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graph and even the small clock for the simpler, less costly types.

Agriculture suffered from the drought, but for the country as a whole the harvests of hay and cereals were good. It was a very good year for fruit. The wine-harvest produced about 15,224,000 gal., which is slightly less than in 1948, but the quality is again of the very finest. Because of the large stocks already existing, the sale of wine has come up against difficulties which have not yet been completely overcome. However a campaign for the sale of dessert grapes made it possible for more than 8½ million lbs. to be consumed; this will be repeated this year on a still larger scale. The index of the price of agricultural products fell in July 1949 to 201 (August 1939 = 100) to rise again at the end of September to 206.9. The cost of living in the country taken as a whole has dropped appreciably in many cases, and this in spite of price controls having been taken off a whole series of goods and services. The index of wholesale prices in Switzerland which was 214.4 at the beginning of the year had dropped to 194.9 in October. The index of the cost of living was 161.2 in April and fluctuated around this figure all the year. In November 1948, it was 164.9.

Nor has there been any considerable change in the labour market. The total number of unemployed reached the figure of 10,786 in November (6,000 more than in the previous year). The falling off in employment begins by hitting the foreign worker so that changes in the number of unemployed do not give a true picture of employment.

To sum up, it may be said that instead of the serious falling off and deterioration in the situation which were feared for 1949, there was on the whole a return to normal throughout the country.

G.

(*Swiss Industry and Trade.*)

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, March 31st, 1950.

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