STORY OF RHODESIAN ASBESTOS LIMITED

Rhodesian Asbestos Limited is under the direction of Canadian Johns-Manville Co., Limited, in association with British Metals Corporation,Ltd., Anglo-Huronian Ltd., Southern Minerals & Marketing Corporation (Pty.) Ltd., and the Simon I. Patino interests. The ore properties now under development are located at Mashaba, in the Victoria district of Southern Rhodesia.

Two mines are being developed; Temeraire located at Mashaba, and Shamala, four miles away. A central mill has been constructed at Temeraire, the ore from Shamala mine being transported to this location in 15-ton capacity diesel trucks.

A steel and concrete shaft, equipped for a hoisting capacity of 200 tons per hour, has been sunk 560 feet at Temeraire mine, and a shaft of 100 tons per hour hoisting capacity has been sunk 520 feet at Shamala mine.

Mining is being done by diamond drill blast hole and scram drift method, and the ore is loaded directly into cars by means of 60 h.p. scrapers. Ore is then crushed underground in 42 in. x 48 in. jaw crushers. The mines are among the most highly mechanized in Southern Rhodesia. All timbering is of steel and concrete to provide a maximum of safety and to prevent the introduction of foreign material into the fibres.

All surface structures, including a sorting plant for Temeraire ore and a large up-to-date mechanical and electrical service building, are constructed of steel, concrete and asbestos-cement boards.

The milling process starts with a modern drying plant and crushing plant and an 8,000-ton capacity dry rock storage.

The mill proper, a steel concrete and asbestos-cement board building, 150 x 64 x 57 feet in height, has a capacity of 125 tons of ore per hour.

Processed asbestos fibre is trucked from Mashaba to the railhead at Fort Victoria, from where it is shipped to Beira, Mozambique, for transport by water to Europe and

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the United States. The fibre from Mashaba is the chrysotile type and is suitable for the manufacture of asbestos-cement products (including J.M.'s TRANSITE Pipe) used extensively for water and sewage disposal systems and industrial waste systems.

BUILDING

The Dodge Reports totals of contract awards for future construction in the 37 states east of the Rockies continued in February to set new high records.

The total for the month was the highest for any February on record, and the January-February total likewise was the highest ever for the two months. The February figure was $1,581,113,000, up 29 per cent over February 1954 and 5 per cent ahead of last January. The two-month total of $3,085,593,000 was up 20 per cent over 1954.

So far the picture looks strikingly similar to last year when the same two records were broken as a harbinger of what proved to be the biggest year of construction ever known.

February was the tenth successive month of new monthly highs in the Dodge figures which go back 64 years. It would have been the fourteenth month had not last April fallen into second place among Aprils by virtue of enormous atomic energy contracts in a prior year.

Both non-residential and residential totals were the highest ever set in any February, with residential being the stronger.

Detailed February totals were: non-residential, $535,463,000, down 5 per cent from January but up 14 per cent over February 1954; residential, $744,102,000, up 8 per cent over January and up 46 per cent above February 1954; heavy engineering, $302,578,000, up 21 per cent over January and up 24 per cent over February 1954.

Individual two-month totals compared with the like period 1954 were: non-residential, $1,099,251,000, up 17 per cent; residential, $1,434,457,000, up 48 per cent; heavy engineering, $551,885,000, up 20 per cent.