

"GOLD KING"

An Appreciative Study of Judge John W. Haussermann

By VICENTE F. BARRANCO

THE press has coined for him the newsy and attractive cognomen of "Gold King." The exclusive Manila Rotary Club calls him "Farmer John." Industrialists and businessmen all know him as the Philippines' leading mining man.

He is John W. Haussermann, Sr., short, stubby, cheerful head of the vast Haussermann gold mining enterprises, a lawyer by training, a judge by profession and now dedicated to the promotion of the country's mining industry.

Judge Haussermann has become so great a figure in the nation's social and economic scene that his opinion, whenever he give one through a press statement or public speech, is carefully weighed, analyzed, and considered by the public. Newspapers often editorialized on his statements. He is a kind of reference. His views are regarded as authoritative indices.

More Conservative Now

And Judge Haussermann realized this fact as well as any man in the vast public that has grown to respect him and his ideas. It is this realization, perhaps, that makes him fear to talk much now. In the old, old days, "Farmer John" had the reputation of a talkative politician. He was more free with his statements. Because in his early career as a mining industrialist, he did not have so wide a public that looked up to him for guidance, for counsel, and for



JUDGE HAUSSEMMANN
"Gold King" — "Farmer John"

opinion, than he has today. Now, he has become reserved, and asks reporters to show him the "copy" about him before sending it down to the composing room, for his approval. It is not that he is exactly strict and gives less cooperation to the press; it is just because he is more careful, Judge Haussermann can still stand to be misquoted now and then, perhaps, but he would prefer to save himself of the trouble of denying it later on; because he knows that a story denied spoils the reputation of a newspaper. And he likes to help the press in every way he could.

Timely occasions for the press to front-page Judge Haussermann are when he departs for a trip abroad, when he returns, and when he gives public speeches. He is so important and great a personality that he is also sought for a statement when he observes his birthday. The press gives this privilege

to only a few men in the Philippines.

Trip to America

Lately, the Judge was played up on the front pages. It was because he was leaving the Philippines for the United States on a six-month business and pleasure trip. Usually in the past, Judge Haussermann spent a year abroad, alternating with his son Francis. In his absence, Francis Haussermann, first vice-president of the Balabac and Benguet gold mining firms, will be the acting head. It is likely that upon Judge Haussermann's return, his son will leave for an extended business trip in America. The Haussermanns have some financial and business interests in the United States.

Judge Haussermann's importance in public life is recognized not only in the Philippines, but also in America. A proof of this is the numerous invitations he received from trade organizations and chambers of commerce in the United States to address their meetings upon his arrival there. Judge Haussermann intimated shortly before his departure that he had declined all these invitations; first, because he could not be sure if his itinerary would coincide with the conventions and meetings of the organizations who want him as guest speaker; and second,

he said he personally prefers not to deliver a speech before those organizations which expect him to discuss political as well as economic conditions in the Philippines. He said he had not had the time or opportunity to confer with the political leaders of the Philippines, and does not consider himself sufficiently informed as to their views. Under this circumstance, to keep silent is better for him.

On the Freedom Question

He, however, made one significant remark on his departure. He said: "The way matters (in the Philippines) now stand, practically every leader here has rejected the idea of re-examination of the so-called Philippine problem, and strongly advocates independence in 1946."

He is one of the influential men who believe that the United States will not vacillate in the promise of independence for the Philippines and that if there is any more that might tend to alter the cause of Philippine policies between now and 1946, that move will have to come from the Filipinos themselves.

Instead of tiring himself pondering political uncertainties, Judge Haussermann looks farther ahead of 1946. He is helping the Philippines get ready for an independent

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THE MANUSCRIPT

By CONRADO S. RAMIREZ

Look not on her too closely lest thy eyes
Too deeply read the wrinkle-written story
Of faded lips that once had drunk of glory,
Of broken heart that now must pay the price
Of Love's repealed comings and goodbyes.
But if they read it, do not feel too sorry:
When life was young, she knew—and had no worry—

That happiness is sweetest when unwise.
And yet, why not? Regard the gill complete
By its self, never look beyond tomorrow.
Drink to the dregs of joy and be above
Considering the payment you must meet:
Just write the Story though its end be sorrow
For suffering is the signature of Love.



A LUMBER CAMP in Mindanao. The Bureau of Forestry is conducting a new survey of the big forest concessions with a view of subdividing them to applicants.

The Human Side

"Gold King" is a mianomer for Judge Haussermann. It is true he is the country's No. 1 gold producer; but to call him a king of mining men is liable to lead others to misunderstand the nature of the man. A king usually connotes pomp and monarchical powers, and a firm and sometimes stupid disposition. He is not inclined to pomp. He does not bear any trace of it. He is a man of simple ways, attached to the common man, and very chummy of disposition. He gives wise counsel and likes to exchange views with his friends.

It is Judge Haussermann's chief interest in the common man that belies any connotation of "king." He has at heart, to use a platitudinous phrase, the welfare of the common man. How this phrase strikes the man! One of the most important problems of economic stability, he would tell you, is to give work to the people and give them fair wages.

