



**Here we see three of the aboriginal workers who have been highly praised by the mine manager, Mr. A. Allan for their work and production. At right in the truck is Harry Mundine who has been at the mine since it began operations 22 years ago. At left is another truck driver Albert Robertson, with Benny Oba**

The Baryulgil asbestos field is by far the largest mining venture, yet experts say there is no reason why further payable fields of other ores should not be discovered, once professional and amateur prospectors begin combing the bush, hills and creek flats for outcrops, or sink lateral or vertical shafts for a more detailed look at the rock strata.

At Baryulgil, operated by a subsidiary of James Hardie Asbestos Pty. Ltd., the manager, Mr. A. Allan, said a new treatment works recently opened had cost more than £100,000.

It was capable of treating up to 400 tons of ore a day and plans are already made to deepen the open cut workings to 65 feet.

The mine Rackeen operating since 1940 and the open cut extends over eight acres and is down 25 feet.

Mr. Allan, who came to Baryulgil from the iron ore deposits at Bukit Bese, in Malaya, four years ago, has high praise for the local aborigine workers. "I find them much better than the Malays."

### **GOOD WORKERS**

Six whites and up to 40 coloured workers are employed at Baryulgil. They work side by side and have the full confidence of the management, both in labour output and technical skills.

Mr. Allan says he has no supervisory worries at all. The work is there to be done and he knows it will be done.

One of the aborigines, Harry Mundine, has been with the company for 22 years. He is now driving a Fowler-equipped lifting truck which carries two-ton skips of ore from the working face on the 25-foot level to the primary crusher at the production factory.

Asbestos is found in serpentine rock and looks like string set in the ore. It can be teased out until a microscope is required to see the threads.

It has many uses, chief of which is in the manufacture of fibro cement building material, where it provides the necessary strength to withstand nailing, handling and general usage.