

Monday, 21st April, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market was firm at the opening in all sections and prices, where changed, were $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ higher in the shorts and $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ better in the medium and long-dated issues. Part of this improvement had been seen after hours on the previous Friday and was also due to favourable press comment over the week-end concerning the possibility of lower interest rates both at home and in the U.S.A. The main feature of the morning trading was the exhaustion of the Government short-dated tap stock, Exchequer 3% 1984, which ended its life at a price of $70\frac{1}{2}$. The firmness in the short-dated bonds spread down the list and by lunchtime the whole market was looking firm, about $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ a point up in the long-dated issues. During the afternoon some profit-taking was seen in the short-dated bonds, while the long-dated issues maintained their improvement, so that the whole market closed looking reasonably steady but just below the best levels, showing rises of $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{16}$ in the short-dated bonds and $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ in the long-dated issues.

The Industrial market opened steady following the week-end press comment. Prices tended to improve marginally throughout the day, on renewed buying interest and, with little or no selling, all sections closed at the slightly higher levels. Kaffir shares were easier on the gold fix price, while Banking and Insurance issues held small net gains. Tricentral Oil were a strong feature on North Sea influence, while Lasmo moved sharply ahead on possible bid rumours.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 422.9 (up 0.2)

BANK

Sales	£	86,048,000
Purchases	£	4,734,000
Net Sales on balance	£	81,314,000