

**38th Annual Report  
OF THE  
INSPECTOR OF SALT  
OF THE  
State of Michigan  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30th, 1906**



BY AUTHORITY

EDWIN A. WILDEY,  
STATE INSPECTOR OF SALT, PAW PAW, MICH.

38th Annual Report of the State Inspector of Salt  
of Michigan.

OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR OF SALT,  
PAW PAW, MICHIGAN, December 15th, 1906.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, FRED M. WARNER, Governor of the  
State of Michigan:

Sir.—I have the honor to submit this, the thirty-eighth  
annual report of the operations of the State Salt  
Inspection law, for the year ending Nov. 30th, 1906.

The law requires that the report shall contain:

First, the number of districts into which the salt  
producing territory of the State is divided, with the name  
and locality of each, and the number and capacity of the  
works in each district.

Second, the quality and quantity of salt inspected in  
each district the past year.

Third, the amount of money received and the expenses  
incurred.

### SALT PRODUCING DISTRICTS.

The salt producing territory of the State is divided into six  
districts:

District No. 1, Saginaw County, John Baird, Deputy  
Inspector, has ten salt plants with \$400,000 invested,  
with a capacity of 675,000 barrels per year, and  
employs 140 men in the manufacture of salt. It has  
nine steam blocks with forty-two grainers, and one solar  
plant with fifty covers. This latter plant is practically out  
of commission, no salt having been manufactured during  
the past year. Exhaust steam is used in the  
manufacture.

District No. 2, Bay County, Patrick Gibbons Deputy  
Inspector, has four salt companies, with \$120,000  
invested, with a capacity of 470,000 barrels. No. of wells  
32, with a depth ranging from 950 feet to 1,050 feet.  
These plants run the year through.

District No. 3, St. Clair County, Bion Beach, Deputy  
Inspector, has eight steam plants, with forty-four  
grainers, six vacuum pans, eighteen wells, employing  
500 men when in active operation. Annual capacity  
1,700,000 barrels. Estimated capital \$500,000. This  
district produces a large amount of dairy salt of excellent  
quality as well as manufacturing the coarser grades.  
These blocks are all using live steam and improved  
machinery. Future of manufacturing is good.

District No. 4, Manistee County, W. H. Abbs and W. H.  
Stott, Deputy Inspectors, has six steam blocks, with  
seventy-six grainers, two vacuum pans, employing 475  
men. Estimated capital \$550,000; with eighteen wells in  
active operation, having an average depth of 2,000 feet.  
Capacity of 3,000,000 barrels per annum. The future of  
manufacture depends largely upon the lumber industry,  
as salt is now manufactured by exhaust steam and  
refuse from the saw mills. It is expected that most of  
these plants will manufacture the coming winter.

District No. 5, Mason County, Ole Asplund, Deputy  
Inspector, has three salt companies, with four salt  
blocks, three vacuum pans and twenty-eight grainers,  
eight wells ranging in depth from 2,240 feet to 2,284  
feet, all in good condition; are employing 180 men in the  
salt blocks and have a capacity of 1,650,000 barrels per  
annum. Estimated capital \$300,000. These blocks are  
using exhaust steam and refuse from the saw mills.  
Future prospects good.

District No. 6, Wayne County, Wm. O'Keefe, Deputy  
Inspector, has eight salt companies in active operation,  
with twenty two grainers, nineteen vacuum pans and  
twenty wells, ranging in depth from 1,100 feet to 1,600  
feet. Total capacity 2,000,000 barrels per annum.  
These blocks are using live steam.

The Detroit Salt Mining and Manufacturing Co. are  
constructing a mine from which they expect to mine salt  
in about a year. They are down 360 feet and making 50  
feet a month; they expect to mine salt at a depth of 900  
feet.

Tables following show manufacturers of salt in each district, and the  
amount of each kind of salt made by each manufacturer.

