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

WHOLESALE: Higher prices in the animal products group were responsible for a gain of 0.2 to 105.1 (1926=100) in the composite weekly index of Canadian farm products between February 23 and March 30. Animal products moved up 0.6 to 123.8 in this interval reflecting higher quotations for livestock and eggs, while field products remained unchanged at 93.9. Upturns for rye and hay were balanced by weakness in potato and onion prices.

The composite weekly price index for 30 industrial materials advanced 0.2 to 100.3 (1926=100) between February 23 and March 30. The index for five foods moved up 0.5 to 100.4, reflecting higher quotations for steers, which outweighed a small decline in hogs. The stable price series of 12 commodities gained 0.3 to 120.6 following an increase of 25 cents per ton in American bituminous coal, while the manufacturing materials series remained unchanged throughout the month at 84.5.

COST OF LIVING: (Wartime increase 17.8 p.c.—from 100.8 to 118.7). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 118.6 on February 1 to 118.7 on March 1, 1945. Increases in the food group were mainly responsible for this change, although homefurnishings and services also gained fractionally. The fuel and lighting index recorded a minor decrease. The food index advanced from 130.6 to 131.0 as fresh vegetables and some meats moved higher. Food declines were few in number and small in amount; they included eggs, lemons and oranges. Increases in the hardware section produced a rise in homefurnishings and services from 118.4 to 118.5, while further reductions in electricity rates more than offset increases for coal and coke to reduce the fuel and lighting index from 107.4 to 107.3. Rentals continued at 112.0, clothing at 121.7, and miscellaneous items at 109.2.

SECURITIES: Common stocks on Canadian exchanges rose to new five-year peaks in the opening week of March, but subsequently recorded small losses. The Investors' composite weekly index for 100 common stocks (1935-39=100) advanced to 94.7 for the week of March 1, but dropped to 91.8 by the 29th for a net loss of 2.6 p.c. Utilities fell 4.0 p.c. to 109.8, while industrials moved down 2.7 p.c. to 86.4. Substantial declines were noted for transportation issues, off 9.4 p.c. at 144.8 and milling shares 9.3 p.c. at 100.3. Smaller recessions were recorded for beverages 3.9 p.c. lower at 178.1; industrial mines 3.8 p.c. at 79.0; pulp and paper 3.6 p.c. at 148.5, and power and traction 3.2 p.c. at 100.2. Telephone and telegraph shares, up 1.3 p.c. at 105.3 recorded the only gain. Mining stocks, paralleling the change in industrials and utilities, dropped 3.5 p.c. to 88.6 between the weeks of February 22 and March 29. The gold series dipped 4.9 p.c. to 83.0 while base metals were off 0.6 p.c. at 97.8. The yield on a theoretical Dominion of Canada 15-year 3 p.c. issue remained unchanged at 2.97 until March 28 when a drop of .01 to 2.96 occurred.

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

	March 1944	Feb. 1945	March, 1945				
			Week ended -				
			1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
WHOLESALE /							
Industrial Materials	99.6	100.1	100.2	100.3	100.4	100.4	100.3
Canadian Farm Products	104.5	104.6	104.8	105.1	105.0	105.0	105.1
COST OF LIVING (1st of month).....	119.0	118.6	-----	-----	118.7	-----	-----
Foods	131.1	130.6	-----	-----	131.0	-----	-----
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX (100 com.stocks)	81.5	92.0	94.7	94.6	94.4	92.1	91.8
74 Industrials	76.1	87.5	89.3	89.7	89.5	87.0	86.4
18 Utilities	100.4	111.6	113.9	111.6	111.4	108.8	109.8
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX (25 stocks)...	76.0	91.7	94.1	92.4	90.4	87.8	88.6
22 Golds	70.1	87.3	88.9	88.3	85.4	82.1	83.0
3 Base Metals	86.5	98.2	102.4	98.3	98.1	97.3	97.8
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS							
Yield Index	97.3	96.6	96.4	96.4	96.4	96.4	96.0

/ Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.



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TABLE 1

(1964-1965)

Year	1964		1965	
	1964	1965	1964	1965
1964	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1965	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1966	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1968	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1969	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1972	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1973	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1974	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1977	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1978	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1979	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1980	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0