

Jed

Monday, 17th December, 1979.

The Gilt Edged market was looking very firm at the opening and this was the continuation of the tendency which had been seen after hours last Friday evening, following the announcement of the trade figures, and the initiation of the Government long-dated tap stock at 60¹/₈. A very considerable demand once again built up for this particular issue when the market opened on Monday morning and the authorities were able to sell a not inconsiderable amount at 60⁷/₈. After this initial burst of activity, which led to an improvement in all sections of at least ¹/₈ - ³/₈, the market quietened down and there was little or no interest in the short-dated bonds, which inclined to ease slightly from the opening levels, and in fact most of the early gains at the long end of the market had been lost by lunchtime. Little change was seen during the afternoon and the market closed the day looking barely steady, having lost nearly all the early morning improvement and looking more or less unchanged, or slightly easier, from the opening levels.

The Industrial market opened steady after the week-end Press comment. Prices, however, tended to move lower during the day on small routine selling and, with little or no buying interest, all sections closed at or around the worst levels. Property shares were a particularly dull sector on receding hopes of an early reduction in M.L.R., while Oil, Store and Building issues were also sharply lower. Kaffir shares were again in demand on the gold fix price, while T. W. Ward were marginally ahead on the final figures.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 424.4 (down 6.6)

BANK

Sales	£	271,234,000
Purchases	£	33,584,000
Nett Sales on balance	£	237,650,000