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THE RUBEROID CO.

Improvements at The Ruberoid Co.'s asbestos mine at Eden, Vermont, the largest of its type in the United States, indicate that progress did not stop when a modern, new mill went into operation in 1949.

To streamline materials handling last year, General Manager Michael J. Mensel installed a compression packer for packaging asbestos fibre in paper bags. This idea is not new, but Ruberoid's technique appears to be the most successful yet tried. The machine, jointly developed by the company and Union Bag & Paper Company, fills a hopper by means of two speed-controlled screw conveyors to a specified weight. Then a piston cramms the fibre into a bag. The bag is held open within a steel cylinder to prevent splitting or tearing in the process. In the short time the device has been in use, it has resulted in easier handling and a reduction of more than 25% in warehousing and shipping space.

In another move, management recently opened a new bit sharpening shop. The up-to-date facility, built around modern, automatic equipment, eliminates dependence on hand skills. It can sharpen enough drill bits in an 8-hour day to supply three shifts.

Early this year, work was completed on a separate maintenance building where automotive equipment can be serviced on a formula basis.

These changes and additions were made in accordance with the long range plans for the new mill. The

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