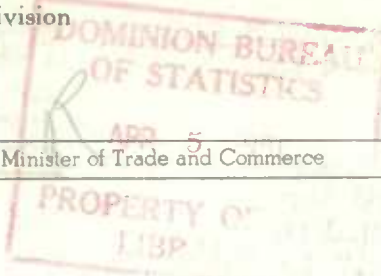




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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MARCH 1951, (PRELIMINARY) *

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX:-
 (1935-1939 = 100)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index rose from 175.2 to 179.7 between February 1st and March 1st, 1951. This increase of 4.5 points was equivalent to an advance of 2.6 per cent. All group indexes moved higher in February, although two-thirds of the total increase was due to higher food prices. The index for foods rose from 224.4 to 233.9, reflecting gains for most items, particularly eggs, butter, beef, pork, cabbage, carrots, shortening and oranges. An increase in the fuel and light index from 141.7 to 146.5 was mainly attributable to higher prices for coal and coke. Further gains in a broad list of clothing and footwear items moved the clothing index from 192.4 to 196.3, while the homefurnishings and services index rose from 185.1 to 188.6, as floor coverings, furnishings, hardware and furniture advanced. The miscellaneous items index rose narrowly from 137.0 to 137.8, due to increases for personal care items, notably haircuts and health costs. Reflecting the results of the March quarterly survey, the rent index moved from 136.4 to 137.6.

From August 1939 to March 1951, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 78.3 per cent.

DOMINION COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES (1935-1939 = 100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
March 1, 1951	179.7	233.9	137.6	146.5	196.3	188.6	137.8
Feb. 1, 1951	175.2	224.4	136.4	141.7	192.4	185.1	137.0
March 1, 1950	163.7	204.0	132.7	136.3	181.4	166.3	132.1

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)
(1935-1939 = 100)

Industrial material prices registered continued firmness in March, the composite index for 30 commodities advancing from 304.0 for the week of February 23rd to 304.6 for March 23rd. Price

increases were recorded for steers, raw wool, rayon yarn, cottonseed oil and sisal. These outweighed decreases for raw rubber, oats, hogs and tin. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets moved moderately higher in March, the composite index standing at 264.7 for the week of March 23rd, compared with 257.3 for February 23rd. Both animal and field products groups moved higher, the index for the former advancing from 336.6 to 348.8 and that for the latter from 178.1 to 180.7. Among commodity increases were: butterfat, rye, raw wool and steers.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 23rd	Mar. 2nd	Mar. 9th	Mar. 16th	Mar. 23rd	(p) Mar. 1951	Feb. 1951	Mar. 1950
Industrial Materials	304.0	305.1	301.8	304.2	304.6	303.9	303.4	221.4
Canadian Farm Products	257.3	257.4	257.6	263.7	264.7	260.9	253.7	226.9

(p) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES
(1935-1939 = 100)

Weakness in common stock prices registered in the latter part of February continued through March, as indicated by a drop in the Investors' composite index from 165.7 for the week of

February 22nd to 160.5 for the week of March 29th. Among group changes 8 banks declined from a level of 160.0 to 145.1, while 16 utilities receded from 162.7 to 155.7, and 82 industrials from 166.9 to 163.1. Mining stocks were easier also, the composite index declining from 105.7 to 97.2 between February 22 and March 29. In the same period the index for 5-base metals dropped from 174.1 to 161.9, while that for 25 golds declined from 75.8 to 68.9.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	Week Ended 1951						Monthly Average		
	Feb. 22nd	Mar. 1st	Mar. 8th	Mar. 15th	Mar. 22nd	Mar. 29th	Mar. 1951	Feb. 1951	Mar. 1950
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>									
(106 Common Stocks).....	165.7	164.3	166.2	159.5	163.8	160.5	162.9	166.5	118.7
82 Industrials.....	166.9	165.5	168.3	161.5	166.8	163.1	165.0	168.0	112.5
16 Utilities.....	162.7	162.4	162.0	155.9	158.3	155.7	158.9	163.2	126.8
8 Banks.....	160.0	157.0	154.0	148.1	146.0	145.1	150.0	158.5	142.9
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>									
(30 Stocks).....	105.7	103.7	103.5	98.1	98.8	97.2	100.3	104.7	91.0
25 Golds.....	75.8	74.2	73.6	70.1	69.3	68.9	71.2	74.3	73.9
5 Base Metals.....	174.1	171.3	171.8	162.1	166.4	161.9	166.7	174.5	124.5
<u>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>									
	98.3	98.0	103.8	105.1	104.8	104.8	104.6	97.7	90.2

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

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

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