#### DISTRICT No. 1, SAGINAW COUNTY.

	Medium No. 1 Bbls.	Granulat- ed No. 1 Bbls.	Medium No. 1 Bulk	Granulat- ed No. 1 Bulk	Me Item No. 2	Granu- lated No. 2	Packers	Solar	Table	Total
E. Germain	9,084									9,084
A. C. White	11,497									11,497
Bliss & Van Arden	12,906									12,906
Merriman, S. P. & Co.	22,096		2,071							24,167
S. L. Eastman	900									900
Saginaw Valley Evaporation Co.	20,967									20,967
Saginaw Salt Co.	400									400
Brand & Harding	11,715									11,715
New York Solar Works							2,300			2,300
Saginaw Plate Glass Co.	16,850		5,464							22,314
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,607</b>		<b>8,535</b>				<b>2,300</b>			<b>138,442</b>

**DISTRICT No. 2, BAY COUNTY.**

	Medium No. 1 Bbls.	Granulated No. 1 Bbls.	Medium No. 1 Bulk	Granulated No. 1 Bulk	Medium No. 2	Granulated No. 2	Packers	Solar	Table	Total
Thos. Hine & Co.	8,898		3,992		11					11,901
Kerr Mfg. Co.										30,277
North American Chemical Co.	88,670	47,613	8,672	74,371	874	59				201,152
Merbach, S. P. & Co.			7,483							13,864
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,568</b>	<b>47,613</b>	<b>19,057</b>	<b>74,371</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>42,788</b>			<b>393,314</b>

**DISTRICT No. 3, ST. CLAIR COUNTY.**

	Medium No. 1 Bbls.	Granulated No. 1 Bbls.	Medium No. 1 Bulk	Granulated No. 1 Bulk	Medium No. 2	Granulated No. 2	Packers	Solar	Table	Total
Michigan Salt Works	142,669					3,500	36,015		93,985	312,169
Davidson & Worsley	48,126	133,229		16,719		1,060	1,991			185,115
Sickers Salt and Stone Co.	20,500	29,108								49,608
Diamond Crystal Salt Co.	38,427									38,427
Thompson Bros.	71,140	52,053	48,713	219,376	714	2,479	18,245			372,066
Pott Horn Salt Co.										597,064
Crystal Flake Salt Co.	30,046									30,046
<b>Total</b>	<b>322,921</b>	<b>209,790</b>	<b>48,213</b>	<b>239,084</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>6,992</b>	<b>65,331</b>		<b>490,701</b>	<b>1,395,256</b>

**DISTRICT No. 4, MANISTEE COUNTY.**

	Medium No. 1 Bbls.	Granulated No. 1 Bbls.	Medium No. 1 Bulk	Granulated No. 1 Bulk	Medium No. 2	Granulated No. 2	Packers	Solar	Table	Total
R. G. Peters Salt and Lumber Co.	384,147	188,049	41,517	900,148						1,483,861
Louis Sands Salt Co. No. 1	228,524		120,746		1,822		906			351,098
Black & Douglas Lumber Co.	114,473	133,725	86,956	119,811	1,094	492	10,584			479,935
Filer & Sons	12,250	90,234								102,484
State Lumber Co.	227,797		17,758							245,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>944,912</b>	<b>427,018</b>	<b>276,234</b>	<b>333,759</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>11,490</b>			<b>2,008,881</b>

**DISTRICT No. 5, MASON COUNTY.**

	Medium No. 1 Bbls.	Granulated No. 1 Bbls.	Medium No. 1 Bulk	Granulated No. 1 Bulk	Medium No. 2	Granulated No. 2	Packers	Solar	Table	Total
Stearns Salt and Lumber Co. No. 1	229,049		41,581		407		748			271,385
Stearns Salt and Lumber Co. No. 2	46,343				187					47,617
Batters Salt and Lumber Co.		126,697		14,028		709			11,231	142,726
Anchor Salt Co.				142,738						142,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>325,392</b>	<b>126,697</b>	<b>41,581</b>	<b>157,353</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>748</b>		<b>12,534</b>	<b>670,157</b>