The philanthropy of Judge Haussermann, his social welfare activities, are a matter of common public knowledge. He was the highest donor to the annual Neediest Cases Fund, of the D-M-H-M Newspapers last year, which donations were distributed to the poor families in the city of Manila. He gives lavishly to charity and to private hospitals. He was the general chairman of the Philippine committee of the American Community in charge of the Roosevelt Birthdays Celebration and Ball this year to raise funds to finance the infantile paralysis campaign in the United States.

The Judge and Music

Judge Haussermann is a sustaining member of the Manila Symphony Society. He confessed once that he does not know much about music. That statement needs

LAND OF... (Continued from page 8)

trations had been granted prodigiously to rich individuals and corporations. It has been discovered that unreasonably big forest concessions and other agricultural lands have been granted to private parties in former years. Because the concessions given were so extensive that the concessionaires either would not bother developing the lands allowed to them or they could not afford to invest a big amount of capital for improvements as required by law.

Hence, the Bureau of Forestry is undertaking another survey of the big land concessions to subdivide them into smaller portions to be distributed to small farmers who are ready to cultivate them.

On the ability and the willingness of the national government to grant lands to the majority of the people whereupon they could eke out their existence is based to a great extent the success of the President's social justice pro-

gram. Let those who could not find adequate livelihood in their respective provinces be given sufficient fertile lands to till. The highly successful Koronadal project of the government in Mindanao should pave the way for similar enterprises in other parts of the Philippines.

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political existence. The question of extension of the present status, he believes, is out of the way, as far as he observes Philippine men in authority. He is on his way to the United States to get an assurance of Philippine economic stability after the grant of independence. He will also work for the continuation of present trade relations and their improvement, which he has found out have been beneficial to both America and the Philippines.

Purpose of Trip

Greater importance is at-

tached to the present trip of Judge Haussermann in the United States than to his former visits abroad. As he himself announced, he will try to get assurances in America of the economic stability of the Philippines. He plans to interest different groups to work to preserve the present standard of living in the Philippines, and to this end, he will make an appeal, whenever he has the chance to, that the preservation of the present Philippine-American trade relations is necessary to save the present Filipino standard of living. His visit is potent of good results for Philippine economic, commercial, and social conditions.

Judge Haussermann is one of those who have great faith in the future of the Philippines. Denying reports that he is liquidating his interests in this country, he announced that he had never thought of that, will never do it, and in fact will expand his mining and allied interests in this country. This plan expresses great faith and optimism.

some qualifying. He does not know music as much as veteran music critics do, maybe, but he certainly can appreciate one. His attachment to music is largely accounted for by his son John. John is a composer of recognized ability in the musical centers of America and Europe. "I don't know much of the stuff he produces," said Judge Haussermann once, referring to the musical compositions of John, Jr. "But I like the way they fall on the ears. Perhaps they have something worthwhile after all."

It is not Judge Haussermann, however, who should pass judgment on the work of his son. He may be inclined to be favorably or unfavorably partial. The public here and abroad had already written down its verdict on the works of Son John, and that verdict acclaims him as an accomplished artist. Classical pieces are the favorites of the musician in the Haussermann family. His works are exclusively classical, and he talks of modern pieces in this vein: "Jazz music is really as old as the hills." Then he will begin to explain it, by tracing the history of jazz, its semblances to the classics. Judge Haussermann, of course, does not go deep into all these; he contents himself with hearing the music, for to him, music is its own language.

PLANE . . .

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over them without seeing it, due to low clouds and light rain. This account supported the theory that the motor was functioning at the time of the accident. It was possible, according to later findings, that the airplane was flying at high speed at the time of the impact against the tree, and that engine trouble or lack of gasoline was not the cause of the accident.

This Is a Navy Plane—After Midair Crash



Photograph

Two men search the wreckage of one of two Navy planes which crashed in California's Borrego Valley after colliding in midair. One man was killed in the crash. Five others parachuted to safety. The Navy Department ordered a full investigation. Survivors blamed the collision on a sudden, powerful downdraft forcing the planes together.

The plane struck the tree at only by tremendous impact complete as it was probable about midway and crashed which indicated that Pilot Jack Mercer and the two carried by wild animals or below with tremendous speed, passengers, Emmens and Go-washed by the flood. then falling near the bed of the head of the Sicaba river. Its engine was buried into the ground, the propeller bent inward, wings sheared off, and the instrument board and cabin reduced to splinters. Only part of the rear fuselage, rudder, and elevator were in fair condition. The clock of the airplane which was retrieved from the wreckage must have been stopped by the crash as its glass was gone and its minute hand slightly bent. The clock stopped at 12:40 o'clock p. m., which must be the time of the accident.

Their skeletons were found in scattered around the wreck—another fatal accident, that age. They were no longer of Burton H. Hall, pilot of

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Sudden Death

The condition of the wreckage could have been caused