

Wednesday, 19th December, 1979.

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The Gilt Edged market opened the period on a firm note with the initial demand being focussed on the shorter dated issues, which were aided by a market shortage of stock and the possibility of end of year buyers. Some reasonable demand developed for the longer-dated issues in mid-morning and prices hardened by lunchtime to show gains of up to $\frac{1}{2}$ a point. Short-dated issues continued their firm tone though towards the close of business prices were inclined to ease by $\frac{1}{16}$ from the best levels, but still showed gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ a point.

The Industrial market opened cautiously, following the recent easier tone. Prices tended to move slightly lower initially but small buying interest caused most sections to rally in later trading and close marginally higher on balance. Insurance shares were particularly firm awaiting the C.T. Bowring bid, while Banking and Electrical issues were unchanged on balance. Kaffir shares were again in demand on the gold fix price, while Greenall Whitley and British Oxygen both improved on their respective results.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 421.5 (up 0.2)

<u>C.N.D.</u>	Sales	£	4,627,000
	Purchases	£	5,964,000
	Nett Purchases on balance	£	1,337,000

<u>BANK</u>	Sales	£	59,634,000
	Purchases		NIL
	Nett Sales on balance	£	59,634,000