

The Mining Outlook for 1936

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Mining men all over the Islands agree that, barring entirely unforeseen happenings, 1936 will be the greatest year that the Philippines has ever had. Every operation has plans which will result in more production. Several new plants will be built. Gold, as usual, will be the backbone of the industry, but developments in several other branches are likely to prove interesting.

Predictions as to the exact amount of gold which will be produced this year, while of no particular value, are interesting. The general opinion of mining men is that there will be a decided increase

over 1935; few of them care to name a figure.

This writer ventures the guess that there will be at least a 25% gain in gold shipped; that the 1936 total will be around ₱40,000,000. Others have predicted several millions more; no one believes that there will be any less. To reach the ₱40,000,000 mark there must be an average of ₱3,250,000 a month. January saw a little less than ₱3,000,000 produced, but there will be a steady increase from now on throughout the year.

New operations will boost the gold shipments considerably, but increased production from the older companies will add even more to the monthly totals.

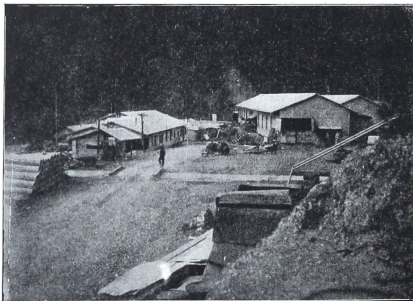
During 1935 Salacot, Cal Horr, United Paracale, and Gold River built new mills and started production. (Demonstration's mill started operation in December, 1934.) Virac brought an old-stamp mill from Masbate and operated it for a short time. Of the four new plants, Gold River was the only one built without adequate ore reserves; the other three will add considerably to the gold total.

This year will see Big Wedge, San Mauricio and East Mindanao with mills in operation, while Ukab and Hartwell will also be among the mines producing ore, and new mills in Masbate and older plants there greatly enlarged.

Itoyon, Suyoc Consolidated, Antamok Goldfields, Baguio Gold, United Paracale, Demonstration, Benguet Exploration—



Going on shift at Antamok Goldfields. One of the Mining crews about to go to their places of work



There's going to be lots doing here, too—Suyoc Consolidated. The main office is at the right, and the mess building at the left.

all will have larger capacities by the middle of the year. Benguet and Balatoc will increase their production figures. In the Masbate district, Masbate Consolidated and I. X. L. are rapidly completing construction programs leading to much higher tonnages. In the Paracale district, Coco Grove will probably be turning out over ₱150,000 to ₱200,000 a month by June, while several other properties are nearly ready for milling plans. The Mindanao district is still practically untouched—and much may be expected from it.

The future of mining in the Philippines will depend to a great extent upon the legislation enacted at the next session of the assembly. It is generally felt that the Commonwealth will not injure its newest and most promising industry.

Of great interest this year will be developments in petroleum, chromium, manganese, iron. Chromite has been highly boosted during the past year, but actual results, in dollars and cents, have been meager to date. A market may be found in Japan for chromite—indications so far are that there is a considerable quantity of the ore here.

Until the present investigations are completed, and a definite policy established, there can be no growth of the oil industry here. So far, it has not been settled that there is crude oil in any considerable quantity in the Islands—and it will take much more exploration work before this can be determined. The development of other branches of the industry has just been started; with favorable legislation, there may be valuable deposits uncovered.

A recent favorable tendency among the mining operators has been the move to reorganize the Gold Mining Association into a new, more powerful group. The present organization has not included all of the interests involved, and has tended to be more of a Baguio organization than anything else. The new set-up, as explained so far, will combine the resources of all of the mining companies as far as legislation and competition are concerned.

The stock market will reflect the conditions in the field, strange as it may seem. Although prices of individual mining stocks seem to vary with no regard for operating conditions, the prosperity of a company can not help but influence the price of its stock. All in all, 1936 should be a good year for the mining fraternity.