratably by such Lien with any and all other indebtedness or obligations thereby secured, so long as such indebtedness or obligations shall be so secured.

This restriction does not apply to:

Liens that exist on the date of the Indenture;

Liens on property of any corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Subsidiary;

Liens in favor of us or any Subsidiary;

Liens in favor of governmental bodies to secure progress, advance or other payments pursuant to contract or statute or indebtedness incurred to finance all or a part of construction of or improvements to property subject to such Liens;

Liens on property existing at the time of acquisition thereof (including acquisition through merger or consolidation), and construction and improvement liens that are entered into within 180 days from the date of such construction or improvement, provided that in the case of construction or improvement the Lien shall not apply to any property theretofore owned by us or any Restricted Subsidiary except substantially unimproved real property on which the property so constructed or the improvement is located;

mechanics' and similar Liens arising in the ordinary course of business in respect of obligations not due or being contested in good faith;

Liens for taxes, assessments, or governmental charges or levies that are not delinquent or are being contested in good faith;

Liens arising from any legal proceedings that are being contested in good faith;

any Liens that (a) are incidental to the ordinary conduct of our business or the ownership of our properties and assets, (b) were not incurred in connection with the borrowing of money or the obtaining of advances or credit and (c) do not in the aggregate materially detract from the value of our property or the property of any Subsidiary or materially impair the use thereof in the operation of our business;

Liens securing industrial development or pollution control bonds; and

Liens for the sole purpose of extending, renewing or replacing (or successively extending, renewing or replacing) in whole or in part any of the foregoing. (Section 10.7 of the Indenture).

Limitation on Sale and Leaseback

Except as described below under " Exempted Indebtedness," sale and leaseback transactions by us or any Restricted Subsidiary (except for transactions involving temporary leases for a term of three years or less and except for certain intercompany transactions) of any Principal Property are prohibited unless either:

we or such Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled, pursuant to the fifth and the eleventh clauses of the covenant described under Limitations on Liens above, to incur a Lien on the Principal Property to be leased without equally and ratably securing the Debt Securities, or

the net proceeds of such sale are at least equal to the fair value of the Principal Property sold and we will apply an amount equal to the net proceeds of such sale to the retirement of our or a Restricted Subsidiary's securities or Funded Debt ranking prior to or on a parity with the Debt Securities. (Section 10.8 of the Indenture).

Exempted Indebtedness

Notwithstanding the limitations on Liens and sale and leaseback transactions outlined above, we or any Restricted Subsidiary may create, assume or suffer to exist Liens or enter into sale and leaseback transactions not otherwise permitted as described above provided that at the time of such event, and after giving effect thereto, the sum of outstanding indebtedness for borrowed money incurred after the date of the Indenture and secured by Liens not otherwise permitted as set forth above plus the Attributable Debt in respect of such sale and leaseback transactions entered into after the date of the Indenture not otherwise permitted as set forth above does not exceed 15% of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets properly appearing on a consolidated balance sheet of McCormick. (Sections 1.1, 10.7(b) and 10.8(b) of the Indenture).

Merger and Consolidation

We covenant that we will not merge, consolidate or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety and we will not permit any Person (as defined in the Indenture) to consolidate with or merge into us or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to us unless, among other things:

the successor Person is McCormick or another corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia that assumes our obligations on the Debt Securities and under the Indenture,

immediately after giving effect to such transaction, McCormick or the successor Person would not be in default under the Indenture, and

if, as a result of any such consolidation or merger or such conveyance, transfer or lease, any Principal Property of McCormick would become subject to a Lien that would not be permitted by the Indenture, we or such successor Person takes such steps as are necessary effectively to secure the Debt Securities equally and ratably with (or, at our option, prior to) all indebtedness secured thereby. (Section 8.1 of the Indenture).

