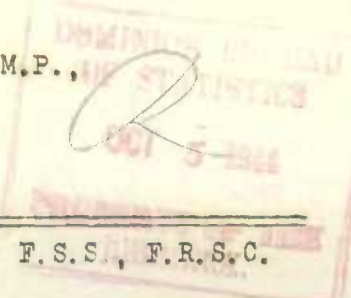


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 PRICES BRANCH



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PRICE MOVEMENTS, SEPTEMBER, 1944 (PRELIMINARY)

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WHOLESALE: Canadian farm product prices displayed a slightly firmer tone in September, after recording minor declines in the previous two months. Between August 25 and September 29, the composite weekly index advanced 0.1 points to 101.0 (1926=100). Strength in field products was responsible, an increase in hay being sufficient to advance the index for this section 0.1 points to 91.0. Animal products recorded no net change, closing the month at 117.7 after touching a peak of 118.7 for the week of the 22nd.

The composite weekly index for 30 industrial materials advanced slightly in September, closing at 99.9 compared with 99.8 a month earlier. Accounting for the increase, thirteen manufacturing materials moved up 0.2 points to 84.6, reflecting an advance in rosin. On the other hand, five foods dipped 0.1 points to 99.3 between August 25 and September 29, due to lower quotations for steers and hogs. There was no change in the stable series which held at 119.9.

COST OF LIVING: (Wartime increase 17.9 p.c.--from 100.8 to 118.8). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined from 118.9 for August 1 to 118.8 for September 1, 1944. Further seasonal declines in prices for potatoes and other fresh vegetables were largely responsible for this fractional decrease. The food index fell from 131.5 in August to 131.2 in September, as lower prices for potatoes, carrots, onions, cabbage, and turnips overbalanced increases in eggs and butter. The homefurnishings and services index, down from 118.5 to 118.4, was the only other group index to show any movement. Decreases in this group occurred in the hardware and furniture sections. Other indexes remained unchanged at the following levels: rentals 111.9, fuel and light 108.7, clothing 121.5, and miscellaneous items 109.0.

SECURITIES: A weaker tone was in evidence on Canadian stock exchanges during September, with trading continuing on an extremely selective basis. Between the weeks ending August 31 and September 28, the Investors' composite index for 95 common stocks eased 1.2 p.c. to 85.7, after recording a mid-month low of 83.8. The index for 69 industrials fell 1.5 p.c. to 80.8 in the same interval, while the index for 18 utilities stiffened 0.2 p.c. to 100.5. Among sub-groups declines were confined to relatively small percentages, led by a drop of 4.5 p.c. for pulp and paper and followed by 3.7 p.c. for banks; 2.3 p.c. for foods and 2.3 p.c. for machinery and equipment. Transportation stocks, textiles and telephone and telegraph were the only groups to move against the trend, the first gaining 2.3 p.c. and the two latter 1.0 p.c. and 0.5 p.c. respectively. In the mining stocks section an easier undertone also was apparent, the composite index for 25 representative issues falling 1.1 p.c. to 84.7 between August 31 and September 28. Gold stocks were down 1.7 p.c. to 77.3, while base metals remained unchanged at 97.9. Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices continued steady as indicated by the yield on a 15-year 3 p.c. theoretical issue which held at 3.00.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES

(1926=100 for Wholesale Prices)

(1935-39=100 for Cost of Living and Security Prices)

	Sept. 1943	Aug. 1944	September, 1944			
			Week ended -			
			7th	14th	21st	28th
WHOLESALE						
Industrial Materials	98.5	99.9	99.8	99.7	100.0	99.9
Canadian Farm Products	97.9	101.2	100.5	100.9	101.4	101.0
COST OF LIVING (1st of Month)	119.4	118.9	----- 118.8 -----			
Foods	133.5	131.5	----- 131.2 -----			
Investors' Price Index(95 com.stocks)...	89.3	86.8	84.9	83.8	85.4	85.7
69 Industrials	83.9	82.3	80.3	79.6	80.9	80.8
18 Utilities	110.3	101.8	98.0	95.6	98.2	100.5
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX(25 stocks)	79.2	85.3	86.2	83.9	84.9	84.7
22 Golds	71.9	78.4	78.9	75.6	77.5	77.3
3 Base Metals	92.4	97.3	99.2	99.3	98.2	97.9
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS						
Yield Index	97.3	97.0	97.0	97.0	97.0	97.0

/ Week ended Friday instead of Thursday.



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