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INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES
DECEMBER, 1931 (PRELIMINARY)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices on the base 1926-100, fell from 70.6 in November to 70.4 in December. 84 quotations were higher, 75 were lower, while 343 remained unchanged.

Vegetable Products dropped from 57.5 to 55.6, losses for wheat, oats, rye, barley, flax, and flour more than offsetting gains for bran, shorts, hay, and potatoes. Animals and Their Products fell from 67.3 to 66.5, lower prices for hides, hogs, lambs, cured meats, and eggs influencing the index more than advances for steers, calves, and butter. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products rose from 71.7 to 71.8, owing chiefly to higher quotations for raw cotton, and silk. Wood, Wood Products and Paper advanced from 76.7 to 77.4, better prices for spruce lumber, and for groundwood and unbleached sulphite pulp, being of sufficient weight to offset declines for pine and hemlock lumber. Iron and Its Products moved upwards from 87.0 to 87.3, on account of price advances for hot rolled and annealed steel sheets, steel tank plates and automobile body plates. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products continued to advance, rising from 63.8 to 66.3, largely because of higher quotations for electrolytic copper, copper sheet, imported copper wire bars, lead, and zinc. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products changed from 86.5 to 88.3, due principally to price increases for imported coal, and kerosene. Chemicals and Allied Products were 85.3 as compared with 84.9 in November, mainly because of higher quotations for dyeing and tanning materials.

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