

what might have been expected from a country like America, but as surely must the reaction come; indeed we have already some inquiries.

Mineral phosphates of all kinds are wanted. Ground Antwerp or fossil phosphate we continue to place freely, and have still a little 60 per cent. and 38 to 48 per cent. to offer for forward delivery, also some residue 18 to 24 per cent. Boulogne Coprolite we can contract forward for at 35s per ton f.o.b. at Boulogne, guaranteed 44 per cent., anything over guarantee to be paid for at the rate of 10d per unit. Weighing and sampling by sworn meter or shipment. Canadian for next year's shipment would bring 1s 4d per unit. Charleston wanted at 13½d to 14d. Cambridge Coprolite nominally 60s per ton net cash free on rails. Ground we might secure at 67s per ton in buyers' bags, or 69s per ton sellers' lending bags for Camba. Bedford Coprolite guaranteed 50 per cent. we might secure at 32s 6d for Pottou, 38s f.o.b. Thames, March delivery forward."

FIRES IN PUBLIC RESORTS.

The terrible losses of life occurring from time to time in theatres, churches and other public buildings, where people crowd in large numbers, notably the recent holocaust in the Ring Theatre, Vienna, should lead to the adoption of preventive measures ere it be again too late. Various suggestions have been made in the interests of theatrical managers, whose thin houses attest the effect of such disasters upon the public mind. Doors opening outward, iron curtains, pails of water, stout hose, perfectly working fire-plugs, well-trained employees, properly uniformed, seriously minded, and disinterested firemen are all well enough so far as they can be brought into play—and a proprietor should be heavily fined where he could not show a full supply of all these articles—but what then? Suppose a fire should take place above the border lights or in the front draperies without being seen, perhaps, by the "fly-men," out of the reach of the water-pressure and the so-called precautionary measures? Is the public familiar with the wilderness of ropes and acres of painted canvas suspended over the stage, and the method of lighting? Such a fire takes place, perhaps, and the theatre goes the way of all kindling-wood; "nobody to blame," it is said, "every man did his duty," and so on.

The "automatic sprinklers" recently adopted in many of our leading cotton factories, and described in these columns on the occasion of the opening of the

Hamilton Cotton Company about a year ago, might, we think, be easily adapted to the extinguishment of fires in theatres and churches. The sprinklers are so constructed that when the temperature rises to a certain degree, the operation begins. The stage, where a majority of the fires originate, can be made absolutely safe so long as there is a water supply in the city. It is perfectly practicable, and has been thoroughly tested in actual fires. The most inflammable portion of a cotton mill is the "picker-room"—a theatre isn't a circumstance—and in every case the sprinkler has put out the fire. In one instance a most serious outbreak occurred, but in less than one minute the fire was put out, the damage being less than \$10. With the co-operation of the insurance companies and the aid of the press, architects might be able to inaugurate some reforms of great value. But everything about a theatre, in the immensely practical line, must give way to glitter and show, and the manager who can advertise an attraction in the way of a two thousand-dollar chandelier or drop curtain, painted or embroidered by some well-known, high-priced aesthete, takes more pride and satisfaction unto himself than he would in a steam force-pump or automatic sprinkler.

Panics in public buildings cannot be avoided or people prevented from being trampled upon, but when the deaths from fire and suffocation run into the hundreds but very few people lose their lives in the other way. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the audience will not know of a fire where a sprinkler is used, as the fire could not last 30 seconds with one in operation. Perforated pipe is of no purpose whatever; it does more damage than the fire. The water cannot be turned on until there is need, and the stage is drenched, where, perhaps, a bucket of water is only required; besides, the holes get clogged. Then there are valves, and they are forgotten. The real value of the sprinkler may be said to be, first, water is constantly in the pipes, and with a pressure of 50 or 75 pounds from the steam force-pump, constantly kept up, it is ready for immediate action. Second, the fire sets in operation the one it reaches first, or the heat from the fire when it reaches 160°, and in the majority of cases one will be found sufficient; consequently, but little damage is done by water; third, a peculiar motion is given to the water as it escapes, not unlike a lawn-sprinkler, though of many times the force, each covering an area of 100 square feet, and so dense as to suffocate the fire at once. They should be put in every part of the

theatre, the carpenter's shop, paint-room, scene-dock, in the roof, rigging-loft, over every drapery, and everywhere where there is the slightest danger from fire, and the cost would not be half the receipts of one well-attended performance. The arrangement might with advantage be also introduced in every manufactory, such as are deemed by the insurance hazardous or extra-hazardous risks.

CARRYING RATES.

There is nothing to prevent our dry goods merchants and others who find it cheaper to import goods by the Cunard vessels and the Passumpsic and South Eastern Railway to this City from doing so, but it were manifestly unfair to insist, because the Cunards charge only 10s per ton on certain classes of goods from Liverpool to Boston, a reduction allowed only on goods for Canada, and clearly done at a loss, that the Allan, the Dominion, or the Beaver line, to the first-named of which the people of Montreal and the whole of Canada owe so much, should reduce their freight charges to the same basis, or that they should not be at liberty to advance beyond the present unprofitable figures when circumstances may warrant. With every available space employed, the results of the past season have been anything but satisfactory to the great Canadian steamship owners, even at the present figures to Montreal. Were the Messrs. Allan to withdraw their steamers from Boston, where no heavy harbor dues await them, the Cunards would not hesitate for a moment to advance their freight quotations on shipments for Montreal merchants to the figures now charged by them on merchandise for Boston and other places in the United States. They surely are not actuated by any particular love for the people of Canada that they should fetch and carry for them at a heavy percentage less than for the merchants of Boston. Such apparent anomalies will continue to exist at various ports at different times according to the circumstances of supply and demand, return freights, complete cargoes, rivalry, competition, etc. We need only mention the case of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, who, not many months ago, charged 2½c on grain from Kingston to this port, while the same Company's rate from Chicago to New York, including shipment on board vessel, was only 4½c.

The railroad war which has been going on between the trunk lines since the middle of last June has at last come to an end, and the freight tariffs of June 15, 1881, are being resumed. The passenger rates had been partially restored, so that