

pits at which their services may be required. They shall be periodically exercised in the handling of the apparatus.

Art. 6.—The Minister shall have power to approve the establishment of a joint station for mines which are close together.

At these stations there shall be one appliance for every 200 workmen employed underground in the pits of the second and third class of the associated mines; but there must not be less than ten appliances and need not be more than twenty. The number of workmen for each appliance mentioned in Art. 5, shall be maintained in each such mine as if it had a separate station.

Art. 7.—The Minister shall have power to grant exemptions, either absolute or conditional, from the foregoing provisions.

Art. 8.—Any contravention of this Decree shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with Title X of the law of the 21st April, 1910.

Art. 9.—This Decree shall come into force a year after its publication in the *Moniteur*.

Art. 10.—The Minister of Industry and Labour is charged with the enforcement of the Decree.

AUSTRIA

Austria recognizes three classes of mines:

- (1) Gaseous or fiery mines.
- (2) Medium gaseous mines.
- (3) Non-gaseous mines.

All mines of the gaseous or fiery group must make provision for mine-rescue work. No provision is made for mine-rescue equipment in medium gaseous and non-gaseous mines.

The following is a brief résumé of these regulations:

Rescue stations, equipped with apparatus of, at least, the 'half hour' type, shall be established at every mine near the entrance to the same. If the rescue station is intended for one mine only, two per cent. of the maximum number of men on the largest shift shall be trained rescue men, such number to be, in no case, less than ten.

Two or more neighbouring mines can, with the authorization of the Department, erect a joint rescue station. In such case, the number of breathing appliances shall be calculated upon the maximum number of men per shift in that mine which employs the largest number of men.