

10103

47/24

MAN OF THE WEEK

This was Emmanuel Shinwell's hour. To a people shivering in the coldest weather for 50 years, came overnight orders for the most drastic fuel cuts ever experienced. A nation striving to win back a lost export trade found its factories closed and two million of its workers unemployed. Silenced factories - day and night temperatures below zero - this was the face of Britain in February 1947. Centred in the storm, Emmanuel Shinwell sits through the Labour Government's severest test since taking office.

To you and me - especially those of us with an all-electric house - it meant cooking on field kitchen lines. Inside, electricity cuts and a falling gas pressure vied with each other in the race for discomfort.

Sometimes ingenuity won out. Here's a torchlight shave.

Wash - brush up - bath.

Meantime bad as the cuts were, at least two people said: "Thank you, Mr. Shinwell"