

The annual report of the Co-operation and Markets Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture for 1924-25 lists 304 co-operative associations in Saskatchewan, doing an aggregate distributive business in that year of \$2,759,564. Of this number, 49 operate stores and 38 conduct a car-lot business. Most of these organizations are engaged also in the marketing of farm produce. Saskatchewan is the only province which requires returns regarding co-operative activity to be made to the Government.

Attached to many agricultural co-operative associations in other provinces are departments for the purchase of supplies. The United Farmers' Co-operative Company in Ontario sold to farmers' clubs in 1924-25, 3,000,000 lb. of binder twine, 175,000 rods of wire fencing, 500 tons of coal, besides large quantities of shingles, posts, roofing, rope and cement.

Scattered as they are over a vast territory, the consumers' co-operative societies of Canada have laboured under the disadvantage of lack of communication and absence of opportunity for the discussion of common problems. The desire to effect a saving in buying commodities has been the only motive of most of the members and there has been little knowledge of the principles of co-operation, with consequent failure to observe one or other of the fundamental requisites for the successful operation of co-operative stores. Managers have been drawn from the retail trade and have not always had any real interest in or understanding of the co-operative system. To these reasons may be ascribed many of the failures of co-operative stores in Canada. To remedy this situation, the Co-operative Union of Canada was organized at Hamilton in March, 1909, along the lines of the Co-operative Union of Great Britain, which is an educational body "designed to discover and stimulate, to focus and execute what may be called the spiritual side of the movement."¹

Co-operative Union of Canada.—Five co-operative societies in Nova Scotia and Ontario sent representatives to the meeting in Hamilton and some associations in British Columbia signified their intention of affiliating with the new body. A constitution was adopted in which the objects of the union were declared to be as follows:—

(a) The recognition, by affiliation with the Union, of all *bona-fide* co-operative associations in the Dominion of Canada, in order that the public may be able to distinguish the same from institutions which are now, or may hereafter be organized with a co-operative title for purposes of personal or private advantage or profit, and so avoid the injury which would otherwise be occasioned to the co-operative movement.

(b) The propagation in the Dominion of Canada of co-operative principles as above mentioned, to the end that the practice of truthfulness, justice and economy in production and exchange may be promoted and the conflicting interests of capitalist, worker and purchaser conciliated by an equitable division among them of the fund commonly called "profit" and preventing the waste of labour now caused by unregulated competition.

(c) To cultivate a spirit of mutual service by self-abnegation expressed in the co-operative motto "Each for all and all for each," and to promote by the same means moral, educative and refining enterprises designed for the improvement of the people generally.

¹ Webb, Sidney and Beatrice: *The Consumers' Co-operative Movement*. Longmans, 1921.