

Wednesday, 23rd April, 1980.

The Gilt Edged market was looking reasonably firm at the opening and prices were about $\frac{1}{8}$ higher throughout the list, and this was thought to be mainly due to the sharp improvement on Wall Street which had taken place after hours on the previous evening. This firmer tendency continued throughout the morning with buyers predominating and prices improved further to show gains of about $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{3}{8}$. The market, however, turned slightly easier just before lunch, when it was learnt that the Saudi Arabians had asked us to withdraw our Ambassador as a result of the recent television programme. Part of the early gains were lost and during the early afternoon period prices had fallen to a level only just above the previous night's close. Some encouragement was, however, received by the news that a major American bank had lowered its prime rate from $19\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 19% , and some of the recent losses were regained, so that the market closed the day looking reasonably steady, about $\frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ above the opening levels.

The Industrial market opened slightly higher aided by the sharp overnight advance on Wall Street. Prices, however, failed to maintain the better levels on lack of any sustained follow through, with all sections tending to close only marginally higher on balance. Oil and Banking shares eased after initial strength, while Kaffir issues moved in line with the better gold fix price. Delta Metal, Laporte and Blue Circle were slightly lower on their respective results.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 434.4 (up 0.1)

C.N.D.

Sales	£	4,863,000
Purchases	£	6,783,000
Nett Purchases on balance	£	1,920,000

BANK

Sales	£	21,987,000
Purchases	£	5,041,000
Nett Sales on balance	£	16,946,000