**DISTRICT No. 6, WAYNE COUNTY.**

	Medium No. 1 Bbls.	Granulated No. 1 Bbls.	Medium No. 1 Bulk	Granulated No. 1 Bulk	Medium No. 2	Granulated No. 2	Packers	Solar	Table	Total
Pennsylvania Salt Co.	79,466	116,142	4,508	208,616	1,674					431,196
Merion Salt Co.	125,959	16,089	181,089							323,137
Penn Salt Co.	23,341		10,078		4,429		6,821		5,427	41,096
Detroit Salt Co. No. 1	175,755		7,000		4,429		2,212			187,416
Detroit Salt Co. No. 2	61,782		2,388		415					64,585
Detroit Salt Co. No. 3	39,971		1,990		150					42,111
Detroit Salt Co. No. 4	20,431		1,588		392		58		5,614	28,073
Hawassa Salt Co.	34,306		1,390		851				5,667	42,154
Delray Salt Co.			28,667		2,392					31,059
<b>Total</b>	<b>510,721</b>	<b>122,231</b>	<b>192,662</b>	<b>208,616</b>	<b>16,760</b>		<b>9,131</b>		<b>17,624</b>	<b>1,166,629</b>

**RECAPITULATION FOR 1906**

District	Medium No. 1 Bbls.	Granulated No. 1 Bbls.	Medium No. 1 Bulk	Granulated No. 1 Bulk	Medium No. 2	Granulated No. 2	Packers	Solar	Table	Total	Per Cent.
Saginaw County	127,467	47,613	8,805	74,371	885	59	42,788			180,587	2.6
Bay County	97,568	47,613	19,057	74,371	885	59	42,788			202,831	3.4
St. Clair County	322,921	209,790	48,213	239,084	714	6,992	65,331		490,701	1,395,256	21.5
Manistee County	944,912	427,018	276,234	333,759	2,908	492	11,490			2,008,881	33.6
Mason County	325,392	126,697	41,581	157,353	604	709	748		12,534	670,157	10.6
Wayne County	510,721	122,231	192,662	208,616	16,760		9,131		17,624	1,166,629	19.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,271,281</b>	<b>1,009,183</b>	<b>605,527</b>	<b>989,376</b>	<b>21,758</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>120,658</b>		<b>7,290</b>	<b>5,644,339</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**COMPARATIVE INSPECTION BY DISTRICTS FOR 1905 AND 1906**

	1905 bbls.	1906 bbls.	Increase or Decrease bbls.
District No. 1, Saginaw County	156,978	143,502	- 13,476
District No. 2, Bay County	336,968	282,314	- 54,654
District No. 3, St. Clair County	1,540,513	1,365,256	- 175,257
District No. 4, Manistee County	1,921,634	2,005,881	+ 84,247
District No. 5, Mason County	665,001	679,187	+ 14,186
District No. 6, Wayne County	1,020,159	1,168,629	+ 148,470

Net Increase ..... 3,516

Number of barrels of salt inspected from December 1st, 1905 to December 1st, 1906 ..... 5,644,559  
 Estimated in bins December 1st, 1906 ..... 800,165

Deduct salt in bins December 1st, 1905 ..... 6,444,724  
 833,063

Amount of salt manufactured in 1906 ..... 5,611,661

This shows a decrease in inspection of ..... 26,604  
 And in manufacture of ..... 324,508

**COMPARATIVE TABLE**

Salt manufactured in the State of Michigan prior to the enactment of the state inspection law in 1869.

Year	Barrels
1860	4,000
1861	125,000
1862	243,000
1863	466,000
1864	529,073
1865	477,200
1866	407,997
1867	474,721
1868	555,690
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,282,681</b>

Salt inspected in the State of Michigan since the enactment of the state inspection law in 1869.

