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PRICE MOVEMENTS

APRIL 1955

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100) The Consumer Price Index moved from 116.0 to 116.1 between March 1st and April 1st, as small increases in foods and shelter outweighed fractional decreases in other groups. Clothing, household operation, and other commodities and services indexes each declined 0.1 per cent, while the shelter component increased by the same amount and foods advanced 0.3 per cent. The food index moved from 110.7 to 111.0 as higher prices for flour, tea, eggs, fresh fruits, potatoes and chicken proved more important than lower prices for coffee, margarine, most fresh vegetables and pork items. Prices of most items of clothing were unchanged, and a decrease in men's suits largely accounted for the change in the clothing index from 108.0 to 107.9. The household operation index moved from 117.0 to 116.9 under the influence of lower prices for electrical appliances and household supplies. The change in the index of other commodities and services from 118.3 to 118.2 resulted from declines in street car and bus fares, bicycles, and eyeglasses, which were partially offset by slight increases in gasoline and doctors' and dentists' fees. Both the rent and home-ownership components of the shelter index increased 0.1 per cent to advance the shelter index from 128.6 to 128.7.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

| | Total Index | Food | Shelter | Clothing | Household Operation | Other Commodities and Services |
|---------------|-------------|-------|---------|----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| April 1, 1955 | 116.1 | 111.0 | 128.7 | 107.9 | 116.9 | 118.2 |
| March 1, 1955 | 116.0 | 110.7 | 128.6 | 108.0 | 117.0 | 118.3 |
| April 1, 1954 | 115.6 | 110.4 | 125.6 | 109.9 | 118.1 | 117.2 |

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

The price index for thirty industrial materials rose 1.4 per cent during April to 233.2 for the week of the 22nd, as compared to 230.0 for the week of March 25th. Ten of the thirty price series advanced, led by copper, beef hides, steel scrap and western oats, and followed by lesser increases for raw sugar, bleached sulphite pulp, zinc, iron ore, raw rubber and rosin. Sisal, tin and raw cotton were lower over this period.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets registered a net increase of 6.1 per cent during April, as the index moved from 202.9 for March 25th to 215.2 for April 22nd. An exceptional advance in potatoes, influenced by extensive frost damage to United States spring plantings, was the main supporting factor. This was reflected principally in the field products index, which moved from 166.1 for March 25th to 191.7 for April 22nd, for a gain of 15.4 per cent. Among other commodity changes in the field products group, western flax, rye and hay, and eastern oats, rye and hay were higher, while eastern wheat, corn and barley were lower. Animal products, on the other hand, decreased fractionally during the period under review to 238.8 from 239.7. In the animal products group decreases were recorded for calves, butterfat and fluid milk in eastern Canadian markets, and hogs in the west, while eastern lambs, poultry, eggs, cheese milk and raw wool, and western steers and eggs showed strength.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

| | 1955 Week Ended | | | | | Monthly Average | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Mar. 25th | Apr. 1st | Apr. 8th | Apr. 15th | Apr. 22nd | Apr. 1954 | Mar. 1955 | Apr. p 1955 |
| Industrial Materials..... | 230.0 | 231.7 | 231.6 | 233.0 | 233.2 | 223.9 | 229.9 | 232.4 |
| Canadian Farm Products..... | 202.9 | 204.7 | 205.7 | 215.3 | 215.2 | 209.0 | 203.7 | 210.2 |
| Field..... | 166.1 | 167.1 | 172.7 | 192.9 | 191.7 | 157.6 | 166.1 | 181.1 |
| Animal..... | 239.7 | 242.3 | 238.6 | 237.8 | 238.8 | 260.4 | 241.3 | 239.4 |

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SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stocks were considerably stronger in April as they recovered most of the losses sustained in the previous month. Between the weeks of March 31st and April 28th the Investors' index moved up from 210.2 to 217.5, with both industrials and utilities participating in the advance. An index for the former changed from 214.7 to 223.4, and for the latter from 180.7 to 185.4. Bank shares, on the other hand, were fractionally easier, declining from 233.7 to 233.1. Sub-group indexes were all higher, increases principally being in machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, milling, building materials, industrial mines and transportation.

Mining stocks, led by strength in base metal issues, were firmer in April also. The composite index for 27 representative stocks advanced from 106.4 to 110.6 between the weeks of March 31st and April 28th. Over the same period the base metal series changed from 192.1 to 199.4, and that for 22 golds from 68.9 to 71.8.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

| | 1955 Week Ended | | | | | Monthly Average | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | March 31st | April 7th | April 14th | April 21st | April 28th | April 1954 | March 1955 | April 1955 |
| Investors' Price Index | | | | | | | | |
| 99 Common Stocks | 210.2 | 215.1 | 216.5 | 216.9 | 217.5 | 173.6 | 213.7 | 216.5 |
| 78 Industrials..... | 214.7 | 220.3 | 221.9 | 222.4 | 223.4 | 174.7 | 218.0 | 222.0 |
| 14 Utilities..... | 180.7 | 184.7 | 185.7 | 186.5 | 185.4 | 159.5 | 185.2 | 185.6 |
| 7 Banks | 233.7 | 233.2 | 233.6 | 232.0 | 233.1 | 195.4 | 236.5 | 233.0 |
| Mining Stock Price Index | | | | | | | | |
| 27 Stocks..... | 106.4 | 109.3 | 108.9 | 112.1 | 110.6 | 89.3 | 105.7 | 110.2 |
| 22 Golds | 68.9 | 69.7 | 70.4 | 72.5 | 71.8 | 64.8 | 69.0 | 71.1 |
| 5 Base Metals..... | 192.1 | 199.8 | 197.2 | 202.8 | 199.4 | 145.5 | 189.6 | 199.8 |
| Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index¹ | 95.4 | 94.7 | 94.7 | 95.7 | 95.7 | 100.2 | 95.9 | 95.2 |

1. Yield Indexes based on rates as of Wednesday of each week.

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

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