

Thursday, 29th May, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market was steady at the opening; no change in price was seen in the medium and long-dated issues but the short-dated bonds improved by $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ following the reduction in the Federal Reserve discount rate in New York. Business was on a small scale throughout the day and in early trading a few sellers appeared in the medium and long-dated areas of the market, which showed losses of about $\frac{1}{8}$. This fall was, however, short lived and by lunchtime had been regained and the whole market was looking reasonably steady at or around the previous night's closing levels. Short-dated bonds continued to show some improvement during the afternoon and ended the day with rises of $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ while the long-dated issues closed steady but more or less unchanged from the opening. The two recent Government tap stocks were looking slightly weak in view of the fact that further calls were due on both of them during the next fortnight and they closed $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ down on balance.

The Industrial market opened steady. Prices improved during the morning session as some buying was seen for next week's new account. However, this firm trend was not sustained and prices closed around overnight levels. Leading issues were generally better, supported by good final results from Beecham and Courtaulds, which exceeded market expectations. The Oil sector encountered further profit-taking and shares were marked lower although Lasmo were in demand on renewed bid speculation. Stores were generally dull and Mail Order shares were weak on the bearish statement from Freemans. Kaffirs were easier in line with the gold price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 417.5 (up 0.9)

C.N.D.

and

Sales and Purchases

NIL

BANK