

operation and Markets are co-operative stock yards and creameries, co-operative wool growers, and municipal hail insurance.

Co-operative Marketing of Wool.—This commenced in 1914, when seven associations were organized by the Live Stock Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture for the co-operative sale of wool under a system of grading adopted by the Department. In 1915 the Associations had increased to 19, and in 1918 a central organization, the Canadian Wool Growers, Ltd., was formed. The quantity of wool sold through this organization reached its maximum in 1918, when 4,456,448 lb. was sold in this way. In 1924 the wool handled co-operatively was 2,474,367 lb., or about 16 p.c. of the total estimated wool clip of Canada.

Other Co-operative Enterprises.—Details regarding many other producers' co-operative enterprises will be found in the article, "The Co-operative Movement in Canada," published on pp. 704-720 of the 1925 Year Book.

II.—WAGES.

1.—Wage Rates.

Statistics of rates of wages and hours of labour have been collected for recent years by the Dominion Department of Labour and published in a series of bulletins supplementary to the Labour Gazette. Report No. 1 of this series was issued in March, 1921. The records upon which the statistics are based begin in most cases with the year 1901. Index numbers have been calculated to show the general movement of wage rates; 21 classes of labour are covered in this series back to 1901, 4 classes of coal miners back to 1900, and common factory labour, miscellaneous factory trades and lumbering back to 1911. These index numbers are based upon wage rates in 1913.

The accompanying table of index numbers (Table 24) shows the relative changes from year to year. A downward movement appeared in most of the groups in 1921 and 1922, after the peak had been reached in 1920. The index numbers for 1923 and 1924 showed on the whole a slightly upward trend, but while there were slight increases during 1925 in some groups, a substantial decline in coal miners' wages reduced the average. In 1926 slight increases took place in the wages paid by the building, metal and printing trades, electric railways and steam railways; while increases in some coal mines were offset by decreases in others, the average for all six groups was higher.

In the building trades there were many instances of decreases of 10 cents per hour in 1921 and 5 cents per hour in 1922, but during 1923-24, and again in 1925 and 1926, there were some advances. In the metal trades there had been considerable reductions during 1921 and further decreases in 1922, but in 1923 and 1924 wages in these trades showed a slight increase, and very little change in 1925 and 1926. For electric railways the index number averaged lower in both 1921 and 1922, but the wage rates were almost stationary from 1923 to 1925, with increases in 1926. On steam railways, a general cut in wage rates in 1921 was followed in 1922 by decreases for shop employees, maintenance-of-way workers, freight handlers, clerks and miscellaneous classes, but there were no changes for train crews and few changes for telegraphers. At the end of 1922 and early in 1923 there were partial restorations in some cases in the rates for maintenance-of-way employees, freight handlers and clerical employees. In December 1926, conductors, trainmen, and yardmen received increases averaging about 6 p.c.

In coal-mining there were decreases in the Vancouver Island mines each year, although there were slight increases in the summer of 1922 over the preceding