

full year's production, in terms of the sales contracts that have been arranged, would be approximately R110 million. This compares with an estimate of R50 million at the time of the October 1977 announcement.

The Gold Fields team moved onto the site in late 1977, when the access decline had been advanced 625 m. All the essential installations, including the shaft, underground crushers, ore passes, concentrator, housing, and offices, were completed within the succeeding 24

months. Stopping started in September 1979, and trial milling in November 1979. The company has been in production since January 1980, and it is planned to increase the mill throughput to the designed capacity of 94 kt per month during the first half of 1980. The official opening of the mine, by the Chairman of Standard Bank of South Africa Limited, the lead Bank of the consortium that provided the project with more than R100 million in loan finance, took place on 22nd April, 1980.

Obituary*: Theo Meyer (1893-1980)

A strong and determined character, Theodore Carl August Meyer had a very firm approach to people whose opinions or conclusions differed from his own, but this trait was leavened by touches of startlingly original ideas and enthusiasm that certainly produced effective results from his subordinates.

Born in 1893 in Kimberley, where his father was a German missionary, Theo matriculated from Kimberley Boys' High School in 1910. He was first boy in his year, and won the Rhodes Diamond Scholarship together with two lesser bursaries. These awards enabled him to enter the South African School of Mines and Technology in Johannesburg, which was the forerunner of the University of the Witwatersrand. He studied for a degree in mining engineering, and in 1914 became an associate of the South African School of Mines and Technology in this discipline, as well as graduating with a B.Sc. (Mining Engineering) from what was then the University of the Cape of Good Hope. Subsequently, he was awarded a B.Sc. degree by the University of the Witwatersrand once the university had been recognized by London University.

At the end of his time with the School of Mines, he was awarded the Transvaal Chamber of Mines' gold medal and scholarship for post-graduate work. However, he was not able to pursue this work immediately as the First World War had started; until the end of 1915, he was on active military service with the 2nd I.L.H. in German South West Africa. Once that campaign was over, he was sent to Australia to do his post-graduate work at the lead and zinc producer, Broken Hill Proprietary Mines.

A year later, he returned to South Africa, enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps, and towards the end of 1917 was sent to England, where he was commissioned in the Royal Air Force.

It was only in 1919 that he was demobilized, and he immediately joined the Royal School of Mines, where he obtained that body's associateship in metallurgy in 1920. He was then granted another post-graduate scholarship — this time to the U.S.A., where he stayed for more than a year specializing in iron and steel metallurgy with the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company, a subsidiary of U.S. Steel Corporation.

Towards the end of 1922, Theo Meyer returned to his

home country and joined the gold-mining industry as a miner. He worked his way up to mine manager before joining Anglovaal as assistant consulting engineer in 1936.

The next eighteen years were probably the most active of his professional life, for the Group was extending its mining interests from its single gold mine at Rand Leases to the then recently discovered Klerksdorp and Free State goldfields, as well as into the Barberton field. He was well-equipped both with temperament and know-how to cope with the very taxing problems associated with the major new projects launched by the Group. He met these problems head on and overcame them successfully, whether they were new problems associated with geological, mining, and metallurgical operations, or the numerous problems raised on the personnel side through the establishment of new mines in isolated farming areas.

It was during this period of his life that he revealed his great versatility, and the energy and drive that taxed not only his own strength, but that of his workforce to its limits. Not unnaturally, his efforts were recognized for what they were, and he received a number of promotions, culminating in his appointment as Technical Director in 1952 — some two years before he retired.

In his private life he showed great social charm, and, in both this sphere and his business life, he evinced real concern for people in need of help.

Outside his business life, his main hobby was farming both on large farms and at his Aloe Hill home. Age eventually caught up with him, and he was forced to give up those interests in a practical form about four years ago.

He played tennis and, in later life, bowls for the Johannesburg Country Club. He also played football and rugby for Griqualand West, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal School of Mines. He rowed for the latter at Henley; indeed, his various medals and cups are proof of his above-average sporting ability.

He was an active participant in the affairs of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy for many years: he became a Member in 1923, and a Life Member in 1940; he was President in 1941/42; and was made a Life Fellow in 1970.

A man generous to causes, he particularly favoured youth and education, and he is remembered with gratitude and affection by his many friends. He is survived by his wife, Ethel, and son, Anthony.

*Compiled by R. G. Moore and N. M. Holford, Anglo-Transvaal Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, Johannesburg.