Published by Authority of the HON. JAMES A. MACKINNON, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
PRICES BRANCH

Dominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
Chief, Prices Branch: H.F. Greenway, M.A.

PRICE MOVEMENTS, DECEMBER, 1945. (PRELIMINARY)

WHOLESALE: Canadian farm product prices averaged fractionally higher in December, the composite index gaining 0.2 to 106.4 between the weeks of November 30 and December 28. Field products advanced 0.4 to 94.9, reflecting higher prices for rye, potatoes and onions. A recession in egg quotations produced a drop of 0.2 to 125.4 in animal products, outweighing strength in livestock and poultry.

The index for 30 industrial material prices rose 0.4 points to 99.0 between the weeks of November 30 and December 28. Strength in foods was principally responsible, an index for this series rising 2.4 points to 101.6, supported by firmer quotations for steers and hogs. Thirteen manufacturing materials rose 0.1 to 85.2, due to a higher price for raw cotton, while the stable sub-group composed of 12 price series remained unchanged at 115.1.

COST OF LIVING: (Wartime increase 19.1 p.c.--from 100.8 to 120.1). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index made a further slight gain from 119.9 to 120.1 between November 1 and December 1, 1945. Fractional advances in the indexes for foods, fuel and light, and homefurnishings and services accounted for this change. The food index moved from 134.0 to 134.3 as citrus fruits, fresh vegetables, and butter recorded moderate advances. Fuel and light increased from 106.6 to 107.1, and homefurnishings and services from 119.4 to 119.5. Other budget group indexes were the same as for November, rentals at 112.3, clothing at 122.5, and miscellaneous items at 109.6.

SECURITIES: There was a further increase in prices on Canadian stock exchanges in the final month of 1945. The Investors' weekly index of 100 common stocks advanced 4.2 p.c. to 113.3 between November 29 and December 27. There has been a gain of 30.5 p.c. in this index during the past year. Notable strength was registered in December by pulp and paper issues, up 19.1 p.c. to an index level of 241.5. Transportation shares advanced 13.4 p.c. to 224.4, banks 10.9 p.c. to 112.0, building materials 7.3 p.c. to 141.1, beverages 6.8 p.c. to 305.6, machinery and equipment 6.5 p.c. to 156.1, and power and traction 4.6 p.c. to 115.2. Other groups all recorded small advances with the exception of industrial mines which were down 1.1 p.c. to 97.8. Movements in mining stocks paralleled industrials and utilities, the composite index for 25 representative issues advancing 2.0 p.c. to 109.2 between November 29 and December 27, and 33.0 p.c. over December 28, 1944. Golds moved up 2.3 p.c. to 105.4 during the month while base metals were up 1.2 p.c. to 113.6. Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices registered continued strength as indicated by the yield of a theoretical 15-year 3 p.c. issue which declined from 2.87 on November 28 to 2.83 on December 26.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES

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

	Dec. 1944	Nov. 1945	December, 1945 Week ended - 6th	13th	20th	27th
WHOLESALE /						
Industrial Materials	100.0	98.5	98.8	98.8	98.9	99.0
Canadian Farm Products	103.3	106.1	106.2	106.4	106.1	106.4
COST OF LIVING (1st of month)	118.5	119.9	120.1			
Foods	130.3	134.0	134.3			
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX (100 common stocks)	86.6	107.2	111.9	110.9	111.2	113.3
74 Industrials	80.7	102.0	106.2	104.8	104.5	106.2
18 Utilities	105.4	126.0	134.2	133.4	134.8	136.8
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX (25 stocks)	80.6	105.5	108.5	107.8	106.5	109.2
22 Golds	74.4	102.3	104.0	103.7	102.3	105.4
3 Base Metals	91.6	108.8	114.7	113.1	112.0	113.6
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS						
Yield Index	96.9	93.9	92.8	92.5	91.8	91.8

/ Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.