

bills providing for co-operative credit societies were introduced by a private member but failed to pass the House of Commons. In 1913 and 1914 similar bills were brought in by the Solicitor-General, but received only a first reading.

During the session of the Dominion Parliament in 1923, the special committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into agricultural conditions recommended that investigation be made into the provincial systems of agricultural credit, and Dr. H. M. Tory, President of the University of Alberta, was authorized by the Minister of Finance to make such a study. In his report of April 4, 1924, he states:—

“There can be no doubt that the establishment in Canada of a short term credit system based on the formation of local associations for co-operative purposes would be much more difficult than in most European countries or even in the United States. The uniformity of the population and the permanency of family relations create in those countries the exact conditions under which co-operative methods flourish. Yet I think that experience has already shown that a sound plan along these lines could be worked out under proper supervision and control. It would be a definite step toward the realization ultimately of financial control and, therefore, independence by the farmers themselves.”

In a supplementary report, Mar. 30, 1925, Dr. Tory adds:—

“I am of the opinion that the development of co-operative organizations is the proper way to proceed and for the following reasons:—

1. It will give the farmer himself the experience which will teach him how to use money advantageously and in a business way.
2. It will, if successful, lead ultimately to financial independence by putting him in relation to a self-supporting institution through which capital can be commanded.

“I am further of the opinion that the organization, supervision and control of this type of credit should be left to the provinces. Dominion supervision would be difficult and expensive.”

### 3.—Producers' Co-operation.

**Agricultural Co-operation.**—In no other branch of co-operative activity in Canada has the business transacted reached such a volume as in the co-operative sale of agricultural produce. In the eastern provinces, co-operative associations for the marketing of fruit, poultry and eggs were gradually organized on a small scale, but with the development of grain-growing in the Prairie Provinces and the co-operative organizations formed to market it, agricultural co-operation became the outstanding form in Canada and of vast importance in the country's business.

*Grain.*—The isolated condition of the western farmer, his remoteness from his markets and the necessity of selling his grain at the proper time, occasioned many abuses, the only remedy for which the grain growers believed to be co-operation among themselves. Farmers' organizations in Manitoba and in the territory later included in Saskatchewan were formed in 1901-1903 for the express purpose of solving the difficulties of the handling and storage of grain and of obtaining effective legislation regulating the grain trade. When the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed in 1905, the Territorial Grain Growers' Association became the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the Farmers' Association of Alberta was organized, to become in 1910, with another farmers' association, the United Farmers of Alberta.

In 1906, the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association organized the Grain Growers' Grain Co. to carry on a commission business in grain and in 1911 a Dominion