

AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING APPARATUS FOR SHIPS.

(Continued from page 567)

Important as it is to have an extinguisher at hand in case of a fire, it is equally essential to be able to determine, with rapidity and certainty, the place where the fire has broken out. Aktiebolaget Lux have succeeded in solving both these problems in a very effective manner. Their fire extinguishing apparatus is constructed on the following principle:—

From a receiver for the carbonic acid, a main pipe, with branches, leads to all the exposed parts of the ship. These branch pipes are shut off from the main by a plug made of some easily meltable material. When fire breaks out, the plug in the branch pipe rapidly melts down, and carbonic acid begins to flow out. When the plug melts, it causes the opening of an electric contact communicating with an alarm bell and a number board, which, after the bell has sounded the alarm, displays a number indicating in what part of the vessel the fire has broken out.

A special advantage of this system is that it is possible, with its aid, to cope with the fire without it being necessary to approach the seat of the fire. It is in many cases impossible to do so, and at all events it is a very risky proceeding when the cargo consists of such inflammable goods as e.g. coal, cotton, or wood-pulp.

The pipe system intended for carbonic acid gas can obviously also be used for water, if the cargo is of such a nature that it is not liable to be injured by water. In many cases, however, it is just as important to protect the cargo from water, as to save it from fire, and, as regards coal in particular, it should be borne in mind that to pour water on burning coals may cause the generation of water gas, which is explosive when mixed with air.

Aktiebolaget Lux' automatic fire extinguishing apparatus for ships has recently been approved for use in the Swedish mercantile marine.

These fire extinguishing apparatus are manu-

factured by Aktiebolaget Lux (address: Aktiebolaget Lux, Stockholm, Sweden), from whom more detailed information than we have been able to give here can be obtained.

THE FIRE INSURANCE CO. OF CANADA.

Notice is given that the Fire Insurance Company of Canada will apply to Parliament at its present session for an act to extend the time within which it may obtain a license under the provisions of the 1917 Insurance Act. That the company is starting out with a pretensions enough title may well be thought by all the other fire insurance companies of Canada.

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