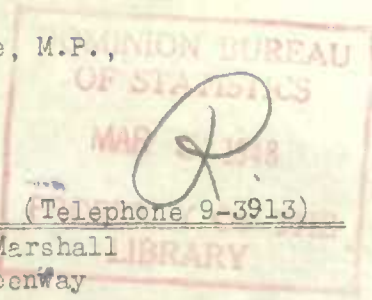


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 PRICES BRANCH



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PRICE MOVEMENTS, FEBRUARY, 1948 (PRELIMINARY)

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index rose from 148.3 on January 2 to 150.1 on February 2, 1948. This increase was equal to the average monthly advance recorded during the preceding twelve months, but slightly less than gains recorded in each of the past two months. More than half of the rise during January was attributable to the food index which mounted from 182.2 to 186.1. Seasonal declines in eggs and citrus fruits were heavily overbalanced by increases for meats, cereal foods, vegetables and other food groups. February 2 meat price averages were down appreciably from levels indicated by a mid-January check-up. Lower prices for U.S. anthracite coal were responsible for the only group index decline, with fuel and light dropping fractionally from 120.4 to 120.1. Other group changes were as follows: clothing up from 161.2 to 165.1, homefurnishings and services from 158.4 to 159.9, and miscellaneous items from 122.6 to 122.8. The rental index remained at 119.9.

From August, 1939 to February 2, 1948, the increase in the Dominion cost-of-living index was 48.9 per cent (from 100.8 to 150.1).

Dominion Cost-of-Living Indexes (1935-39=100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
February 2, 1948	150.1	186.1	119.9	120.1	165.1	159.9	122.8
January 2, 1948	148.3	182.2	119.9	120.4	161.2	158.4	122.6
February 1, 1947	127.8	147.0	113.4	109.1	131.9	130.9	115.5

SECURITIES: The general movement of common stock prices in February was downward. Between the weeks of January 29 and February 26 the Investors' index of 100 common stocks weakened 3.8 points to 102.1 reflecting declines of 4.0 to 96.2 in the industrial section, 2.6 to 109.0 in utilities and 3.5 to 128.8 in the banks group. Mining stocks, on the other hand, supported by strength in gold shares, were steady, the composite index for 30 representative issues holding unchanged at 84.6 on February 26 when compared with January 29. During the same period gold shares rose 3.0 points to 74.5, while base metal issues weakened 6.5 points to 102.9.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39=100

	Week ended -				Monthly Average		
	Feb. 5th	12th	19th	26th	Feb. 1948	Jan. 1948	Feb. 1947
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX							
(100 Common Stocks)	104.3	100.6	101.9	102.1	102.2	107.5	109.4
76 Industrials	98.3	94.2	95.4	96.2	96.0	102.0	102.4
16 Utilities	111.6	109.3	110.6	109.0	110.1	112.9	121.8
8 Banks	130.9	128.4	130.8	128.8	129.7	132.5	133.4
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX							
(30 Stocks)	83.6	81.2	83.9	84.6	83.3	84.8	88.8
25 Golds	70.3	69.0	73.4	74.5	71.8	71.6	75.7
5 Base Metals	109.2	104.1	103.3	102.9	104.9	110.0	113.3
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX ...							
	92.1	92.1	92.1	92.1	92.1	92.1	84.7

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): The sharp break in United States commodity prices dating from February 4, was reflected to some extent on Canadian markets, and the index of Industrial Materials (1926=100) fell from 147.6 for the week ending January 30 to 145.5 for the week ending February 27. Declines occurred in oats, beef hides, raw rubber, raw cotton and gum rosin, although hogs moved slightly higher. In the same period the index for Canadian Farm Products dropped from 133.9 to 132.3, when reductions in grains, potatoes, hay and hides outweighed advances in poultry, hogs, eggs and wool.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Averages		
	Jan. 30th	Feb. 6th	13th	20th	27th	Feb. 1948	Jan. 1948	Feb. 1947
Industrial Materials ...	147.6	147.4	146.9	145.8	145.5	146.4	146.8	119.0
Canadian Farm Products..	133.9	133.1	132.3	132.0	132.3	132.4	133.1	115.4

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