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1946 compared with only 19,700,000 francs in the corresponding period of 1945 (6,133 tons against 3,179 tons). Although the Swiss textile industry, also, is enjoying strong demand from abroad, the large exports of textile machinery from Switzerland have given rise to discussions regarding the advisability of such machinery shipments. Switzerland, textile men argue, will soon be faced with strong competition from countries whom she is now supplying with machinery."

An agreement in principle has been reached with the Ministry of Labour for the exchange of hotel students or employees between our two countries; details are being worked out.

The International Fur and Leather Fair, postponed from last year, is to be held from April 10th to 17th in Basle.

Lower water levels at power plants have led to rationing of electricity for household and commercial use. In some districts heating of homes by electricity is forbidden and in others hot-water heaters can be switched on on Saturdays and Sundays only.

Believe it or not, chocolate from abroad is actually arriving in Switzerland. During the month of October we have imported 160 tons from the Argentine at a cost of about half a million francs. Holland has also sent us a quantity (exact figure not stated) at less than 40 cts. per 100 kilo(!). A spokesman of the chocolate industry has given out a warning that the shortage would continue for months to come as world production of cocoa is not expected to cover the demand for several years.

Recent statistics reveal that the largest farmsteads are in the canton Zug whose peasants on an average are assessed at 48,000 francs. In the canton Berne the average works out 36,000 francs. The poorest peasants — under 20,000 francs average assessment — are in the cantons Uri, Ticino and Valais.

—oOo—

This year's Pro Juventute stamps, which were issued on November 30th and are valid for postage until May 31st next, picture a famous Swiss artist and three home flowers. The five-plus-five rappen, green (engraved by the Government Printing Office, Berne) portrays Rodolphe Toepffer, artist of the nineteenth century. The rest of the set, helioengraved by Courvoisier, Chaux-de-Fonds, include the following: 10-plus-10r. olive, orange and grey, white narcissus 20-plus-10r. red, yellow and grey, mountain cactus, and 30-plus-10r. blue, lilac and grey, Alpine thistle.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SWISS LEGATION.

The Swiss Legation have drawn our attention to the fact that according to the statement made by the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on the 21st October, 1946, War Damage Claims under the Business and Private Chattels Schemes will not be considered after the end of this year, unless the claimant can show that he has been prevented by circumstances not under his control from lodging his claim.

Sir Stafford Cripps also announced that all amounts in respect of Private Chattels Claims, payment of which has been deferred, will be paid together with accrued interest at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$, less tax, as soon as possible in the next financial year. The British Government aim at making these payments in July 1947.

No date has yet been fixed for payments under the Business Scheme.



We don't keep Nescafé up our sleeve. It's just that supplies can't keep pace with ever-growing demand. But it may be *your* turn soon. And then, a spoonful in the cup, near-boiling water, and hey presto! A quick cup of fragrant full-flavoured coffee. No bother to make, no bothersome grounds. Just enjoyment of a *good* cup of coffee.

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