

Mining

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May Production:

Acoje Mining Co. — 5,500 tons, worth	P153,000
Benguet-Balatoc	648,970
Mindanao Mother Lode	204,258
Lepanto Consolidated	501,000
Atok-Big Wedge Mining Co.	362,198
Consolidated Mines	515,600
Surigao Consolidated	227,016

Gold and silver production for the first four months of 1949, according to Bureau of Mines figures, amounted to P5,359,316, which is at the rate of approximately P16,000,000 annually, as compared to P76,838,987 in 1940.

Base-metal production for the first four months of 1949 was valued at P5,413,336, or approximately P16,240,000 annually.

This gives an estimated total production from all metals of around P32,000,000 for the year, or about one-third of the 1940 production, and considerably less than the estimates for 1941 and 1942.

The base-metal returns for 1949 were largely made up of shipments of Lepanto Consolidated copper concentrates and Acoje metallurgical, and Masinloc refractory, chrome production. Manganese shipments during the four-month period only amounted to 5,900 tons, which would approximate a total of 18,000 tons for the year, as against 52,166 tons in 1940 and much larger shipments in 1941.

Unfortunately for Philippine base metals, the chrome market in the United States at the present time has turned "soft", and buyers are not even interested in high-grade metallurgical chrome. Producers who happen to have contracts are still able to ship, but others cannot sell their product.

Manganese, if obtainable in quantity, could be sold, but there are no large deposits of commercial manganese in the Philippines.

There is very little high-grade metallurgical chrome in the Philippines. Furthermore, the producers of both chrome and manganese are faced with severe competition from countries such as Russia, Turkey, Africa, and Brazil, where there are

much lower labor costs, and freight rates to the United States are much less than from the Philippines.

Japan, before the war was the only market for low-grade chrome and manganese, and also for Philippine iron ores which cannot compete with the United States ores because of the long haul and high freight rates.

Since the war, however, SCAP has insisted on United States specifications for base metals sold to Japan, and as a consequence Philippine producers are having a hard time.

Philippine iron producers formerly sold large tonnages of raw ore to Japan, but now, where India and the United States receive individual contracts as large as 800,000 tons, Philippine producers can only get comparatively small orders. This, for various reasons,—high sulphur content; low iron (below 60%) content, and so on. Both Hainan Island and India produce a more desirable ore than the Philippines.

The impression prevails that "just as soon as War-Damage payments to the closed-down mines are completed, mining will return to its pre-war status as the second largest industry in the Islands". This is an erroneous idea. A number of the pre-war gold producers, waiting for War-Damage payments, are now, due to high production costs, in the sub-marginal class, and even if rehabilitated most of them will not be able to "make the grade".

WHAT THE ISLANDS NEED TO ENABLE THE MINERAL INDUSTRY TO EXPAND, IS NEW MINES TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THOSE THAT WILL NEVER OPERATE AGAIN.

From time to time promising prospects are uncovered, but without funds to prove them up in depth, they are returning to jungle. If we are to be successful in the rehabilitation of our mining industry, the rate of new discovery must be drastically increased.

From 1932 to 1936 the Philippines experienced an unprecedented mining boom. Oddly enough, this occurred at a time when the rest of the world was going through its greatest industrial panic. Many excellent gold-and base-metal prospects were uncovered which later became good producers and dividend payers.

METALS AND ORES OTHER THAN GOLD AND SILVER

Names	Ores	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
		Quantity L. Tons	Value in Pesos	Quantity L. Tons	Value in Pesos	Quantity in L. Tons	Value in Pesos	Quantity in L. Tons	Value in Pesos	Quantity in L. Tons	Value in Pesos
Acoje Mining Co.	Metallurgical Chromite	5,022.00	P 140,616.00	8,373.00	P 234,444.00	7,784.00	P233,520.00	5,868	P176,040.00	5,500	P153,000.00
Luzon Stevedoring Co., Inc.	Manganese	1,800.00	50,400.00	None	None	1,523	45,690.00	None	None	1,500	72,000.00
Misamis Chromite Corp.	Metallurgical Chromite	1,100.00	57,200.00	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Consolidated Mines, Inc.	Refractory Chromite	23,000.00	460,000.00	25,000.00	502,000.00	18,360	369,200.00	18,700	374,000.00	25,700	515,600.00
Lepanto Consolidated, Inc.	Copper	1,757.5	553,500.00	1,877.00	517,400.00	S. T. 1,960	542,100.00	S. T. 420.18	392,160.00	2,107	501,000.00
Cia. Minera de Filipinas	Manganese	172.00	6,860.00	123.00	4,920.00	91	3,640.00	None	None	None	None
Samar Mining Co.	Iron	None	None	None	None	M. T. 7,489	104,946.00	7,414	103,796.00	None	None
Palsawan Manganese Mines, Inc.	Manganese	640.00	22,400.00	640.00	22,400.00	518	18,130.00	None	None	None	None
British-American Engineering Corp.	Manganese	1,200.00	48,000.00	1,200.00	48,000.00	1,200	18,000.00	500	15,500.00	None	None
Philippine Iron	Iron	14,586.00	204,204.00	—	—	None	None	None	None	14,400	223,726.00
Luzon Stevedoring Co., Inc.	Metallurgical Chromite	None	None	1,130.00	14,250.00	2,500	100,000.00	None	None	None	None
Totals -			P1,543,200.00		P1,343,414.00		P1,425,226.00		P1,061,496.00		P1,465,326.00