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PRICE MOVEMENTS, AUGUST, 1945 (PPELIMINARY)

WHOLESALE: The Canadian farm products wholesale price index recorded a sharp drop of 3.1 points to 105.0 between the weeks of July 27 and August 24. This wore than cancelled the advance registered in July. Field products accounted for most of the decline, dropping 4.3 points to 95.3 following substantial seasonal reductions in putatoes, onions and hay. Rye also was considerably lower as the month closed. In the animal products section, continued weakness in livestock outweighed strength in egg prices to lower the index 1.1 points to 121.3.

The composite weekly index for 30 industrial material prices recorded a drop of 0.7 points to 98.8 between July 27 and August 24. A decrease of 2.5 points to 101.1 occurred in the food materials index due to price declines in steers and hogs. The stable series was down 0.5 to 116.5 following lower quotations for imported bituminous coal while the index for 13 manufacturing materials dipped 0.3 to 84.0, reflecting downward moves in rosin and raw cotton quotations.

COST OF LIVING: (Wartime increase 19.5 p.c. -- from 100.8 to 120.5). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced fractionally from 120.3 on July 3 to 120.5 on August 1, 1945. As in the preceding three months, foods accounted for the major part of the increase recorded. Although the prevailing movement in vegetable prices was downward, this was more than offset by substantial gains in egg prices, and small advances for butter and lamb. The food index increased from 135.6 for July to 136.2 for August. Homefurnishings and services at 119.3 and miscellaneous items at 109.5 were 0.1 higher for August, while clothing at 122.1 was down 0.1. Rentals remained at 112.1 and fuel and light held at 106.5.

SECURITIES: The capitulation of Japan failed to produce any immediate major reaction in stock prices. Between July 26 and August 30, the Bureau's weekly index for 100 common stocks registered a gain of 1.0 p.c. to 100.1. The index for 74 industrials was up 1.6 p.c. to 93.9, while 18 utilities weakened 0.8 p.c. to 120.7. Among the more outstanding sub-group changes were beverages, 7.5 p.c. higher at 222.5; pulp and paper, up 4.1 p.c. to 159.3; industrial mines 3.7 p.c. to 87.2, and textiles and clothing 2.8 p.c. to 153.7. Oils and power and traction indexes were each down 1.6 p.c. to 78.3 and 104.0, respectively. The composite index for 25 representative mining issues advanced 1.2 p.c. to 92.8 during August. Golds moved 2.6 p.c. higher to 89.1, while base metals fell 1.7 p.c. to 97.7. Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices were steady as indicated by the yield of a theoretical 15-year 3 p.c. issue which held unchanged at 2.91.

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

	August	July	y	August, 1945			
	1944	1945	Week ended -				
			2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
WHOLESALE /							
Industrial Materials	99.9	99.4	99.4	99.5	98.8	98.8	-
Canadian Farm Products	101.2	107.8	107.7	106.7	105.4	105.0	9-9
COST OF LIVING (1st of month)	118.9	120.3			120.5		
Foods	131.5	135.6			136.2		
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX(100 com. stocks)					99.2		100.1
74 Industrials		93,3	,	92.7	92.8	92.7	93.9
18 Utilities	101.5	125.0	124.0	123.8	120.7	121.7	120.7
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX (25 stocks)		93.1		93.8	94.8	93.5	92.8
22 Golds		88.0	87.8	88.9	91.0	89.7	89.1
3 Base Metals	1	101.1		101.3	99.8	98.6	97.7
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG_TERM BONDS							
Yield Index	97.0	94.6	94.4	94.4	94.4	94.4	94.4

[/] Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.

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