

Subsection I.—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 adequate reserve funds. 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 (Table 25) showing the growth of consumers' co-operation in the societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union have been taken.¹

25.—Statistics of Co-operative Societies Affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada, 1909-1929.

Note.—No data for the year 1916.

Year.	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	19,894	123,946	85,572	569,311	36,596	28,235
1911....	12	3,788	143,781	25,070	163,895	102,903	789,292	44,535	47,358
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	78,389	63,442
1914....	14	5,810	166,307	36,219	181,867	129,022	1,133,081	73,490	63,881
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	205,899	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	94,731	251,355	236,223	2,166,196	157,321	138,762
1923....	7	4,646	381,656	97,591	232,294	286,847	2,249,350	172,972	140,991
1924....	14	7,047	516,909	94,856	271,713	445,071	2,675,852	212,493	163,986
1925....	16	7,308	512,803	151,791	351,782	484,042	2,792,872	158,140	118,945
1926....	20	7,804	616,431	208,449	426,937	660,930	3,358,162	230,535	165,062
1927....	24	8,914	673,827	228,504	554,101	778,508	4,481,574	283,777	227,733
1928....	33	74,836	3,905,813	2,523,646	1,103,323	13,305,918	8,147,967	1,067,581	252,976
1929....	41	10,648 ²	769,755	484,864	663,476	1,006,828	5,030,580	238,302	238,302

² The decrease in membership is accounted for by the dropping of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section, Ltd., and the United Grain Growers, Ltd., the withdrawal of the latter society being also responsible for the decreases in the figures shown in the remaining columns.

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 that province, and a similar organization was formed in Alberta in 1923. In Saskatchewan a conference of representatives of co-operative societies has been held annually since 1923.

The following table shows the number of co-operative societies in the Dominion, provincially arranged by groups, together with their respective memberships:—

¹ For details regarding the Co-operative Union of Canada and its activities, see the 1925 Year Book, pp. 708-9.