

upon this commission were also seven delegates representing the four Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The purpose of this commission was the investigation in European countries of co-operative agricultural finance, production, distribution and rural life. In addition to this commission, the United States Congress appointed a commission to "co-operate with the American Commission, to investigate and study in European countries co-operative land mortgage banks, co-operative rural credit unions and similar organizations and institutions devoting their attention to the promotion of agriculture and the betterment of rural conditions." The two commissions carried out this work in Europe from May to July, 1913, and after their return presented reports which formed the basis of parliamentary discussions leading to legislation both in the United States and in Canada.¹

In the United States, legislation took shape in the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916. In Canada the Legislative Assemblies of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia passed measures in 1917 empowering the provincial governments to provide money for loans to farmers. The following is a brief description of the provincial laws of Canada that are now operative in respect of rural credit facilities.

Nova Scotia.—The Act for the Encouragement of Settlement on Farm Lands (chapter 10 of 1912) provides that, if any loan company advances to a farmer, on a mortgage of farm land or buildings, an amount not exceeding 80 p.c. of the value of said property, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, after having the property inspected, authorize a guarantee to be made of an amount not exceeding the difference between 40 p.c. of the value of the property and the total amount of the loan, together with interest on the same. If any loan company advances an amount not exceeding 50 p.c. of the value of the property, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may arrange to advance, through the agency of the loan company, an additional amount to bring the loan up to not more than 80 p.c. of the value, but such additional amount shall not exceed \$2,500 on any one loan. Repayments of the principal of the loan are to be applied firstly to the reduction of the guarantee or advance which may have been made by the government. The Lieutenant Governor in Council is empowered to guarantee the bonds of any loan company to the extent of the advances made by it under the Act.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council is further authorized to buy farms and farm equipment for re-sale to settlers, who may make payment by instalments.

The amount guaranteed by the government up to September 30, 1916, was \$47,158.00, and up to September 30, 1917, \$56,439.61. Chapter 11 of the Statutes of 1917 authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make grants, not exceeding \$3,000 in any year, to assist municipalities, societies and persons to buy power machines for

¹See *Agricultural Co-operation and Rural Credit in Europe*, U.S. Senate, 63rd Congress, 1st Session, 4to., Washington, 1913. Report of the Agricultural Credit Commission of the Province of Saskatchewan, 8vo., Regina, 1913. Report of the Alberta Commissioners on the American Commission for the Study of Agricultural Credit, 8vo., Edmonton, 1914.