#### Struthers Report V24 # 13.2 Commodities, Markets, REZ, SVB, GMM, PZG, VHI June 5, 2018



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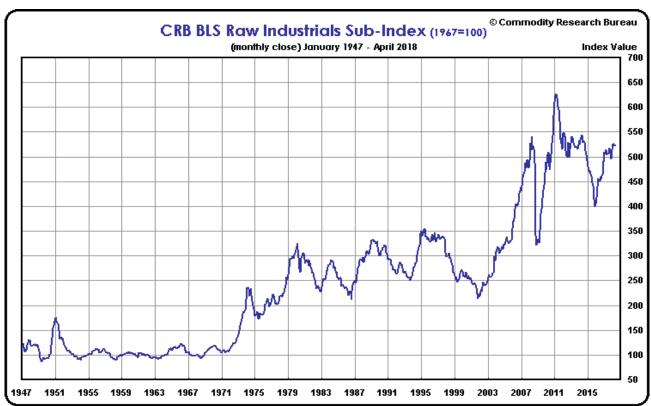
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Know when to hold-em!
Know when to fold-em!
Know where to set stops!
Know when to run!
Never count your portfolio
Until the sells are done..

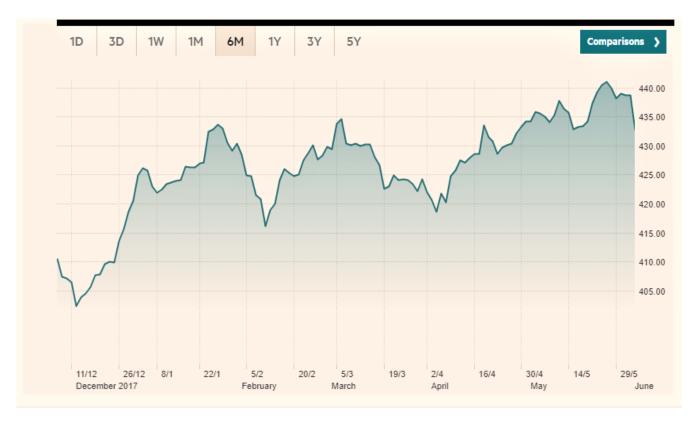
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For sure there is a definite shift and turning point in the markets. There is little doubt now, commodities have started a new bull market. The BLS Raw Industrial Index is now up 31% from the 2015 low and will soon be testing long term resistance around 545. A break above 550 will mean a test of the 2011 high will be in order. The chart is to end of April, on June 4<sup>th</sup> the index was at 522.37, so little changed.

Nickel prices are on the move from \$6 per pound to \$7 in the past 60 days and up from \$4 a year ago. No sense pussy footing around, the U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum have intensified a trade war that had already begun. The one thing for certain in trade wars is higher prices and this alone ensures a break in the index above 550.



The CRB Index that I give less credibility is also starting to confirm with the recent move above 440, a 3 ½ year high and up 22% from the 2016 low. Since the index went to a black box algorithm in 2005, it increases weights in commodities falling in price and lowers weighting in those that are rising. It has proven to understate commodity inflation. The old CRB data is no longer available, hence my use of the Raw Industrials index for longer term comparisons.



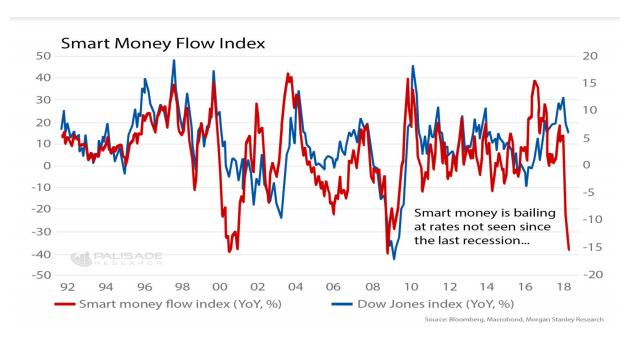
With the TSX Venture index, I pointed out the reversal of early April, but also expected a retest of this low that has now occurred. The down trend is obvious, but I am expecting this low to hold. In other words, I do not want to see a lower low.



