

What the Diggers Are Doing



MINING BOOM CONTINUES: We are in the midst of a mining boom of no mean proportions, figured on a straight mining production basis. Whether or not the current stock market prices reflect this fact accurately, or are still too high, is beside the point. We are speaking now of production.

May operations of 27 gold producers resulted in another all-time high. Excluding Mindamao Mother Lode, Tambis, and Ambassador, total output was P5,325,217.22, only P4,000.00 under the all-time high of April. The three companies mentioned were unreported as we went to press, but their production figures were sure to boost the total well over the P5.400,000,00 mark.

Total output of gold for the year to date is now well over P25,000,000.000, around P5,000,000.00 more than the same time a year ago. As the year wears on, and new producers keep coming in, gold production figures for the Philippines will reach very respectable yeques indeed, as compared with other important producing areas, although, of course, total production is now so high that there will not be any great percentage of increase.

ATOK AND BIG WEDGE: That high grade ore owned by Big Wedge and extracted by Atok continues to pay and pay and pay. Both of these companies declared dividends this month of 10% each from their respective share of the gravy. A study of their balance sheets shows that the dividends will still leave both companies in a strong financial position, even discounting the fact that a part, at least, of Big Wedge's assets are in jeopardy as a result of litigation. Atok is deliberately conserving its capital, we hear, with a view to possible investment in other properties.

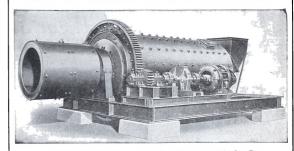
PAN-PHILIPPINES: Has discontinued work on its Paracale project, for the time being. All of its energies are now concentrated on Treasure Island, and the Nayuk property of Quartz Hill. Payments on the option on the Paracale property are being kept up, however, and it is

far from abandoned.

Our operatives inform us that Pan-Philippines is heavily interested in Quartz Hill, which, in turn, has the operating contract on the Nayak claims, JOUR- NAL readers will recall reading a short time ago that it is hoped the Nayak properties will support a mill larger than the 25-ton unit originally contemplated. Be (Please turn to page 20)



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Ruthenium is so-called from the "Ruthenians"—a little Russian people as coming from Russia, the metal having been found in the Ural mountains. A rare element of the light platinum group, found associated with platinum ores, and isolated as a hard, brittle, steel-gray metal which is very infusible. Price is P80.00 per ounce, and, as in the case with the other rare metals, there is but little of it in the world.

Two sets of samples, containing these rare metals, in addition to gold and platinum, were sent to England and U. S. A., in order to obtain an offer and to find out what quantity is required, Mr. Hemady stated.

What the Diggers...

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this as it may, Pan-Philippines is making a definite success of Treasure Island. All of the staff houses, power house, and mill building are completed, and the 100-ton initial unit has arrived and is being shipped to the property. Ore is high grade, averaging close to the Big Wedge ore and in places even exceeding it, and it is expected that production will commence on or before September 1st.

HAUSSERMANN: Announcement was recently made that Benguet and Balatoe will increase their production capacity enormously in the pear future. We up-

derstand that preparations have gone forward toward this end for a year or more. We wish to remind our readers, however, that any conclusion that the management of Benguet is doing this with 1946 in mind is gratuitous, even in view of the fact that Benguet and Balatoc are both greatly concerned over the possible outcome of the famous Balatoc natent suit, now in the

Supreme Court for decision. The Attorney General emphasized in his argument before the court in that case that, should the court hold for Balatoc, it "would mean turning over the mining industry of the Philippines to foreigners". Admittedly, Filipinos are not as important in mining here as they might be, but it is unfortunate that the Attorney General chose to regard Americans as foreigners. For this, and other reasons, it is important to the entire industry that the court render an early decision. Should Balatoc lose, there will be nothing for them to do but to appeal to the United States Supreme Court. However, if a decision is not rendered before November 15th next, there is some doubt, we are told, as to whether they can appeal at all, under the wording of the

SANTA ROSA: The flotation unit of 200 tons has been placed in operation on the property of the Santa Rosa Mining Company, in Mambulao. Operations to date have been largely of an experimental nature, on a reduced scale, although pro-

duction for May was over P100,000,00.

