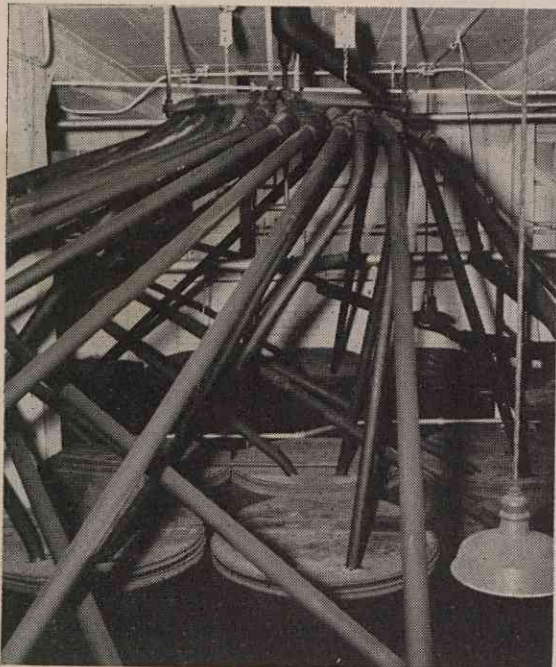


conveyor from the tank into which they have been dropped, the pellets are poured over an inclined plane of glass. Imperfect pellets will roll slowly in a crooked path and fall into the trough from which they will be gathered and remelted. Before pellets are accepted, they must cascade down a series of inclined planes and only those that make the grade are sorted into a series of sizes, bagged and are loaded into the familiar Western Super-X and Winchester Super-Speed shot shells.

During the course of manufacturing shot, it travels approximately a fifth of a mile, a distance

usually greater than it will when fired from a shotgun. Seventy-five pounds of metal will produce approximately a quarter of a million No. 6 shot which is a little more than a tenth of an inch in diameter. This is enough to load a thousand 12-gauge shot shells.

From Revolutionary days when the Natural Bridge in Virginia and abandoned coal mines were used to drop shot, there have been a multitude of improvements in the development of sporting firearms and ammunition, but the principle used in making lead shot pellets remains unchanged.



*Above:*

*Close-up view of the sloping glass tables, showing troughs catching the slow-moving imperfect pellets, while perfect pellets hurdle the troughs.*

*Above left:*

*Circular perforated screens sort the shot into the various individual sizes. Rollers dislodge the shot from the screen's perforations.*

*Left:*

*Maze of tubes through which shot pellets are fed into storage bins to await use in shot shells.*