

As a rule they are composed : 1o of a vast reservoir placed in front of the saltern proper, deeper than them and communicating with the sea by a canal closed by a sluice. It is filled at high tide, and is intended to keep the water until the impurities it contains settle at the bottom and to feed the other basins, as the water they contain is evaporated ; 2o. Of the salterns proper, situate behind the reservoir and divided into a multitude of compartments separated by small dykes, which are intended to increase the exposed surfaces so as to hasten evaporation and to receive the waters as they become more and more condensed. These compartments communicate with each other, but in such a manner that the water goes from one to the other, only after having passed through a long series of canals.

When the water begins to redden, it is a sign that the salt will soon crystallize ; the water then becomes covered with a salt film which falls to the bottom. The salt is drawn up on the small dykes which separate the compartments and it is then drained off. This process is repeated two or three times a week from the month of May to the month of October.

Salt means life to a great many men and a very large proportion of the whole amount used comes from my country.

It is the chief article of commerce between Spain and the islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon.....
