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

WHOLESALE: The composite weekly wholesale index of Canadian farm products rose 0.5 points to 105.6 (1926=100) between the weeks of March 30 and April 27. Animal products recorded a gain of 0.6 to 124.4, reflecting higher prices for livestock which outweighed fractional weakness in eggs. Upturns for grains and potatoes were responsible for an increase of 0.5 to 94.4 in the field products sub-group. Prices for onions and hay were lower.

A composite index for 30 industrial materials moved up 0.3 points to 100.6 between March 30 and April 27. Strength in food materials was mainly responsible for the advance, an index for this series gaining 1.0 to 101.4 on higher prices for steers and hogs. The index for 13 manufacturing materials, reflecting strength in raw cotton quotations, moved up 0.3 to 84.8 between March 30 and April 27, while the stable index, composed of 12 commodities, held unchanged at 120.6.

COST OF LIVING: (Wartime increase 17.8 p.c. - from 100.8 to 118.7). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index remained unchanged on April 2, 1945, at 118.7. There was a reduction in the fuel and light group from 107.3 in March to 106.7 for April, and an increase in clothing from 121.7 to 121.8, but these changes were insufficient to alter the general index. The decline in fuel and light reflected further decreases in electricity rates mainly in Ontario and the Maritime area. The April 2 domestic electricity rate index of 86.7 is substantially below pre-war levels. Scattered price changes in foods were all of a minor character, and left the food group unchanged at 131.0. Other group indexes were also the same as for March, rentals at 112.0, homefurnishings and services at 118.5, and miscellaneous items at 109.2.

SECURITIES: Common stock prices on Canadian exchanges moved to higher levels in April, recovering losses sustained in March. Between March 29 and April 26 the Investors' weekly composite index for 100 issues rose 3.8 p.c. to 95.3 (1935-1939=100). Utilities moved up 4.6 p.c. to 114.9, while 74 industrials gained 3.9 p.c. to 89.8. Among the more substantial sub-group increases were beverages, higher by 14.4 p.c. at 203.8; transportation shares, up 13.3 p.c. at 164.0; milling 7.9 p.c. at 108.2; industrial mines 5.8 p.c. at 83.6 and building material issues 4.7 p.c. at 106.2. One sub-group, pulp and paper stocks, recorded a small decline, dipping 0.9 p.c. to 147.2. Mining shares were stronger also, the composite index for 25 representative issues advancing 2.1 p.c. to 90.5 between March 29 and April 26. Golds led the rise, an index for this series mounting 2.3 p.c. to an index level of 84.9, while base metals moved up 1.9 p.c. to 99.7. The yield on a theoretical Dominion of Canada 15-year 3 p.c. issue remained unchanged in April at 2.96.

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

	April 1944	March 1945	April, 1945			
			Week ended -			
			5th	12th	19th	26th
WHOLESALE /						
Industrial Materials	99.6	100.4	100.4	100.4	100.5	100.6
Canadian Farm Products	104.0	105.1	105.3	105.4	105.2	105.6
COST OF LIVING (1st of month)	119.1	118.7	----- 118.7 -----			
Foods	131.5	131.0	----- 131.0 -----			
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX (100 com. stocks)	79.3	93.2	91.8	93.2	95.1	95.3
74 Industrials	74.1	88.2	86.4	88.1	90.2	89.8
18 Utilities	97.0	110.4	110.2	110.7	112.1	114.9
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX (25 stocks)	78.0	89.8	88.5	90.3	90.4	90.5
22 Golds	70.4	84.7	83.0	85.7	84.6	84.9
3 Base Metals	92.0	97.9	97.4	97.2	100.0	99.7
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG TERM BONDS						
Yield Index	97.3	96.3	96.0	96.0	96.0	96.0

/ Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.