Events of Default

An Event of Default with respect to the Debt Securities is defined in the Indenture as being:

- (i) default for 30 days in the payment of any installment of interest on the Debt Securities;
- (ii) default in the payment of any principal of the Debt Securities;
- (iii) default by McCormick in the performance of any other covenants or agreements in the Indenture contained therein for the benefit of the Debt Securities which shall not have been remedied for a period of 90 days after written notice of such default to McCormick by the Trustee or to McCormick and the Trustee by the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities;
- (iv) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of McCormick; or
- (v) any other Event of Default specified for a series in the applicable prospectus supplement. (Section 5.1 of the Indenture).

The Indenture provides that if an Event of Default under clause (i), (ii) or (iii) above shall have occurred and be continuing, either the Trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Debt Securities may declare the principal of all the Debt Securities, together with any accrued interest, to be due and payable immediately. (Sections 5.2 and 5.13 of the Indenture).

If an Event of Default under clause (iv) above shall have occurred and be continuing, then the principal of all the Debt Securities, together with any accrued interest, will be due and payable immediately without any declaration or other act on the part of the Trustee or any holder of a Debt Security. Upon certain conditions such declaration (including a declaration caused by a default in the payment of principal or interest, the payment for which has subsequently been provided) may be annulled by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the Debt Securities. (Sections 5.2 and 5.13 of the Indenture).

In addition, prior to the declaration of the acceleration of the maturity of the Debt Securities, past defaults may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the Debt Securities, except a default in the payment of principal of or interest on any Debt Security or in respect of a covenant or provision of the Indenture which cannot be modified or amended without the approval of the holder of each Debt Security. (Sections 5.2 and 5.13 of the Indenture).

The Indenture contains a provision entitling the Trustee, subject to the duty of the Trustee during default to act with the required standard of care, to be indemnified by the holders of Debt Securities issued thereunder before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the Indenture at the request of the holders of such Debt Securities. (Section 6.3 of the Indenture).

The Indenture also provides that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Securities of a particular series issued thereunder and affected (each series voting as a separate class) may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee, with respect to the Debt Securities of such series. (Section 5.12 of the Indenture).

The Indenture contains a covenant that McCormick will file annually with the Trustee a certificate as to the absence of any default or specifying any default that exists. (Section 10.9 of the Indenture).

Satisfaction and Discharge

The Indenture will cease to be of further effect (except as to surviving rights of registration of transfer or exchange of Debt Securities, as expressly provided for in the Indenture) as to all Debt Securities when:

either:

all Debt Securities theretofore authenticated and delivered (except lost, stolen or destroyed Debt Securities that have been replaced or paid) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, or

with respect to all Debt Securities not theretofore delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, McCormick has deposited or caused to be deposited with the Trustee funds or Government Obligations (as defined in the Indenture), or any combination thereof, in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on the Debt Securities not theretofore delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, for unpaid principal and interest to maturity;

McCormick has paid all other sums payable by it under the Indenture;

McCormick has delivered to the Trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel each stating that all conditions precedent under the Indenture to the satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture have been complied with; and

if the Debt Securities are not due and payable within one year of the date of such deposit, McCormick has delivered to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the Debt Securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times, as would have been the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred. (Article IV of the Indenture).

Covenant Defeasance

The terms of the Debt Securities provide that McCormick need not comply with certain restrictive covenants of the Indenture (including those described under " Certain of our Covenants" above) if:

McCormick deposits in trust with the Trustee money or Government Obligations, which through the payment of interest thereon and principal thereof in accordance with their terms will provide money, in an amount sufficient to pay all the principal of and interest on the Debt Securities when due; and

McCormick delivers to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of Debt Securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times, as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred. (Section 10.11 of the Indenture).

