

64  
54  
10  
Thursday, 14th May, 1981.

The Gilt-Edged market opened slightly firmer this morning with all sections showing rises of around  $\frac{1}{8}$ . Business was slow to develop however and as a result prices tended to drift away again so that by lunchtime the market was showing little change from yesterday's 3.30 level. In very quiet conditions in the afternoon short-dated stocks lost a little further ground to close generally marginally down on the day, while longs by contrast improved again to close slightly up on balance.

The Industrial market opened steady. Most sectors improved during the day on selective investment interest and prices closed around the best levels in quiet trading conditions. Leading 'blue-chip' companies were firm with Unilever encountering considerable demand prior to next week's results. Dunlop remained strong on persistent talk of either an overseas bid or the sale of their rubber plantations. Among Financials, Clearing Banks were unchanged while Insurance shares moved higher in active two-way business. Sentiment was helped by the favourable first-quarter profits announcement from Royal Insurance. Electricals were well supported. Racal Electronics hardened following yesterday's statement concerning sales of the latest military radio equipment. United Scientific were sharply better on the encouraging interim figures. Engineers were generally firm although Tube Investments weakened, still reflecting worries about current trading losses. Oil shares made widespread gains, reversing the recent dull performance of the sector. Kaffirs eased in line with the lower bullion price.

Financial Times Index (3.00 p.m.) 557.2 (up 5.9)

C.N.D. Sales and Purchases NIL

BANK Sales £ 12,971,000  
Purchases £ 27,886,000  
Nett Purchases on balance £ 14,915,000