

Investors Index Numbers of Common Stocks.—Monthly figures for the investors index numbers of common stocks, computed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the basis 1926 = 100, have been carried back to 1913. The index falls into two parts, *viz.*, the period subsequent to 1926 and the earlier period. For the period 1913 to 1926 those stocks were used which were included in the index number previously issued on the 1913 base, *viz.*, 31 industrials, 10 public utilities and 9 banks, or 50 stocks in all. In the subsequent period the list of stocks included in the monthly index numbers was enlarged and now contains 89 industrial, 23 domestic utilities and 9 bank stocks. Despite the difference in the number of stocks included, the trend of stock prices is adequately shown throughout the whole period. The larger number of stocks included in the revised index number, though adding little to the accuracy of the general index, gives more complete information regarding various groups of stocks traded on Canadian exchanges.

After an uncertain start in the first quarter of 1935, common stock prices moved forward sharply to levels not hitherto touched during the current recovery movement. The first stage of this advance ended in the latter part of May, and was followed by over four months of rather aimless fluctuation, during which time price ranges generally were narrow. Early in October a second rise commenced which carried markets precipitately upward in a sustained movement, which did not lose momentum until the close of the year. The magnitude of these advances may be judged from the following price index numbers, based upon 87 industrial issues: December, 1934, 125.6; May, 1935, 144.4; and December, 1935, 178.2. Utilities failed to share in this rise, the December, 1934, index being 47.5 and that for the following December, 50.1. The behaviour of various groups has differed widely. Transportation and pulp and paper issues, for example, are still at low levels, the former group index being 28.6 for December, and the latter 15.9, despite some improvement during the year. Textiles, at 70.4 for December, averaged lower than the preceding December index of 74.3. Other groups, however, recorded substantial advances, as indicated by the following December, 1934-December, 1935, comparisons: Foods and Allied Products, 130.3 and 148.5; Beverages, 93.6 and 161.0; Iron and Steel, 119.8 and 125.0; Milling, 71.0 and 76.7; and miscellaneous issues, including International Nickel, 166.2 and 294.5. A general index for industrial and utility common stocks mounted from 86.2 in December, 1934, to 107.4 in December, 1935.

Weighted Index Numbers of Mining Stocks.—A weighted index number of mining stocks is computed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the basis 1926 = 100. Mines of a semi-industrial nature, such as International Nickel and Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, do not appear here, but are included in the Bureau's investors index of common industrial and public utility stocks.

In the mining section, gold stocks and base metals behaved quite differently during 1935. The gold group remained comparatively inactive for the first four months of the year, and from then until August lost ground. Subsequent recovery was spasmodic and an index for the group was 116.9 in December, materially below the preceding December level of 124.7. Base metals broke away in March from the inertia which characterized all security markets in the early months of the year. Their advance was interrupted in June and July, but gathered momentum again in the fall months. The December index was 201.7 as compared with 159.2 in May and 129.6 in December, 1934. A composite price index of mining stocks showed a moderate increase for the year, being 124.9 in December, 1934, and 133.6 in December, 1935.