Tests on representative ore indicate that a recovery of 97% of the gold values can be effected by selective flotation, producing a shipping copper concentrate and a low grade pyrite concentrate. The pyrite concentrate will be re-ground to minus 325 mesh, and eyanided, together with the flotation tailings. Construction of the cyanide section of the mill is expected to be completed by July 1.

Santa Rosa's claims are being operated under a management contract with the Union Management Company.

MARSMAN. San Mauricio and United Paracade hung up new high monthly production figures during May, although the other three Marsman-managed producers turned in figures lower than for April. Total output of the five Marsman gold operations was Pl.353,232.54 from 56,938 tons of ore treated and 336,520 cubic yards of gravel dredged. This total is the second-best monthly figure for the Marsman group.

Meanwhile, United Paracale stockholders approved the action of their directors in arranging for termination of the existing financial arrangement with Marsman and Company, managers. The directors were authorized to take necessary steps to increase the capital stock of the company from P1,000,000.00 to P1,300,000.00, and to permit Marsman nominees to subscribe to 1,941,176 shares at par value. This ar-





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rangement will supersede the present one, by which Marsman and Company has been receiving a substantial management fee and other perquisites.

ROYAL GEKKO MINING SYNDI-CATE: This investment syndicate held a special meeting a few days ago at the University Club, to discuss a "new type of enterprise". The membership is very small, being composed of a few well to-do Manila businessmen, Organized in the early days of the boom, its units have gone against the trend, and advanced consistently in price. Original memberships were P100.00, and nominal quotations give sellers as demanding P150.00. As a matter of fact, however, no units are available at this figure.

SORIANO: The Soriano group of three mines turned in an all-time high monthly production figure during May. Total gold output was over the million-pess mark for the second time, running to P1,032,330.21. Masbate Consolidated and I. X. L. both beat their previous records, while Antamok gained substantially over April.

NIELSON: Tinago Consolidated and Paracale Gumans reported their first production last month. Tinago started its history with \$21,000.00 produced from \$50 tons of ore treated during May, while Paracale Gumaus recovered P20,089.38 from 2.160 tons

MAPASO: Has made an agreement with the East Mindanao Mining Company,

whereby up to 12 tons daily of Mapaso's ore will be milled at the East Mindanao plant. The ore is high-grade, running around \$100.00 per ton. Under the arrangement, Mapaso will receive 90% of the gold, and 85% of the silver extraction, less P8.00 to P8.50 per ton for treatment. In addition, it is estimated that it will cost Mapaso around P7.00 per ton to ship the ore to the East Mindanao mill.

The purpose of this arrangement, from the point of view of Mapaso, is to obtain enough income to pay for all operating expenses during the development stage of the mine, pending completion of plans to erect a mill on the Mapaso property. Felipe Buencamino, Jr., managing director, announced that development work has been very satisfactory this year, and stated that geologists and engineers estimate ore reserves at around P1,700,000.00.

SURIGAO CONSOLIDATED: A striking increase in the value of the mill heads was reported by this company for May, During that month, P68,607.00 was extracted from 2.080 tons of ore milled, and the tonnage was for an average extraction of P33.00, as compared with P19.50 per ten for April.

How Things . . .

(Continued from page 22)

The following groups of stocks are considered as offering "near term attraction" in the sense that these industries not only will make relatively good earnings showings this year, but will also share fully in cyclical recovery. Holdings of selected stocks in these groups should, therefore, be retained in full under present conditions, and recommended issues should be utilized for switching from less desirable stocks.

Chemicals Containers Mail Order and General Chains Variety Chains

Industrial Machinery

Non-Ferrous Metals

Stocks in the following groups are still vulnerable to intermediate downswings in stock prices. In the aggregate, however, this second classification includes industrial groups for which the expectation of better than average cyclical expansion in earnings appear warranted. At levels nearer the lows of the recent broad trading range or at a time when reversal of depression trends appears closer at hand, selected stocks in these groups would likewise merit purchase.

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