My update on the S&P 500 in early April involved a concern if the market would hold at support around 2580. If it did not, down side was to 2450 and if support held we would need to see a higher high over 2800 for the bull market to have a chance to continue. As you can see below, support held and the down trend has been broken. We are now headed to 2800 and if we go higher, I will be watching for a double top or a break to new highs. There has been good support built around 2600 and with plenty of uncertainty abound, I expect we are going to be in a sideways market between 2600 and 2900 for the next several months.



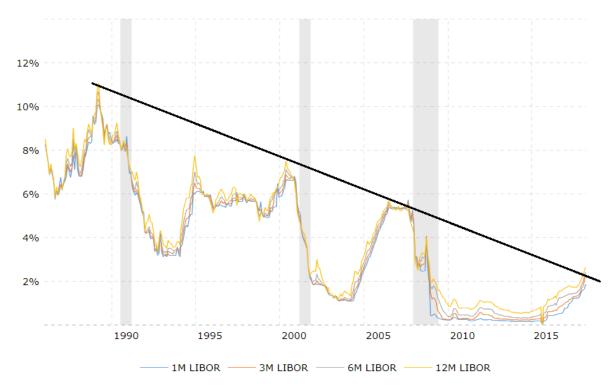
This chart from Bloomberg is quite alarming. What has this smart money alarmed? Certainly some of the items I have mentioned above and further on in this report.



There are cracks appearing in the economic foundation. <u>Delinquency rates</u> on subprime Auto loans is now higher than the financial crisis. The 25 year mortgage rate is at 7 years highs and will soon influence the real estate market. <u>U.S. Retail sales</u> have been weak this year, averaging only 0.225% growth in the past 4 months. The good Trump did for the economy by cutting taxes could be undone by tariffs. Steel prices were already up 45% before the tariffs.



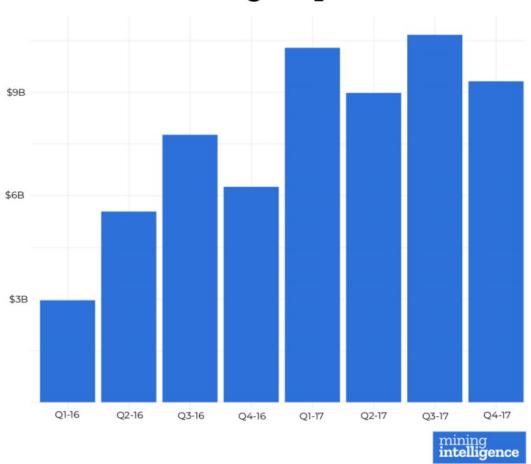
I will be keeping a close eye on economic indicators in the coming months. Again I want to highlight this chart on LIBOR rates I used in early April. Each economic cycle, more debt is piled on and each cycle, rates do not have to rise as much to start the next recession. Drawing a trend line it is easy to see that we are probably already approaching the peak in this cycle with a looming recession.



Sooner or later the Gold price will react to higher inflationary pressures, but near term, the price is focused on next week's FOMC meeting and rate hike. I believe the Fed will be limited to just one or two more hikes and next week's increase will probably come with a dovish stance. The Gold price often rallies after the Fed hike announcement and is set up for another recurrence. Thus far the rally in the US\$ index has been retained by resistance in the 95 area. Weakness on the economic front would probably push the index back down.

Regardless of the poor outlook we see on the indexes of the miners, the big and so called smarter money that is pouring out of general equities, a chunk is finding a path into the mining sector. Global mining exploration is expected to <u>increase 15% to 20% year-over-year</u>. In Canada the exploration spend has grown 37% in the last two years, and total exploration spend in 2018 is forecast at \$2.2B.

# Mine Financings by Quarter



There will be lots of developments with our resource based picks and I expect a substantial rally in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. Huge news with Silver Bull on Monday is an example of money coming into exploration. Silver Bull announced a US\$100 million JV with mining giant South32 who must spend that amount to earn 70% in the Sierra Mojado project, Mexico.

Silver Bull Resources TSX: SVB, OTC: SVBL Recent Price \$0.19 Entry price \$0.12 Opinion – strong buy

<u>South32</u> is a globally diversified mining company with high-quality operations which mine and produce silver, zinc, lead, nickel, bauxite, alumina, aluminum, energy and metallurgical coal and manganese. They currently operate in Australia, Southern Africa and South America and are valued with a market capitalization of approximately \$US13 billion.

