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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, FERRUARY, 1940 (PRELIMINARY)

Steadily rising wheat prices and an increase in copper in the latter half of February provided the main support for a mild rise in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' general index of wholesale commodity prices which advanced from 82.2 at the end of January to 82.8 for the week ending March 1. Other price averages including those for oats, cattle, hogs, raw cotton and silk, and tin registered moderate reductions between January and February. The series for industrial material prices was more responsive to the lengthier list of declines and receded from 79.8 to 79.5 during February.

Retail prices, rents and costs of services advanced slightly from 85.1 in January to 85.2 in February due to slight increases for fuel. This level represents a mixor decline from a December peak of 85.3 following scattered reductions in food prices.

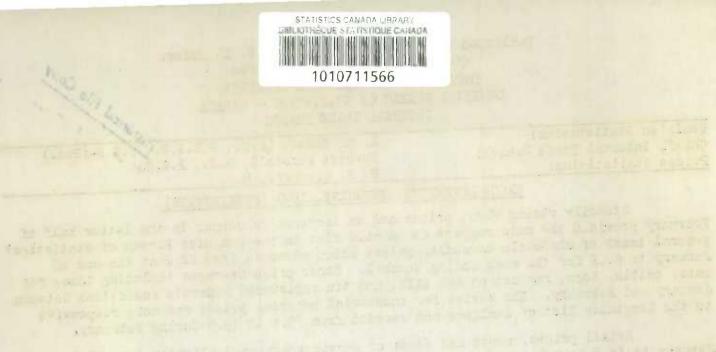
With the exception of transportation issues, industrial, utility and bank common stock prices showed only minor net changes between January 31 and February 29. There were, however, sharp intermediate fluctuations in certain groups, notably oils, milling and foods. Closing the month at 98,6 the general index showed a net increase of 0.9 p.c. when compared with the final January figure. In the mining section the general index for 25 stocks, paced by an almost steady decline in golds, dropped 4.8 p.c. during the month to 134.1. There was an easier tendency in Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices during the same interval, an index for this series moving 0.5 p.c. lower to 113.7. Yields were up 1.1 p.c. at 73.7.

Official buying and selling rates set by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board for sterling and United States funds continued unchanged during February at \$4.43-\$4.47 and \$1.10-\$1.11 respectively. At New York irregular declines in sterling free rates lowered quotations to \$5.923/4 as the month closed which compared with \$3.991/2 at the end of January. During the same period the Canadian dollar rate lost 1/2¢ to 861/8¢. At Montreal spot quotations for neutral European currencies were relatively steady, though continued sharp discounts in the New York Sutures market indicated an uneasy undertone for these units.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES (1926=100 for all index series)

(1)100100 101 11100/						
	February 1939	January 1940	February 1940			
			Week ended -			
			8th	15th	22nd	29th
WHOLESALE / General - 567 Commodities	73.2 64.3 64.7	82.6 78.8 70.0	82.2 80.2 69.5	82 .5 80.1+ 69.9	82.9 80.1+ 71.2	82.8 79.5+ 70.9
RETAIL PRICES, RENTS AND SERVICES (1st of month)	82.9	85.1		85.2		
SECURITY PRICES Investors' Price Index(95 common stocks 68 Industrials	174.0	99•7 162•1 45°7	99.3	99.9	98.7 160.3 45.1	98.4 159.7 45.2
Mining Stock Price Index(25 stocks) 22 Golds	158.8 121.1 315.1	144.7 107.3 298.8	139.1 103.7 286.0	140.0 103.2 293.0	137.5 101.0 287.5	135.5 99.4 285.4
Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bond Price Index Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bond	118.8	113.2	114.2	114.2	113.8	113.7
FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS-noon rates (Bank of Canada) at Montreal	67.5	74.4	73.3	73.0	73.6	73.7
Sterling	1.7086 1.0049 53.88 23.11	4.4500x 1.1050x 59.07 25.15	1.1050x	1.1050x	1.1050:	4.4500x 1.1050x 59.03 25.87

Week ends Friday instead of Thursday. xAverage of daily buying and selling rates act by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board. Current buying and selling rates are \$4.43-\$4.47 for sterling and \$1.10-\$1.11 for United States funds. +Revised.



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