PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT JM571

B... S... RHODESIA

THE CHRONICLE, FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1953

BASIS OF COLONY'S ECONOMY MAY BE ASBESTOS

WITH the news that asbestos has already become Southern Rhodesia's most valuable mineral product—the value of last year's output was £6,652,000—added to the fact that more than 6,500,000 dollars is being spent in the development of the holdings at Mashaba of Rhodesian Asbestos, Ltd., it is apparent that asbestos may yet become the basis of the Colony's economy.

For some time now vastly wealthy and knowledgeable mining and finance houses have been coming to Southern Rhodesia to investigate and work our mineral resources.

Their interest, and subsequent actions, have shown that it is no idle forecast by one hard-headed mining and finance man who foresaw the day when our asbestos output would grow in importance until it not only exceeded tobacco in its value to the Colony's economy, but might reach the stage where the mineral would be as important to this country as gold is to the Union and copper is to Northern Rhodesia.

The value of Southern Rhodesia's asbestos output is small compared with that of the North's copper, which was about £73,000,000 last year, or of the North's total mineral output, at about £100,000,000 (Southern Rhodesia's total being less than £20,000,000).

Production progress in Southern Rhodesia has been steady and last year's output value was six times that of the 1938 total, while the output itself has risen from 59,000 tons in 1938 to 85,000 tons last year.

Output value remained at just over £1,000,000 between 1938 and 1947, but it rose to £2,600,000 in 1948, to £3,987,000 in 1949, to £4,615,000 in 1950 and to £5,452,000 in 1951.

Last year a milestone was reached when for the first time in the Colony's history gold took second place in value (£6,520,000 against asbestos at £6,652,000).

The development of the Mashaba properties of Rhodesia Asbestos will be considerable. The present output is about 150 tons, and it will be another 18 months before the mines will be in full production. The controlling percentage of shares in Rhodesia Asbestos is held by Canadian Johns-Manville Co., Ltd.

WORLD'S LARGEST

Other interests in the properties are British Metal Corporation, Ltd., Anglo-Huronian, Ltd., Southern Minerals and Marketing Corporation (Pty), Ltd., and the Simon I. Patino house. Johns-Manville is the largest asbestos mining concern in the world, with 26,000 men and women on the payroll, an investment of more than 100,000,000 dollars and sales last year amounting to 300,000,000 dollars.

Canada produces about three-quarters of the world's asbestos — easily the greatest producer—and Southern Rhodesia comes next with about 10 per cent. The remainder of the world's supplies comes from Russia, South Africa, Cyprus, Italy and the United States.

It is not only around Mashaba that asbestos is being worked. Still Rhodesia's biggest asbestos mine is that at Shabani, while near Shabani are the Vukwe Hills, where tremendously powerful interests like the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, Ltd., African and European Investment Co., Ltd. and the Smidheiny group are operating.

PRODUCED JM - 83

MTC 001591