To earn their 70% option, South32 must contribute minimum exploration funding of US\$10 million in the first four years with at least \$3 million in year one. South32 may exercise its option at any time to buy 70% of Minera Metalin (Silver Bull's Mexican subsidiary) by contributing \$US100 million, less an amount of the Initial Funding contributed by South32 during the option period. Once \$100 million has been spent both parties will revert to funding their portion of project. Should South32 elect not to continue with the project at any point during the initial 4 year option period, the project will return 100% to Silver Bull

The exploration program planned for the first year, planned to start immediately will involve a regional airborne Electromagnetic over areas of interest followed by a targeted drilling program on the property. Initial targets will include extension of the sulphide zones recently identified by Silver Bull and Palomas Negros. The exploration program will initially be managed by Silver Bull.

Sierra Mojada already has a 43-101 open pittable oxide deposit containing 90.3 million ounces silver and 4.57 billion pounds of zinc. Judging by all the drilling and channel sampling, it appears the sulphide deposit could end up being much larger and probably have better metallurgy. I am sure it is this potential and the very high grades of silver and zinc that has attracted South32 to commit up to \$100 million to get a piece of the action.

The likes of these two holes announced March 14th:

- Hole T17023 -- **10 metres at 347 grams per tonne silver, 20.7% zinc**, 1.25% copper and 1.35% lead;
- Hole T17024 -- three metres at 303 g/t silver, 20.1% zinc, 1.53% copper and 1.18% lead;

A continuous underground channel sampling program announced Sept. 11, 2017, identified a series of east-west-trending high-angle structure-hosting sulphide mineralization. Results from the continuous channel sampling program yielded 31.5 metres grading at 22.36% zinc, 134.5 g/t silver, 2.05% lead, 0.21% copper.

The stock did not react much to this news and exemplifies the doldrums in the current junior market. There is a lot of over head resistance between 20 and 25 cents and I doubt the stock can break through that until market conditions improve or their drill program gets started in the next few months.



Redzone Resources Entry Price \$0.23

TSXV:REZ Recent Price \$0.28 Opinion – buy on weakness

In my April 27<sup>th</sup> update I was concerned with a weak market and 16 cent paper about to come free trading. The risk was a drop below \$0.20 and the stock did trade at some lows several days of 18 and 19 cents. I hope some of you were able to pick up the bargain because there was really not a lot of selling pressure and volumes were not that high.

I believe the low is in and the company should start a trenching program any time now, when permits are received. For now I would try bids below the market and pick up shares on any weakness.

Granada Gold Mine TSXV:GGM Entry Price \$0.24 Opinion – buy

**Recent Price \$0.21** 

As I pointed out in April, with 1.6 million ounces M&I gold this stock was cheap and it is a little cheaper now. Granada completed an initial trench program at its Aukeko property, immediately adjacent to its flagship gold property, the Granada mine, in the province of Quebec, Canada. A historic bulk sample in this area averaged 7 opt gold, but that was probably on the vein. It will be interesting to see average grades over longer lengths.

Two trenches have been completed, totalling 300 metres in length with a width of around 1.5 metres (trench 1 of 90 m length and trench 2 of 210 m length). The main goal of the trenching program is to intersect the east-west extension of the extended LONG Bars zone of gold mineralization and to prepare targets for the upcoming diamond drilling program.

"This trenching program is a substantive advance for Granada in shaping management's understanding of our resource. The results of the trenches' samples will be used as a guide for the next step of the exploration to capture the unexplored eastern extension of the mineralized structures, also called the LONG Bars zone," stated Frank J. Basa, PEng, president and chief executive officer of Granada Gold Mine

## Paramount Gold NY:PZG Entry price \$1.30

### Recent Price US\$1.38 Opinion – buy

Paramount only has 23 million shares outstanding with just over US\$5 million in cash. It is valued really cheap for a M&I resource of 5.3M AuEq ounces, which is less than \$5 per ounce in the ground. What I like about Paramount is their high grade Grassy Mountain project in Oregon can go to production soon and provide strong cash flow, while their lower grade Sleeper project in Nevada provides leverage to higher gold prices.