Year	Barrels
1869	561,288
1870	621,352
1871	728,175
1872	724,481
1873	823,346
1874	1,026,970
1875	1,081,856
1876	1,482,729
1877	1,660,997
1878	1,855,884
1879	2,058,040
1880	2,676,588
1881	2,750,299
1882	3,037,317
1883	2,894,672
1884	3,161,806
1885	8,297,403
1886	3,667,257
1887	3,944,309

## RESUME.

As I reported to you last year, the conditions surrounding the salt industry were such as to lead to the belief that the output for 1906 would be as great as the preceding year, and if facilities for shipping could have been obtained, stocks would have been very much smaller than for many years. Several salt companies were compelled, because of lack of transportation, to cancel orders enough to clean up their output for the year. If Michigan is to retain the first position in this industry, provision must be made for two very essential factors in the production of salt, viz. Cheap transportation and cheap, durable and attractive packages. Few states are so favorably located as Michigan, surrounded as it is by the great lakes, for cheap transportation, and many of the larger manufacturers avail themselves of this advantage by shipping in bulk to points outside the state, and packing before shipping to interior points to the West and North-west. In connection with this I desire to call your attention to what has been done to maintain a proper inspection regarding such shipments. Last spring my attention was called to the importance of having a competent person at the port where cargoes of salt were to be unloaded, so that no complaint would be made without my being familiar with the circumstances. Accordingly, Deputy Inspector W. H. Abbs of Manistee, made several trips to investigate, and I am pleased to report that no serious complaints have been made regarding state inspection from the purchasers of bulk salt.

In regard to packages, I regret to say that no substitute for wood has been found as cheap and at the same time as satisfactory to the buyer and seller as the present wooden package for the cheaper grades of salt. The future of the salt industry looks promising, and I have the satisfaction of reporting that no blocks have been closed because of failure from a financial standpoint. During the past two years five companies have ceased producing salt and three of larger capacity have been installed, so that the total producing capacity has not decreased. It has been suggested to me that some legislation be enacted that will make the owners of salt wells who are abandoning the same liable to a fine in case the wells are not plugged, so that no injury may be sustained by adjoining salt manufacturers. During the past year I have tried to ascertain as nearly as possible the condition of abandoned salt blocks, and have found them with but few exceptions plugged, and I am convinced that if authority is given the salt inspector no trouble will be had in the future from this class of property.

Respectfully submitted,  
EDWIN A. WILDEY,  
STATE SALT INSPECTOR.

1888 .....	3,866,228	
1889 .....	3,846,979	
1890 .....	3,838,637	
1891 .....	3,927,671	
1892 .....	3,812,054	
1893 .....	3,514,485	
1894 .....	3,138,941	
1895 .....	3,529,362	
1896 .....	3,336,242	
1897 .....	3,622,764	
1898 .....	4,171,916	
1899 .....	4,732,669	
1900 .....	4,738,085	
1901 .....	5,580,101	
1902 .....	4,994,245	
1903 .....	4,387,982	
1904 .....	5,390,812	
1905 .....	5,671,253	
1906 .....	5,644,559	
Total .....	119,749,854	
The total amount of salt which Michigan has produced to date .....		123,082,535
RECEIPTS		
Balance on hand December 1st, 1905 .....	\$ 6,375.35	
Fees collected on 5,644,559 barrels of salt at 3 mills per barrel .....	16,933.67	
Total,		\$23,309.02
EXPENDITURES		
Salary, State Salt Inspector .....	\$1,500.00	
“ Deputy Salt Inspectors .....	8,509.24	
Expenses, traveling, telegraph, telephone, etc .....	654.74	
Office .....	300.00	
Total,		\$12,336.04
REBATE		
Number barrels inspected in 1905 .....	5,671,253	
“ “ “ in 1906 .....	5,644,559	
Total,	11,315,812	
Rebate on 11,315,812 barrels of salt at .001+ per barrel .....	\$11,779.23	
Amount on hand December 1st, 1906 .....		\$556.81