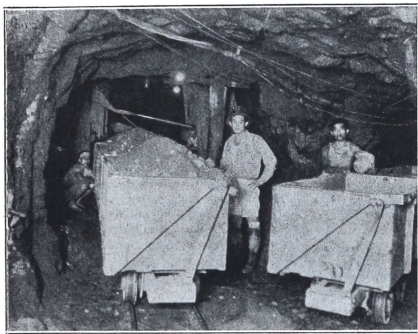


Starting the Year Right

Nearly P3,000,000 for the First Month of 1936



Underground at Antamok Goldfields—third richest mine in the Islands. Hand tramping ore from chutes to mill

Although nine of the gold producing companies shipped less of the yellow metal in January than in December, the total production for the period was but P225,000 below the all-time record of the last month of 1935.

Demonstration was the only mine to hang up a new record; this it did by going over the P100,000 mark for the first time with P116,444, a gain of P30,000 over December. Suyoc Consolidated equalled its own mark of P104,000, while Benguet Exploration and Baguio Gold noted substantial increases.

The newest gold mining operation in the Islands, Cal Horr, owned by Benguet Consolidated, got off to a flying start with a production of P54,889 for its first month of operation. Everything ran smoothly, and there will be a substantial gain this month.

Much of the loss in bullion production during January was caused by construction work preliminary to increased tonnage. This was particularly true at Itogon, Suyoc Consolidated, Masbate Consolidated, and I. X. L.

One reason for lower figures in many cases is that December, 1935 was an exceptional month, with new records being made consistently. While many of the plants failed in January to surpass these figures, none of them were far behind—and, you know, you can't make records at every trial:

Antamok Goldfields.....	P 266,666
(includes Gold Creek)	
Baguio Gold.....	89,000
Balatoc.....	1,076,661
Benguet Consolidated.....	777,759
Benguet Exploration.....	24,151
Cal Horr.....	54,889
Demonstration.....	116,444
Ipo Gold.....	50,347
*Itogon.....	165,000
I. X. L.....	40,676
Masbate Consolidated.....	78,224
Salacot.....	45,075
*Suyoc.....	104,000
*United Paracale.....	85,000

P2,973,892

*Estimated by Mars-man and Company.

Progress of Prospecting—(Continued from page 19)
particularly valuable in obtaining data on geology and on changes in character in depth.

Geophysical methods have made, and are still making great progress, but they are still purely qualitative and give little or no information on the value of the ore. In many cases they are not applied to the ore at all but to some "marker" associated with it. Faults, shear-zones and dykes can be detected by these means and in many cases, the depth to the upper surface of an underlying formation. These methods are all a matter for experts, far more skill and experience being required in the interpretation of the results than in making the observations. Without such experience the deductions may be grossly misleading.

Aerial photography has also made great strides and is now more than a rapid and approximate method of topographical survey. The prospector or geologist on the ground is always handicapped by limited radius of vision and needs a plan on which to plot his observations. Photography not only provides such a plan, but when used stereoscopically gives a picture of the relief of the ground. This, with other evidence, such as changes in vegetation, in soil colour, in the courses of streams, may afford most valuable evidence on geology and structure when used in conjunction with observation on the ground.

Like geophysical work, its value may be said to increase as general knowledge increases of the district in which it is used, and it is significant that its most successful applications up to the present have been in districts about which a great deal was already known. While the amount of evidence obtainable from photographs, even in wooded country, must be seen to be believed, it is not a method which can be used by itself in the hope of discovering ore deposits in new territory. Like all the new methods it has suffered from the extravagance of the claims made for it, usually by those who have no knowledge of it.

Belief in the divining rod is not yet dead, at least among those professing the use of it, and strange instruments are offered to detect all metals at almost any depth. Mining engineers have yet to be convinced of their value.

(Please turn to page 26)

The

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