

insect repellent and fungicide. It is used in industry in metallurgical processes, chemicals, ceramics, leather manufacture, refrigeration, and in many other ways.

Germany, the United Kingdom, China, Italy, France, and India rank, in that order, behind the U. S. in salt production. Salt is still being discovered in different parts of the world. For example, Denmark, formerly forced to import all of her salt, discovered a rock salt deposit in 1946 which now takes care of most of her needs.

### INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY

Salt is plentiful today. The oceans, lakes and seas of the world contain enough salt to blanket the entire earth with a snowy-white covering more than 100 feet deep. And there are almost inexhaustible deposits of salt deep in the earth formed by the drying up of pre-historic seas.

Outside the United States, most salt is taken from sea water, which is run into shallow pools at high tide, trapped there, and evaporated by the sun, leaving a residue at the bottom.

In our country, most salt comes from deposits underground, yielding a much finer grade than is usually produced commercially from other sources.

### MINING SALT

Two methods are used to reach these deposits. One is to dig a mine shaft down to the deposit, blast it out, lift the chunks of salt to the surface in elevators, and then crush the chunks and screen the salt. The other method, yielding a far purer grade of salt, is to drill for it. This method is used by the Diamond Crystal Colonial Salt Division of General Foods Corporation at St. Clair, Michigan, in America's greatest salt producing state. The accompanying pictures and the following text tell how this company drills for and refines salt.

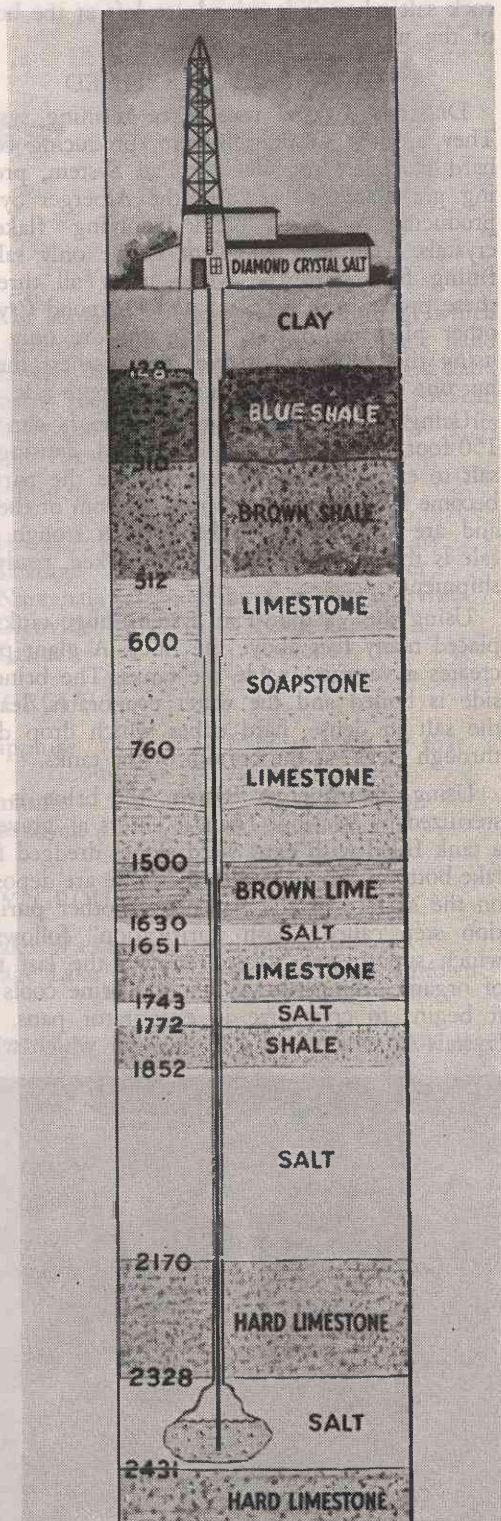
Diamond Crystal operates many salt wells, similar to oil wells, often drilling 2,500 feet (half a mile) straight down to reach a salt deposit.

Here's the way the wells work:

In the typical well, there are five pipes, one inside the other. The outside pipe is sunk far enough down to prevent surface water from seeping into the well. The next two pipes go deeper and prevent mineral water from underground streams from entering the well. The fourth pipe reaches down to the top of the salt deposit. Down this pipe fresh water is pumped. The water eats away the rock salt, which becomes brine and sinks to the bottom of the well. Then the brine is forced up to the surface through the fifth and innermost pipe.

The work of refining and purifying the salt begins right in the well. Because the salt is dissolved before coming to the surface, insoluble rock, dirt, and other impurities that remain in

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Salt deposits are found far below the earth's surface, as this diagram shows. The figures at left are the number of feet below the surface.