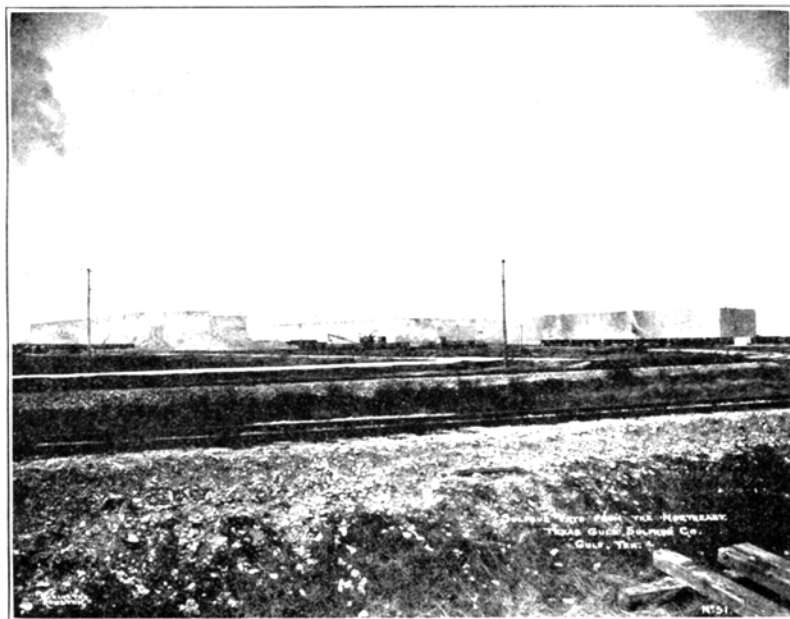


is set in the barren anhydrite, is adequately perforated at two different levels separated by the annular diaphragm, the upper set of holes permitting the escape of the hot water, and the lower the entrance of the molten sulfur.

"As extraction of the sulfur proceeds, the integrity of the rock structure is weakened and its subsidence results in a general downward creep of the overlying formations, inequality of movement in which different strata are involved,

"However, this condition of subsidence as a factor in the actual mining operation does not rule at all of the sulfur deposits now being mined. In some cases the barren rock above the sulfur stratum is so thick and of such a character that it is not crushed when the sulfur below is removed. Production costs in mining such deposits are greater than in those where subsidence takes place readily.

"Sulfur from the wells is collected at pumping stations. The discharge lines



*Texas Gulf Sulfur Co.*

### Sulfur Vats.

finally bending or breaking the pipe so as to put the well out of service.

"Subsidence is a disadvantage in mining in so far as it causes the loss of producing wells and the failure of equipment. This disadvantage is offset by the fact that the soft plastic formation immediately above the crumbling caprock, as it yields under pressure due to the overburden, occupies the voids left by the extraction of the sulfur, thus reducing the amount of hot water required to fill the porous rock.

from the wells deliver the sulfur into sumps at these points. A group of wells may discharge at one pumping station. The stations are located close to the area being steamed, usually within a few hundred yards of the most distant tributary well.

"The sump is dimensioned to suit the operating conditions, number of wells supplying sulfur, and so forth. The lining may be any suitable material, and concrete has been used successfully.