

# 1933 Gold Production in Philippines Below 1932

*New mills will count in this year's output, while new fields are being steadily explored*

**P. I. Gold Bullion Exports 1932 and 1933**

Month	1932		1933	
	Ounces	Value	Ounces	Value
Jan. to June.....	204,136	P4,616,777	213,533	P4,824,369
July.....	35,855	825,629	34,173	801,230
August.....	38,192	892,254	39,527	902,056
Sept.....	40,087	893,290	34,874	800,501
Oct.....	38,089	896,474	31,399	712,710
Nov.....	20,837	489,654	38,069	867,029
Dec.....	61,876	1,448,914	33,455	787,276
The Year.....	439,072	10,062,992	425,030	9,695,171

Customs Data

Here is the table bringing the comparison of Philippine gold bullion exports for 1932 and 1933 down to the end of December. The data are from the customs records. Shipments are by registered mail, the customs records are compilations of the invoices. Values are the standard value of \$20.67 per fine ounce. Note that 14,042 more ounces of gold bullion were exported from the islands during 1932 than during 1933. Note that the value of gold bullion exported from the islands during 1933 fell short of that for 1932 by P367,821. Bullion varies in purity. The average value of bullion exported during 1932 was P22.92 an ounce, and P22.81 an ounce during 1933.

The two big companies shipped 404,623.5 ounces of gold bullion during 1933. All other producers shipped a total of 20,406.5 ounces. There is evident a discrepancy between the puffer heard on the street about gold and the actual yield of that metal. It is during this year, as it was not in last year, that the output of new mills will be visible in gold exports; and if bonanza placers are to come into activity, they too will help make 1934 a better gold year than the share-booming year of 1933.

The boom is largely over and the industry settling down to a more substantial basis. About the time this comment reaches the reader the 150-ton mill at Ipo will be in daily operation, the third of about this capacity recently added to the mechanical set-up of the industry in the Philippines, and the first in the new Angat field. Ore in abundance for the operation of this mill is reported.

The Harden-Highsmith suit to quash Benguet's ownership of 600,000 shares (now 1,200,000) of Balatoc's stock, that failed in the Philippine courts, did not prosper at Washington. No constitutional question was involved and therefore the federal supreme court denied the application for a writ of certiorari. The two mines will remain under the same management. The market reaction was naturally favorable. Benguet's holdings of Balatoc have a current market value of P34,800,000 at the quotation listed in our table, taken off the broker's board February 7. The remaining 800,000 Balatoc were then worth P23,200,000; the whole issue, P58,000,000.

Benguet itself, having 2 million shares, has a current market value of approximately P60,000,000. If 1933 did nothing else, it did add magnificent book values to all earning mining shares. But it did more, and a better thing, it evoked a general interest in mining undertakings; and this was accompanied by a flurry of rank speculation that was, all things con-

sidered, remarkably brief. There is, however, talk in the market that gold will do for the islands what some of the major farm industries have done, industries now threatened with loss or curtailment of their market in the United States. Gold will not, of course, reach the economic proportions of any major farm crop. The present output hardly exceeds the value of the tobacco crop; one sugar crop equals 10 years' gold output, the coconut crop 4 years' gold output. There is also no comparison in the labor employed and the distribution of the proceeds. No, mining doesn't substitute farming; the most that may be said is that mining, thoroughly developed here, might ease the hurt very materially if one of our main crops met disaster.

A. V. H. Hartendorp, writing in the *Philippine Magazine*, of which he is the editor and publisher, says:

"The richness of the Philippines, called 'The Land of Gold' by the early Chinese, follows naturally from the fact that the archipelago is a part of the great ore belt which encircles the Pacific ocean and can be traced from South America, through Mexico, western United States, Alaska, Japan, Formosa, the Philippines, and the Malayan archipelago. The ore belt follows the lines of tectonic igneous activity." The up-stage words seem to mean, a time of old when fluid minerals at high heat burst through surface faults and cooled into mineral deposits. There seems to have been a series of these upheavals. They made the Philippine mineral zone, now for the first time undergoing extensive exploration.

Precise knowledge about this zone doesn't exist. But it is current news that exploration in the Montalban and Antipolo districts is underway. This is an aftermath of the Ipo and Salacot discoveries. Northward of those properties, too, and eastward and westward as well, staking and exploring follow the prospector, whose number has become legion. There are always pending at the government's assay office around 100 ore samples, making reports on them two weeks delayed—what could show more effectively the activity of prospectors and of explorations on new projects?

This journal has on one or two former occasions invited attention to possibilities in the baser metals found in the Philippines. As gold

is often enough found in combination with iron here, and the iron may be marketable while the gold may be too scanty to recover profitably, it might pay to have an eye on the lesser chance: to work the iron and neglect the gold. Thus an iron deposit in Bulakan is being profitably exploited, though in a very crude way, and a project in Cebu has begun producing pigiron. Then there is manganese, which would go free of duty into the United States where the tariff on foreign manganese is 1 cent a pound, a rate designed to be prohibitive. America uses about 600,000 tons of this material a year and is unable to make her own deposits produce it.

The price of manganese is about P40 a ton. Some deposits in the Philippines are known. There may be other important ones.

Prices for chromite, which also may be more widely procurable in the Philippines than at first thought, have been ascertained for the benefit of our readers. Ore 50% chromite and less than 15% iron brings about \$20 to \$21 a ton. Ore not below 47% chromite, but less than 50%, brings about \$17 to \$18 a ton if the iron content is below 14%. Ores lower than these in chromite have little sale, they are too abundant. Freight rates to the United States on such commodities would be fairly low.

## GOLD STOCK QUOTATIONS

February 7

	Sellers	Buyers	Sales
Antamok Goldfields.....	58	57½	57½
Ambassador.....	08	06	
Atok Gold Mng. Co.....	09½	09	09½
Atok Central.....	12½	11	11½
Balatoe.....	29 00	38½	28 50
Bagnio Gold Mng. Co.....	38½	37	38
Benguet Consolidated.....	29 00	28 50	29
Benguet Exploration.....	24½		
Benguet Goldfields.....			
Big Wedge.....	15½	14½	15
Demonstration Gold Mines.....	10	9½	9½
Equitable.....	10		
Fortuna Mng. Co.....	11		
Gold Creek.....	3 30	3 20	
Gold Coin Mng. Co.....	95 00		
Golden Eagle.....	90	85	
Gold River Mng. Co.....	31½	30½	
Gold Wave Mng. Exp. Co.....	10		
Ipo Mining Co.....	2 90	2 80	2 90
Ilogon.....	4 20	4 15	4 15
Midas.....	2 50		
Mindoro.....	28		
Padcal.....	2 75		
Phil. Chromite.....	10		
Pleaser Mining Co.....	5 25		
Prosperity Pleaser.....	2 00		
Suyoc Mines.....			
Suyoc Consolidated.....	75	70	
States Group.....	11		
Salacot Mng. Co.....	14	13½	14
Shelvin Gold Mining Co.....	4 65	4 10	
Southern Cross.....	60	50	50
Universal.....	18	17	18
United Paracale.....	18	17	18
Virac.....	20		
Zamboanga.....	16		