Modification And Waiver

Without the consent of any holder of the Debt Securities, McCormick and the Trustee may modify or amend the Indenture to clarify or to make certain other changes that would not adversely affect the legal rights of any holder. (Section 9.1 of the Indenture)

With the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of the particular series affected, McCormick and the Trustee may modify or

amend the Indenture; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, any Debt Security or reduce the principal amount thereof or the rate of interest thereon, or change the coin or currency in which any Debt Security or the interest thereon is payable, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment after the stated maturity thereof;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding Debt Securities necessary to waive compliance with certain provisions of the Indenture or to waive certain defaults; or

modify any of the provisions relating to supplemental indentures requiring the consent of holders or relating to the waiver of past defaults or relating to the waiver of certain covenants, except to increase the percentage of outstanding Debt Securities required for such actions or to provide that certain other provisions of the Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security. (Section 9.2 of the Indenture).

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell Debt Securities to or through underwriters and also may sell Debt Securities directly to other purchasers or through agents.

The distribution of the Debt Securities offered under the prospectus may occur from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

In connection with the sale of Debt Securities, underwriters may receive compensation from us or from purchasers of Debt Securities for whom they may act as agents in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions.

Underwriters may sell Debt Securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of Debt Securities offered under the prospectus may be "underwriters" as defined in the Securities Act. Any underwriters or agents will be identified and their compensation (including underwriting discount) will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also describe the other terms of the offering, including any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchanges on which the offered securities may be listed.

We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make as a result of those certain liabilities.

If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, we may authorize dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase Debt Securities from us pursuant to contracts that provide for payment and delivery on a future date. We must approve all institutions, but they may include, among others:

commercial and savings banks;

insurance companies;

pension funds;

investment companies; and

educational and charitable institutions.

The institutional purchaser's obligation under the contract is subject to the condition that the purchase of the offered Debt Securities at the time of delivery is allowed by the laws that govern the purchaser. The dealers and the agents will not be responsible for the validity or performance of the contracts.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of McCormick & Company, Incorporated and subsidiaries incorporated by reference in McCormick & Company, Incorporated's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended November 30, 2004 (including schedules appearing therein), and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of November 30, 2004 included therein, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included and incorporated by reference therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and management's assessment are, and audited financial statements and management's assessments of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting to be included in subsequently filed documents will be, incorporated herein in reliance upon the reports of Ernst & Young LLP pertaining to such financial statements and management's assessments (to the extent covered by consents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission) given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with the Debt Securities will be passed upon for McCormick by Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., Columbia Square, 555 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.

PART II**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table is an estimate, subject to future contingencies, of the expenses to be incurred by the registrant in connection with the issuance and distribution of securities being registered.

SEC Registration Fee	\$ 58,850
Legal Fees and Expenses	35,000
Accounting Fees and Expenses	10,000
Printing and Engraving Expenses	3,000
Trustee's Fees	5,000
Miscellaneous	13,150
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 125,000
	<hr/>

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Under the registrant's by-laws and the Maryland General Corporation Law, the directors and officers of the registrant may be entitled to indemnification in respect of threatened, pending or completed actions, suits or proceedings, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative ("proceedings"), to which they are made a party by reason of their position as a director or officer of the registrant. In the case of conduct in their official capacity with the registrant, directors and officers will be entitled to indemnification unless the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty or the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services. In the case of criminal proceedings the director or the officer also must have had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful.

If the director or officer is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any proceeding, the director or officer will be entitled to indemnification against reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceedings regardless of whether the foregoing standards are met. In addition, a court of appropriate jurisdiction may order indemnification if it determines that the director or officer has met the foregoing standards, or if it determines that the director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification in view of all the relevant circumstances.

Any indemnification required or permitted by the registrant's by-laws and the Maryland General Corporation Law may be against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by the director or officer in connection with the proceeding. However, if the proceeding is by or in the right of the registrant, indemnification may be made only against expenses and may not be made in respect of any proceeding in which the director or officer is adjudged to be liable to the registrant.

Under the registrant's charter, the monetary liability of directors and officers to the registrant or its stockholders is eliminated except for, and to the extent of, actual receipt of any improper benefit in money, property or services, or in respect of an adjudication based upon a finding of active and deliberate dishonesty material to the cause of action adjudicated.

