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A Grain of Salt

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"With some sorrow, we must confess that unkind comment has reached our ears. Several of our "foreign" students, undoubtedly enmeshed in a web of ignorance, have been heard casting somewhat vitriolic criticisms at our citizenry because of a particular policy of this fair city. The brunt of their remarks seems to be directed toward the use of a certain crystalline compound designed to free city streets of snow and ice. These harsh opinions bring a deep pang to the hearts of we natives who have lived here in Nature's Wonderland all our lives. Being merely victims of circumstance, we feel obliged to set these poor souls aright, placing the responsibility where it properly belongs."

Cover Page Footnote

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To correct a widespread fallacy, it is not the salt per se which causes the corrosion of our automobiles; rather the blame lies in the so-called "rust-inhibitor" which is personally mixed into it by the City Manager. In 1951, a contract was signed with a certain chemical company to provide the city with inhibitor for the next sixty years. Our devoted councilmen, ever alert, carefully read the small print, but failed to note the large print, which stated the ownership of the company—the Rust-Production Division of General Motors. And as every pink-blooded American well knows, "What's good for General Motors is good for the country," not to mention the National Guard.

Besides, the pro-salt movement has the backing of a somewhat influential civic group—the **Rochester Police Department**. This erstwhile organization has strongly supported its use, maintaining that the clearer the streets, the more prone drivers will be to speed, thereby resulting in additional lira for the city coffers. However, the funds *are* for a worthy cause—the Department, intensely building its own library, desperately needs financial aid in purchasing a complete backlog of Dick Tracy strips for the collection's final touch.

So as you see, the citizens of Rochester are quite helpless. **Let us hope, therefore, that the "foreigners" we spoke of may soon grasp a keener understanding of the situation and cease tiring us poor natives as if we were the principal cause.** And, after all, there is some consolation—the city clerk's office promises to pay the sum of fifty cents for any corroded fender surrendered to them. This metal is used to produce New York State license plates, known throughout the world for their high standard of quality.

FRANK KAMP '60