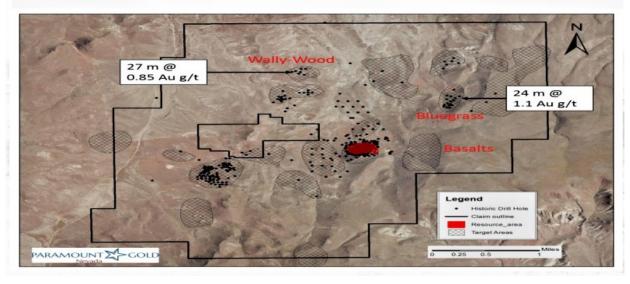
Paramount just released a Pre-Feasibility study that shows head grades to the mill at 7 g/t gold and a low Capex of \$110 million with low production costs.

Highlights of the PFS are as follows:

- Measured plus indicated resource containing 1.06 million ounces of Au at 0.034 opt (1.17 g/T<sup>1</sup>) plus 3.3 million ounces of Ag at 0.107 opt (3.67 g/T);
- Proven and Probable Reserves containing 362,000 ounces of Au at 0.21 opt (7.20 g/T) plus 516,000 ounces of Ag at 0.30 opt (10.3 g/T);
- Average mill head grade of 0.206 opt of Au (7.06 g/T) and 0.29 opt of Ag (9.94 g/T);
- Cash operating costs of \$528 per ounce gold;
- Total costs of \$853 per ounce gold3 produced including all capitalization
- Total operating cash-flows of \$254 million;
- After tax IRR of 27.6% and NPV<sub>(5%)</sub> of \$87.8 Million at the base case metal prices;
- Annual production of approximately 47,000 ounces of gold and 50,000 ounces of silver for 7.25 years;
- Initial infrastructure capital expenditures of \$69.9 million for a 750 ton per day mine and milling operation;
- Total initial capital costs of \$110 million including \$12.2 million in mine development and preproduction costs, \$13.6 million in owners and working capital and \$14.2 million in contingencies; and
- Pay back of 2.5 years from the start of production.

Considering time for permitting, this project could be producing in 2020. While Paramount is advancing on the permitting front they plan on more exploration that could increase mine life and improve the feasibility. As the map below shows, the exploration targets are confirmed by historic drilling so expanding resources should not be difficult.

# Exploration Targets - Confirmed By Historical Drilling



The chart shows a long and solid base built around \$1.25 to \$1.30 area, then a rally to about \$1.65. The current pull back to the top of the base and 200 Day MA provides an attractive buy price.



This is one of our tech stocks, but it has broken out on the chart, so a quick update.

Vitalhub Corp. TSXV:VHI Recent Price \$0.21 Entry Price - \$0.16 Opinion - buy

Interest and volume has been picking up since May 8<sup>th</sup> when they announced a marketing agreement with Ernst & Young for VHI's WellLinc, a blockchain interoperability solution targeting the mental health and long-term care space.

Vitalhub and EY Canada's health practice have formally agreed to work together on a co-marketing initiative to bring WellLinc to market on a global basis. Vitalhub's WellLinc solution uses blockchain technology to enable the secure and interoperable exchange of electronic health data, across the continuum of care. Some of the potential benefits derived from WellLinc include increased access to health information, leading to improved quality and appropriateness of care, which could lead to better overall health outcomes, and lowered costs in the delivery of care.

Last week, May 31, Vitalhub made the first sale of WellLinc, the company's proprietary blockchain electronic health record (EHR) interoperability solution. WellLinc has been licensed by Bluewater Health and the Canadian Mental Health Association of Lambton-Kent (CMHA LK).

Upon the successful implementation of the WellLinc blockchain-as-a-service (BaaS) offering, both organizations will license the solution, which provides mental health and long-term care organizations with access to a secured, distributed client record that enables the interoperable exchange of critical patient health data across the continuum of care. Vitalhub's WellLinc solution is built utilizing the hyperledger fabric technology to support full interoperability that is not limited to read-only access to data. WellLinc allows organizations that update a client record in one node to automatically record that transaction and update it across all other trusted nodes.

Their acquisition and growth strategy is starting to bear fruit, as Q1 2018 revenue came in at \$2,923,390, up over 2,000% from a year ago and they basically broke even for the quarter. The stock only started trading some volume in February and since my alert in early March and report in April there was lots of opportunity to buy around 16 cents. We are still not far off these levels and if this up trend continues, the stock should move into a new higher trading range.



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