The registrant also maintains for the benefit of its directors and officers insurance covering certain liabilities asserted against or incurred by such persons in their capacity as, or as a result of their position as, director or officer of the registrant. This insurance may afford protection for liabilities not subject to indemnification under the registrant's by-laws and the Maryland General Corporation Law.

Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description
1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement.
4.1**	Indenture, dated as of December 5, 2000, between McCormick & Company, Incorporated and SunTrust Bank, as trustee.
4.2**	Form of Note.
5**	Opinion of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.
12**	Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
23.1**	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Public Registered Accounting Firm.
23.2	Consent of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5).
24	Powers of attorney (included in signature page).
25**	Statement on Form T-1 of eligibility of trustee.

* To be filed by amendment or incorporated by reference in connection with the offering of specific Debt Securities.

** Filed herewith.

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement.
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be

Edgar Filing: MCCORMICK & CO INC - Form S-3

deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

II-2

Edgar Filing: MCCORMICK & CO INC - Form S-3

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the provisions described under Item 15 above or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of each issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Sparks, State of Maryland on this 28th day of January, 2005.

MCCORMICK & COMPANY,
INCORPORATED

By: /s/ ROBERT J. LAWLESS

Robert J. Lawless
*Chairman, President, Chief Executive
Officer & Director*

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Robert J. Lawless, Francis A. Contino, Kenneth A. Kelly, Jr., Paul C. Beard and Robert W. Skelton, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons, in the capacities indicated below, on this 28th day of January, 2005.

Signature	Title
<hr/>	<hr/>
/s/ ROBERT J. LAWLESS	Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer & Director
<hr/>	
Robert J. Lawless	
/s/ FRANCIS A. CONTINO	Executive Vice President Strategic Planning & Chief Financial Officer; Director
<hr/>	
Francis A. Contino	
/s/ KENNETH A. KELLY, JR.	Vice President & Controller
<hr/>	
Kenneth A. Kelly, Jr.	
/s/ BARRY H. BERACHA	Director
<hr/>	
Barry H. Beracha	
/s/ JAMES T. BRADY	Director
<hr/>	
James T. Brady	

<hr/>	Director
Robert G. Davey	
/s/ EDWARD S. DUNN, JR.	Director
<hr/>	
Edward S. Dunn, Jr.	
/s/ J. MICHAEL FITZPATRICK	Director
<hr/>	
J. Michael Fitzpatrick	
/s/ FREEMAN A. HRABOWSKI, III	Director
<hr/>	
Freeman A. Hrabowski, III	
/s/ MARGARET M. V. PRESTON	Director
<hr/>	
Margaret M. V. Preston	
/s/ WILLIAM E. STEVENS	Director
<hr/>	
William E. Stevens	
/s/ KAREN D. WEATHERHOLTZ	Director
<hr/>	
Karen D. Weatherholtz	

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description
1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement.
4.1**	Indenture, dated as of December 5, 2000, between McCormick & Company, Incorporated and SunTrust Bank, as trustee.
4.2**	Form of Note.
5**	Opinion of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.
12**	Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
23.1**	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Public Registered Accounting Firm.
23.2	Consent of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5).
24	Powers of attorney (included in signature page).
25**	Statement on Form T-1 of eligibility of trustee.

*
To be filed by amendment or incorporated by reference in connection with the offering of specific Debt Securities.

**
Filed herewith.

QuickLinks

[ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS](#)

[WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION](#)

[CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS](#)

[RISK FACTORS](#)

[OUR COMPANY](#)

[RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES](#)

[USE OF PROCEEDS](#)

[DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES](#)

[PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION](#)

[EXPERTS](#)

[LEGAL MATTERS](#)

[PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS](#)

[SIGNATURES](#)

[INDEX TO EXHIBITS](#)