

Section 11.—The Co-operative Movement in Canada.

A general article on "The Co-operative Movement in Canada" appeared at pp. 704-720 of the 1925 edition of the Year Book under the three sub-headings of "Consumers' Co-operation", "Co-operative Credit", and "Producers' Co-operation".¹ Because of the pressure upon space, this article is not reprinted here, but a digest of the latest available material on each of these three subdivisions of co-operation is included.

Subsection 1.—Consumers' Co-operation.

The co-operative store was first introduced into Canada by miners who had had experience of co-operation in Great Britain. The first co-operative store was opened at Stellarton, N.S., in 1861, and continued to do business until 1916. Many similar ventures were afterwards commenced, but a considerable number failed through their neglect to build up an adequate reserve fund. In 1909 the Co-operative Union of Canada was formed, with six affiliated societies and 1,595 members; since October 1909 it has published a monthly, "The Canadian Co-operator," from which the following statistics showing the growth of consumers' co-operation in the societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union have been taken.² (Table 22).

22.—Statistics of Co-operative Societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada, 1909-1927.

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	569,311	36,596	28,235
1911	12	3,788	143,781	25,070	168,895	102,903	789,292	44,535	47,338
1912	17	5,000	178,126	31,806	191,122	172,658	1,194,065	88,782	67,256
1913	17	5,822	166,051	42,498	205,300	183,220	1,424,985	78,399	63,442
1914	14	5,810	166,307	36,219	181,867	129,022	1,133,081	73,490	63,891
1915	8	3,239	143,319	21,118	94,672	109,911	657,006	53,270	47,995
1917	13	4,673	248,253	27,941	205,869	145,732	1,264,247	91,079	82,287
1918	12	4,746	301,368	38,257	252,921	169,545	1,489,541	123,363	115,969
1919	15	6,306	360,834	47,463	370,676	205,222	2,132,736	158,870	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	374,986	39,001	280,968	243,397	1,890,765	154,718	144,512
1922	12	6,552	450,896	94,781	251,855	286,233	2,166,196	157,321	138,762
1923	7	4,646	381,656	97,591	233,294	286,847	2,249,380	172,972	140,991
1924	14	7,047	516,909	94,856	271,713	445,071	2,675,852	212,493	183,986
1925	16	7,308	512,808	151,791	351,732	484,042	2,792,872	158,140	118,945
1926	20	7,804	616,431	208,449	426,937	860,930	3,358,162	230,535	165,062
1927	24	8,914	673,827	225,504	554,101	778,508	4,481,574	283,777	227,733

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 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.

¹ The article referred to above was prepared for the Year Book by Miss Margaret Mackintosh, of the Department of Labour, Ottawa. ² For details regarding the Co-operative Union of Canada and its activities, see the 1925 Year Book, pp. 708-9.