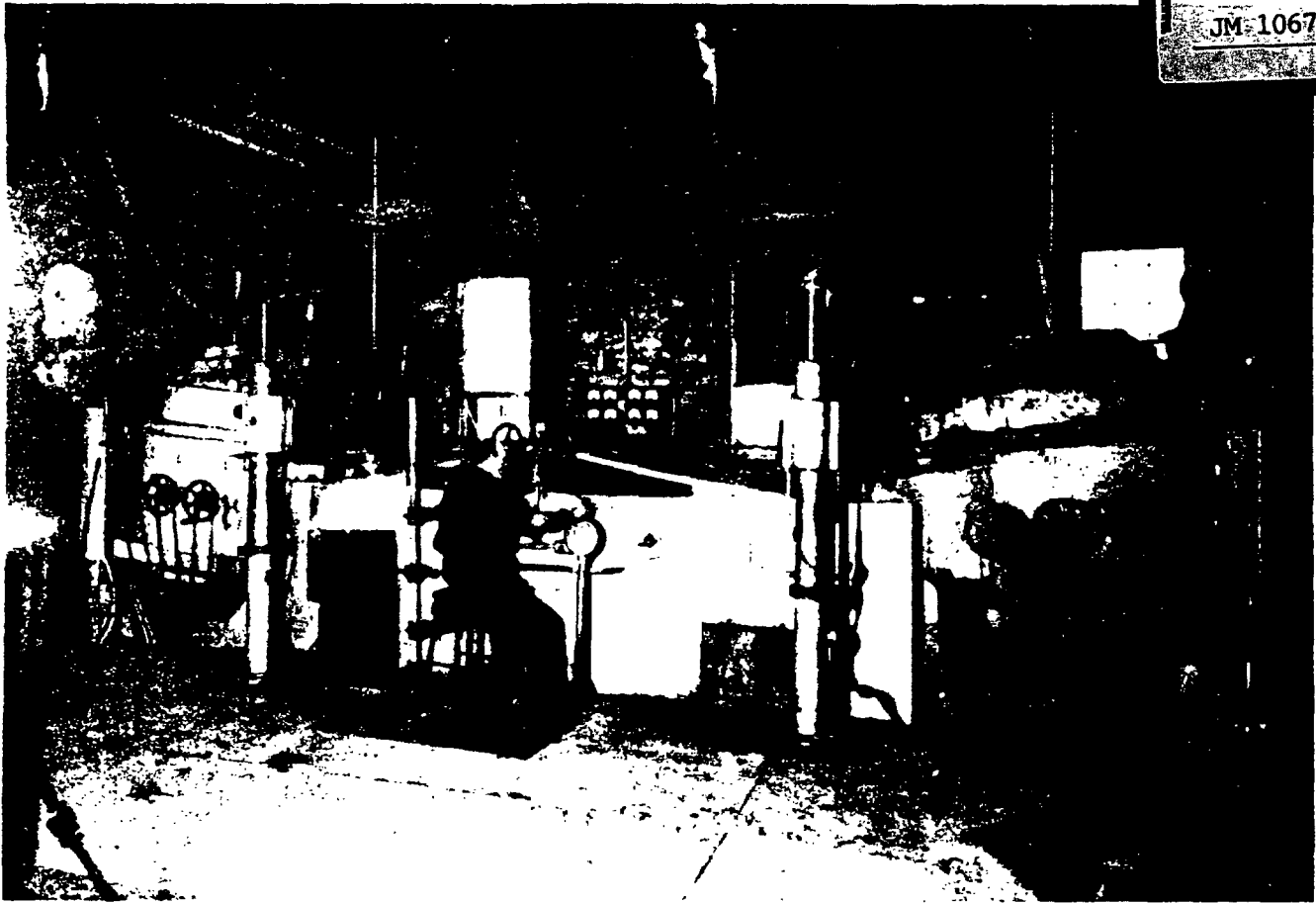




An exceptionally long-fibred, light-weight wool is being made by Spun Rock Wools Ltd., Thorold, Ont., Canada, by resistance arc type electric furnaces. Melting rock by electric furnace and liberizing it by mechanical means is believed to be an entirely different process from that in present use in the rock wool industry elsewhere. Three one-ton tilting furnaces are now in use at this plant. One man controls the operation of the two furnaces shown above, without leaving his station, from which he actually sees the liberization process. Furnaces are tapped and charged practically continuously. When the furnaces are tilted, molten rock impinges on a high speed disc, averaging about 4000 r.p.m., and is thrown off tangentially to form long silk-like fibres. The furnaces can be tilted at will to control the width of the molten stream, and variations in disc speed influence the fibre length. Normal domestic rock wool as made by this process weighs only 3 lb. to the cubic foot. Output is about 2½ tons per day.

ROCK WOOL MADE IN ELECTRIC FURNACES AND SPUN

Electric furnace rock wool is collected in chambers 15 ft. square. Sturtevant fans pull the wool from the area surrounding the rotating discs and discharge the wool from the pipe above. The discharge impinges in the "tub" shown with considerable force, the wool rebounding and the heavier shot remaining in the container. Much shot is dislodged in passing through the fan.

Rock wool is scooped up from the chamber, boxed up and stocked in this warehouse. The demand has been such that rarely, if ever, is much on hand. Four cubic feet of rock wool are generally packed in a bag. For extraordinarily high or low temperatures, a 6 lb. per cu ft wool is sold. An unusually white wool was made and designated as "snow" for Christmas decorations.

