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PRICE MOVEMENTS, APRIL 1950, (PRELIMINARY) *

COST-OF-LIVING:- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 163.7 at March 1st to 164.0 at April 1st. Foods contributed approximately one-half of the increase of 0.3 points, while the fuel and light index gain was next in importance. A rise in the food index from 204.0 to 204.5 was mainly attributable to higher prices for beef, eggs and coffee. Butter prices were down slightly. Higher quotations in Ontario and Quebec for anthracite coal were largely responsible for the rise in the fuel and light index from 136.3 to 138.0. The advance of 0.1 points to 166.4 in the index of homefurnishings and services was due mostly to a slight increase in floor coverings. The miscellaneous index rose from 132.1 to 132.3, reflecting an increase in motor operating costs and drug prices. The clothing index continued to decline, moving from 181.4 to 181.2. Rents were not surveyed at April 1st and the index remained unchanged at 132.7.

From August 1939 to April 1950, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 62.7 percent.

DOMINION COST OF LIVING INDEX (1935-39 = 100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
April 1, 1950	164.0	204.5	132.7	138.0	181.2	166.4	132.3
March 1, 1950	163.7	204.0	132.7	136.3	181.4	166.3	132.1
April 1, 1949	159.3	198.5	122.4	131.0	183.2	168.0	128.4

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY)
(1926 = 100)

The index of Industrial Material prices stood at 156.0 for the week of April 21 as compared with 155.1 for the week of March 31, showing an increase of 0.9 points. During the first three weeks of April, gains were registered for oats, steers, raw rubber, raw cotton, zinc and copper, while sugar, hogs and rosin receded. Other commodities included in the index were steady during the same period. The index of Canadian Farm Product prices at wholesale gained 0.7 points to 148.6 between March 31 and April 23, with Animal Products mounting from 186.7 to 187.7. In this group, advances were made by livestock and raw wool with a 3.5 per cent and 2.6 per cent rise respectively. Milk and eggs moved to lower levels. An increase of 0.6 to 125.3 was recorded by the Field Products due to rising prices in grains and hay, while tobacco and potatoes were lower.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 31st	April 7th	April 14th	April 21st	April 28th	April 1950	Mar. 1950	April 1949
Industrial Materials	155.1	156.0	155.5	156.0	(a)	155.3	154.1	153.9
Canadian Farm Products	147.9	148.0	148.0	148.4	148.6	148.3	147.0	147.3

(a) Not Available - April 1950 average based on three weeks indexes

SECURITIES

Prices on Canadian security markets displayed considerable strength during April. Between the weeks of March 30 and April 27, the Investors' Index for 106 common stocks rose 7.3 points to 126.8. During the same interval, the index for 82 industrials rose 3.7 points to 121.7; 16 utilities 5.3 points to 132.1 and 3 banks 1.3 points to 144.3. Mining stock prices registered moderate firmness. The composite index for 30 representative issues advanced 1.7 points to 93.2 between March 30 and April 23. The index for 5 base metal shares rose 4.9 points to 129.5 in the corresponding period, while 25 gold issues changed from 74.6 to 74.7.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39 = 100

	Week Ended 1950					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 30th	April 6th	April 13th	April 20th	April 27th	April 1930	Mar. 1950	April 1949
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>								
(106 Common Stocks)	119.0	123.3	126.3	127.2	126.8	125.9	118.7	106.4
82 Industrials	113.0	117.7	120.8	121.9	121.7	120.5	112.5	99.8
16 Utilities	126.3	129.6	133.5	133.4	132.1	132.2	126.8	115.7
8 Banks	143.5	144.0	143.9	144.9	144.8	144.4	142.9	132.4
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>								
(30 Stocks)	91.5	92.5	92.8	93.5	93.2	93.0	91.0	86.0
25 Golds	74.6	75.4	76.1	75.4	74.7	75.4	73.9	72.3
5 Base Metals	124.6	125.8	125.3	129.2	129.5	127.5	124.5	112.1
<u>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>								
	90.9	90.9	90.9	90.5	90.5	90.7	90.2	94.4

* Indexes published in this bulletin do not yet include data covering Newfoundland

N.F. Inquiries concerning indexes in this release should be directed to the Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division

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