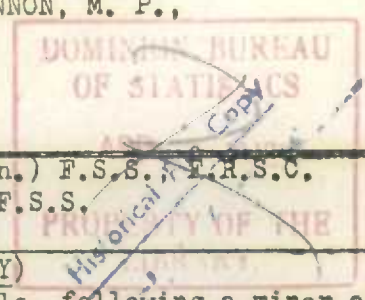


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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MARCH, 1942 (PRELIMINARY)

**WHOLESALE:** The weekly composite index for 30 industrial materials, following a minor advance to a mid-March level of 93.7 subsequently declined to its opening level of 93.5 on March 27. Sub-group indexes remained unchanged with the exception of the food series which recorded a net increase of 0.2 points to 84.4 due to higher prices for oats, and steers. During March the weekly index of Canadian farm product prices stiffened 0.2 points to 78.7 due to strength in both the field and animal product sub-sections. In the field products series higher prices for grains, onions and hay more than counterbalanced lower potato quotations, and the index advanced 0.2 points to 64.4 between February 27 and March 27. Animal products rose a like amount to an index level of 102.7 as the month closed, reflecting higher quotations for livestock as well as minor increases for hides and skins and fluid milk.

**COST OF LIVING:** (Wartime increase 15.0 per cent-from 100.8 to 115.9). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index increased from 115.7 on February 2 to 115.9 on March 2. This index has risen 15.0 per cent between August 1939 and March 1942. The March increase was due entirely to the food index which moved up from 123.1 to 123.7. Small advances occurred for butter, meats and fish, potatoes and bananas, while eggs and lemons declined moderately. Other group indexes remained unchanged, as follows: rents 111.2, fuel and light 112.9, clothing 119.8, home furnishings and services 118.0, and miscellaneous items 107.1.

**SECURITIES:** Dropping to its lowest level since May 1933 the Investors' index for 95 common stocks declined from 63.5 for February 26 to 61.7 on March 12. The month's close at 61.8 on March 26 was only fractionally higher. Largely accounting for the decrease were declines in all sub-groups in the industrial section which lowered the index for this series from 59.4 to 57.0 between February 26 and March 26. The sharpest group losses were noted for foods and allied products, down 8.9 points at 73.4; textiles and clothing, off 4.2 points at 103.0, and beverages 3.7 points lower at 92.7. During the same interval utility stocks stiffened 1.1 points to 68.1 due to a firmer tone for power and traction shares. Bank stocks were off 1.3 points at 89.3. In the mining section lower quotations for both golds and base metal issues moved the composite index for 25 representative mining shares down 5.2 points to 50.5 for March 26, the lowest points touched since 1933. The gold index at 38.3 on March 26 compared with 43.8 a month earlier, while the base metal series declined 4.5 points to 74.7 in March. There was a stronger tone for Dominion of Canada long-term bond yields, an index based on a 15-year 3 p.c. theoretical bond being 0.6 points higher at 99.9 as the month closed.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES  
 (1926=100 for Wholesale Prices)  
 (1935-39=100 for Cost of Living and Security Prices)

	Mar. 1941	Feb. 1942	March, 1942			
			Week ended -			
			5th	12th	19th	26th
<b>WHOLESALE</b>						
Industrial Materials .....	82.3	93.2	93.5	93.7	93.6	93.5
Canadian Farm Products .....	69.1	78.4	78.4	78.6	78.7	78.7
<b>COST OF LIVING</b> - (1st of month) .....	108.2	115.7	-----115.9-----			
Investors' Price Index (95 common stocks) ..	66.8	64.7	63.5	61.7	62.3	61.8
68 Industrials .....	63.1	60.8	59.3	57.2	57.8	57.0
19 Utilities .....	70.7	67.7	67.6	67.1	67.6	68.1
Mining Stock Price Index (25 stocks) .....	75.1	57.5	54.5	52.3	50.7	50.5
22 Golds .....	70.0	45.4	43.2	41.1	38.9	38.3
3 Base Metals .....	84.7	81.5	77.1	74.4	74.2	74.7
Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index .....	100.5	99.3	99.3	99.6	99.6	99.9
<b>FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS</b> - noon rates (Bank of Canada) at Montreal						
U.S. dollars (x) .....	1.105	1.105	1.105	1.105	1.105	1.105
Sterling (x) .....	4.450	4.450	4.450	4.450	4.450	4.450

\* Week ends Friday instead of Thursday (x) Average of daily buying and selling rates set by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board since September 18, 1939.

