

Among other uses of tripolite are the following:—as a filler for rubber goods, as a heat insulator for steam pipes, in the paint industry as a wood filler, for making water filters, and as a filling for the walls of safes.

In an article on tripolite, W. C. Phalen says<sup>1</sup> that of late this material has found a use in the manufacturing of records for talking machines. He says, also, that in Germany it is used as an absorbent for liquid manures in artificial fertilizers; in the manufacture of water glass, of various cements, of glazing for tiles, of artificial stone, of ultramarine and various pigments, of aniline and alizarine colours, of paper, sealing wax, fireworks, gutta-percha objects, Swedish matches, solidified bromine, scouring powders, papier-mâché, and many other articles, and that there is a large and steadily growing demand for it.

It is used in the United States<sup>2</sup> in making light terra cotta brick and in the beet sugar industry to assist in filtration.

Before the introduction of wood pulp as the absorbent for nitro-glycerine in the manufacturing of dynamite, tripolite was used for that purpose.

#### PREPARATION.

Tripolite usually occurs as a fairly pure bedded deposit at the bottom of lakes. The lakes may be drained and the tripolite dug, or it may be won by means of floating dredges. It is washed, dried, ground, and very carefully sized. The finest sizes are obtained by air-floating, the undersize from the last bolting.

The finished product is graded according to size. For the finer polishing grades and for some other purposes a pure white product is specified. The darker material finds a market principally for rubber filling, for which purpose careful sizing is not essential.

#### PRICES.

Tripolite when mixed with grease and moulded into bricks costs, on an average, about \$65 a ton delivered in Ontario or Quebec.

<sup>1</sup> Page 693, Mineral Resources of the United States. part II, 1910.

<sup>2</sup> Page 39, "Notes on Mineral Wastes," by Charles L. Parsons, Bulletin 47, Bureau of Mines, Washington.