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 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
 PRICES BRANCH

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, FEBRUARY, 1945 (PRELIMINARY) Historical File Copy

**WHOLESALE:** Canadian farm product price indexes recorded moderate strength in February, rising from a final January level of 104.3 to 104.9 for the week of February 23. Field products moved up 0.3 to 93.9, reflecting higher prices for rye, hay, potatoes and onions. In the animal products section, firmer prices for livestock and eggs were responsible for a gain of 0.9 to 123.2 between January 26 and February 23.

The composite index for 30 industrial material prices advanced 0.1 to 100.1 (1926=100) between the weeks of January 26 and February 2, where it held for the remainder of the month. Strength in food materials was mainly responsible for the advance, the index for this series moving up 0.3 to 99.9 during the month due to higher prices for steers and hogs. Reflecting a fractional increase in raw cotton quotations, the manufacturing materials sub-group index stiffened 0.1 to 84.5 in the third week of February, while the stable series continued unchanged at 120.3 throughout the month.

**COST OF LIVING:** (Wartime increase 17.7 p.c.--100.8 to 118.6). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index remained unchanged at 118.6 between January 2 and February 1, 1945. Increases in the foods and homefurnishings and services sub-groups were balanced by declines in the fuel and light and clothing sections. For foods a gain of 0.4 to 130.6 was due to higher prices for fresh vegetables and certain fruits and meats which outweighed continued weakness in eggs. In the homefurnishings and services section an index increase of 0.1 to 118.4 reflected scattered increases in the furniture and floor coverings sections. Fuel and light recorded a sharp drop to 107.4 from 109.1 due to further rebates in electricity bills coupled with a rate reduction in Toronto. Clothing, the only other group to register a change, eased 0.1 to 121.7 reflecting lower prices for women's wear and piece goods which outweighed strength in footwear. Rentals at an index level of 112.0 and miscellaneous items at 109.2 remained unchanged.

**SECURITIES:** On expanding volume security prices continued buoyant on Canadian stock exchanges during February. Between the weeks of January 25 and February 22 the Investors' index for 100 common stocks advanced from 88.8 to 94.4 for a gain of 6.3 p.c. Utilities were 7.3 p.c. higher at 114.4, while the index for industrials moved up 6.9 p.c. to 88.8. Among sub-group changes transportation issues rose 20.1 p.c. to an index level of 159.8, reflecting substantial strength in C.P.R. following announcement of a dividend declaration of 75 cents per common share. Industrials mines recorded a gain of 14.3 p.c. to touch 82.1, while beverages were up 6.4 p.c. at 135.4; power and traction 4.9 p.c. at 103.5, oils 4.5 p.c. at 78.3, and machinery and equipment 4.1 p.c. at 124.2. Mining stocks, paralleling the rise in industrials and utilities, registered a gain of 5.9 p.c. to 91.8 between January 25 and February 22. Sub-group index changes showed base metals up 5.9 p.c. at 98.4, while the gold series of 22 representative issues closed the month 5.8 p.c. higher at 87.3. The yield on a theoretical Dominion of Canada 15-year 3 p.c. issue remained unchanged until the final week of February when a drop of .01 to 2.97 occurred.

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

	Feb. 1944	Jan. 1945	February, 1945			
			Week ended -			
			1st	8th	15th	22nd
<b>WHOLESALE</b> /						
Industrial Materials .....	99.4	100.2	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1
Canadian Farm Products .....	104.3	104.4	104.5	104.6	104.6	104.9
<b>COST OF LIVING</b> (1st of month) .....	118.9	118.6	----- 118.6 -----			
Foods .....	130.9	130.2	----- 130.6 -----			
<b>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</b> (100 com. stocks)	82.0	89.4	88.8	90.3	92.2	94.4
74 Industrials .....	76.3	83.6	83.7	85.3	86.4	88.8
18 Utilities .....	102.7	107.7	104.0	106.3	111.8	114.4
<b>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</b> (25 stocks) ..	77.5	85.6	89.1	90.4	90.4	91.8
22 Golds .....	71.3	80.5	85.3	86.2	86.5	87.3
3 Base Metals .....	88.6	93.9	94.4	96.4	95.7	98.4
<b>DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS</b>						
Yield Index .....	97.3	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7

/ Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.

