

22.—Statistics of Co-operative Societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada, 1909-26.

Note.—No data for the year 1916.

Years.	Societies.	Members.	Share and Loan Capital.	Reserve Funds.	Stock in Trade.	Other Assets.	Sales.	Net Profits.	Purchase dividends paid.
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1909....	6	1,595	38,460	11,090	53,820	40,882	347,064	-	22,828
1910....	9	2,605	97,965	19,994	123,946	85,572	599,311	26,596	28,235
1911....	12	3,785	143,781	25,070	168,995	102,903	759,292	41,535	47,338
1912....	17	5,000	178,126	31,808	191,122	172,658	1,194,065	88,782	67,256
1913....	17	5,523	166,051	42,495	208,500	183,220	1,424,985	78,399	63,442
1914....	14	5,810	166,307	36,219	181,867	129,022	1,133,051	73,490	63,881
1915....	8	3,239	143,319	21,115	94,672	109,911	657,006	53,270	47,905
1917....	13	4,673	248,253	27,941	205,899	145,732	1,264,247	91,079	82,287
1918....	12	4,746	301,368	38,257	252,921	169,545	1,488,541	123,363	115,969
1919....	15	6,306	360,834	47,463	370,676	205,222	2,132,726	156,870	138,216
1920....	20	7,427	394,471	40,419	368,090	206,625	1,465,253	165,904	157,424
1921....	14	5,919	374,996	39,001	280,968	243,397	1,990,765	154,713	144,512
1922....	12	6,552	450,996	94,781	251,555	285,223	2,166,198	157,321	138,762
1923....	7	4,643	381,656	67,591	232,294	288,847	2,249,350	172,972	140,991
1924....	14	7,047	516,909	94,856	271,713	445,071	2,675,552	212,493	183,986
1925....	16	7,305	512,808	151,791	351,732	484,042	2,792,872	158,140	118,045
1926....	20	7,804	616,431	208,449	426,937	660,930	3,355,162	230,525	165,062

The progress shown by the returns from the societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union does not represent the whole growth of the consumers' co-operative movement in Canada. Although the societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union are among the oldest and best established, there is a larger number of consumers' co-operative societies outside the Union than within it, the great majority of these being in the western provinces. In Saskatchewan, 55 co-operative stores were reported to be operating in 1925-26, an increase of 6 over 1924-25, while many other organizations were carrying on a car-lot business. In other provinces no official reports are available. In 1926, the Manitoba Co-operative League was organized to link up the co-operative societies in the province, and a similar organization was formed in Alberta in 1923. In Saskatchewan an annual conference of representatives of co-operative societies has been held since 1923.

2.—Co-operative Credit in Quebec.

A form of co-operation, which has achieved great success, is that which provides short-term credit for small farmers and industrial workers in the province of Quebec. In 1900, what are known as "Les Caisses Populaires", or People's Banks, were begun with the establishment by the late Alphonse Desjardins of La Caisse Populaire at Lévis. M. Desjardins adopted the principles of lending money only for approved purposes to carefully selected members in a restricted area, of limited liability, of withdrawable shares of small amount payable by instalments and of distribution of profits. These banks are for the most part established in agricultural districts. Loans are made to purchase agricultural implements at cash prices, to increase farm live stock, to improve farm buildings, to tide over a period of depression, to get out of a merchant's debt and for various other similar purposes. The loans, though comprised within the term "short credit", are for longer periods than are usual in ordinary commercial transactions, because agricultural operations necessarily extend over longer periods than those of trade. They may be for 12, 15, or even 24 months, because they must give time for the farmer to realize on his products.