

view, and when the rural district organizes a supply society and the consumers' society purchases land for the production of grain and live stock, there arises a conflict of interests which can be solved only by the establishment of mutual relations.

The Co-operative Movement in Europe.—In England and Scotland, the co-operative movement is almost entirely a consumers' movement, finding expression in retail stores organized by some 1,300 co-operative societies having an annual turnover of about £200,000,000 and supported by two wholesale societies, employing 40,000 persons and carrying on trade amounting to £82,000,000, manufacturing a hundred different commodities "from cotton cloth to cocoa, from boats to buckets," producing tea in India, oil in West Africa, wheat in Canada, and conducting banking and insurance departments, as well as furnishing general assistance in auditing, stock-taking and building. In Denmark, there is a highly organized producers' co-operative movement, and the present export trade of Denmark in butter, bacon and eggs is largely due to the application of co-operative methods. In Germany, co-operative societies of both types are found, but the special form of co-operation which originated and has had its greatest development in that country has been the co-operative credit societies.

The Commencement of Co-operation in Canada.—In Canada, the co-operative system was adopted first by Nova Scotia miners who had come to Canada after having been members of co-operative societies in Britain. The subsequent history of the consumers' co-operative stores in Canada is one of varying success and failure. Producers' co-operation developed gradually in the marketing of fruit, poultry and eggs in the Eastern Provinces, and somewhat later came agricultural co-operation among the western grain growers on a far greater scale. In the People's Banks (*les Caisses Populaires*) of the province of Quebec is found a striking development of the co-operative credit society.

Legislation.—Legislation respecting co-operation falls into three classes:—laws enabling the formation of co-operative credit associations, laws governing agricultural co-operative associations and laws providing for co-operative societies for the production and distribution of commodities. Legislation of the first class will be considered in connection with co-operative credit. All the provinces have statutes regarding agricultural co-operation in one form or another.

In the Maritime Provinces, consumers' co-operative societies are formed under the provincial Companies Acts or by private Acts. In Ontario, the Companies Act contains a section providing for co-operative associations. Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have special statutes concerning co-operative organizations. In each of these provinces a declaration stating the name and objects of the association is required to be filed with a provincial or municipal officer, and provision is made for protecting the funds of the society.

Efforts have been made at different times to have a Dominion law enacted to provide for the incorporation of co-operative trading and credit associations under the supervision of the Dominion authorities. In 1906 such a bill was introduced in the House of Commons and received support from members of the government. After consideration by a special committee¹, it was passed by the House but was defeated in the Senate during the next session by a vote of 19 to 18. Similar bills were introduced on two subsequent occasions, but the private members responsible for them were unable to make any progress.

¹Canada: Special Committee of the House of Commons respecting Industrial and Co-operative Societies, 1907.