

Record sales for electric apparatus

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The cultivation of sugar-beet will have to be increased, and that of cole-seed tripled to provide the population with a reasonable oil ration. Besides intensified cultivation, the fodder production of each small-holding is to be increased during the sixth stage of the plan, so that the Swiss national herd may, as far as possible, be maintained at its present size. This aim will be achieved by producing more synthetic fodders and by cultivating fodder as a main produce. A programme for the construction of silos has just been drawn up and incorporated in the agricultural extension plan.

COAL RATIONING IN SWITZERLAND DURING THE 1943/44 WINTER SEASON.

As the results of the negotiations now being carried on with coal supplying countries are still uncertain, Government authorities in Switzerland have decided to prepare already now a severe system of rationing based on existing stocks and national resources, but which will, nevertheless, be complex enough to take into account all legitimate needs of the population as far as possible.

Industrial unemployment must, at all costs, be avoided; the greater part of Switzerland's stocks of foreign coal will therefore be reserved for industry. Here again, gas-works and the manufacture of the sub-products of coal will have precedence over other industries. No coal from which gas, benzol or substitute products can be extracted, is to be used for heating purposes. Although hospitals, clinics, factories and workshops, public administration offices, schools, private offices and shops, hotels, boarding houses and restaurants, will receive coal rations equivalent to last year's, part of their supply will be substituted for wood. Private households will only be granted wood rations. Swiss coal is only to be delivered by special permit.

THE SWISS LABOUR MARKET DURING MAY, 1943: The demand for labour for the execution of agricultural and public works schemes is still very heavy, and whole-time unemployment in Switzerland has consequently dropped still further; during May last, the number of unemployed fell by 480. At the end of that month, 3,728 unemployed were registered throughout the country, as against 5,894 a year ago. Unemployed labour is, for the time being, almost entirely absorbed, but it is probable that the lowest level has now been reached.

WAGE ADJUSTMENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

Normal rates of wage adjustment in Switzerland, calculated on the basis of the state of supplies and the cost of living index, are as follows:

For a pre-war income up to: The present income should now be increased by:

frs. 3,000.-	38%
" 4,000.-	32%
" 5,000.-	27%
" 6,000.-	26%
" 6,000.- and over	24%

The rates of increase in the cost of living are 82% for incomes up to frs. 3,000.- and 52% for incomes over frs. 6,000.-.

RECORD SALES FOR ELECTRIC APPARATUS.

The sale of electric apparatus in Switzerland during 1942 was considerably influenced by the fuel shortage. No less than 227,000 electric household heating apparatus were sold last year, as against roughly 113,000 during the last few years. The sale of electric chafing-dishes and kitcheners registered 50,000 and beat all records. The capacity of all these apparatus is 343,000 kilowatts and their annual power consumption is 75 - 80 millions of kilowatt-hours, which represents the output of a great power station. This means a tremendous additional demand for electric power, for it must be remembered that the requirements of these household apparatus only represent a small part of the total supplementary consumption of electric energy in Switzerland just now.