

The Swiss aluminium industry in 1975

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basis.

- There is now no customs discrimination in the Common Market countries.
- The preference for high qualities is a traditional feature and calls for a good deal of know-how.
- Most Swiss textile enterprises today are small or medium-sized, which makes them very flexible and also favours the manufacture of specialities.

—S. A. MAGAZINE.

A New Swiss Chemical Plant Under Construction In the United States

Work has recently begun at Bayport (Texas—USA) on the construction of a large chemical plant representing, in its initial stage, an investment of some 30 million dollars. Built by Lonza (Basel—Switzerland), the plant is expected to go into operation at the end of 1977. It will produce basic materials for agrochemistry and the manufacture of pigments and pharmaceutical products. Because of the high exchange rate of the Swiss franc, ever higher shipping costs and other commercial factors, it has become more and more difficult for Lonza to supply the American market from Switzerland; hence the decision to set up a plant in the United States. Looking ahead and allowing for the long period required to carry plans into effect, Lonza is already studying further projects designed to expand and develop its activities on the North American continent.—(SODT)

The Swiss Aluminium Industry in 1975

The Swiss aluminium industry has suffered from the effects of the economic recession in 1975. The production of metal fell off by 27 per cent and that of semi-manufactured products by 24 per cent as compared with the previous year. The rolling mills of sheet aluminium fell 25 per cent short of the 1974 production level. The recession was felt by nearly all the consumer groups. The falling off of orders in hand led to reductions in personnel in most branches of the Swiss aluminium industry and, in some firms, to the temporary introduction of shorter working hours. In this field, too, the high exchange rate of the Swiss franc has been an adverse factor. While in several industrialized countries, like the United States and Germany, there has been a resumption of demand, recovery in Switzerland continues to be slow. In both the building trade and the transport sector, difficulties may be expected to persist for some time yet. It is estimated that the Swiss aluminium industry, depending in part on these two branches of industry, will show a slower growth rate in the next few years.—(SODT)