

**A CONSTRUCTIVE ACT**

The action of President Quezon in approving the bill which became Act 309 has done more to build up confidence in the future of the mining industry than anything that has been done or said by governmental officials since the inauguration of the Commonwealth.

The new act provides for the issuance of a temporary permit before a lease is granted, if the application for the lease appears well founded, to mine or extract minerals subject to payment of royalties. It authorizes the holders of mining claims located under the Act of Congress of July 1, 1902, to extract minerals without such temporary permit until their application for lease is acted upon. It also empowers the secretary of agriculture and commerce to cancel temporary permits and stop extraction of mineral without responsibility on the part of the government as to expenditures for development work and exploration purposes and extends the period from two to four years within which application for lease on a mining claim may be filed from the date of its registration.

In effect the new measure permits the continuance of mining by those companies now in operation, and permits new projects, until the exact status of mining claims in relation to the old and the new laws can be established. Had such

*(Please turn to next page)*

	<i>Page</i>
May Operating Results Excellent . . . . .	1
United Paracale Deal Ratified . . . . .	1
Valley Placer Is Dissolved . . . . .	1
Itoyon Mining Company . . . . .	2
Suyoc Consolidated Mining Company ..	4
United Paracale Mining Company . . . .	4
Mining For The Investors . . . . .	7-14
<b>THE MINER AND THE LAW</b>	
San Mauricio Mining Company . . . . .	14
Marsman Building Corporation Gets Contract . . . . .	15
Binders Available . . . . .	15
United Paracale Vein Systems . . . . .	16-17
Welhaven-Atkinson Wedding . . . . .	18
The Spectrograph and its Application to Industry and Mining . . . . .	19-23
<i>by T. A. DeVore and D. L. Gardner</i>	
Coco Grove, Inc. . . . .	24
Philippine Smelting Company . . . . .	24
Mysteries of Mining . . . . .	26-27
<b>PUMPS</b>	
Gumaos Goldfields, Inc. . . . .	28
Marsman-managed Properties . . . . .	30
Editorial—A Constructive Act . . . . .	31-32

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**RALPH KEELER, Editor and Business Manager**

a measure not been passed, the leasing provision of the new mining law would have gone into effect in November of this year, and the government would have been empowered unless restrained by the Courts to stop operation at a majority of the Philippine mines.

In signing this bill President Quezon has put into practice the policy of fostering the development of all Philippine industries, including the mining industry, which he expressed again in a letter published in a Manila newspaper on May 28, 1938.

Mr. Marsman, as president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and as the head of one of the largest mining organizations in the Islands, has expressed his gratification at the passage of the bill.

"The mining operators have always been firmly convinced that the new government would support the mining industry in every way possible," he said, "but from time to time we have had oc-

casions to fear that through misunderstanding of our problems harmful legislation would be passed. President Quezon's recent statement to the press, and his action in ratifying the amendment to the mining bill, gives us confidence that in the future a similar thoughtfulness will mark the actions of the government concerning mining. We realize the difficulties arising continually because of the complexity of mining and its relation to the Commonwealth; we appreciate the fact that modern mining is comparatively new to the Islands and that consequently with all its complexities the members of the Assembly are not as familiar with it as they otherwise would be. Every effort will be made by the mining operators to work out with the government plans for the administration of the industry on a basis fair and just to both, and we are sure that with the cooperation of both the industry has a bright future indeed."

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