

JEF

Thursday, 6th December, 1979.

The Gilt Edged market was quietly firm at the opening and this followed the appearance of some buyers after hours on the previous evening. Prices were $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ higher in all sections, although turnover was on a very small scale. This firmer tendency did not, however, last for long and, in spite of better news on the Rhodesia front and the settlement of the miners' strike, some quite substantial sellers appeared, mostly at the long end of the market, and prices by lunchtime had been marked down by as much as $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ in the shorts and $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ in the long-dated issues. No recovery was seen during the afternoon; in fact, prices fell back by a further $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ to close the day looking barely steady, at or around the lowest levels.

The Industrial market opened steady after yesterday's easier tone. Prices, after improving initially, failed to maintain the slightly higher levels, with all sections reacting sharply in later trading to close at the worst levels. Brewery and Insurance shares were dull sectors, while Kaffir issues improved throughout the day on the gold fix price. G.E.C. and Racal both reacted on the disappointing results with other Electrical issues moving lower in sympathy, while Johnson Firth Brown moved higher on their final figures.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 413.9 (down 4.7)

Bank

Sales	NIL
Purchases	£ 1,341,000
Nett Purchases on balance	£ 1,341,000