

**Agricultural Co-operation in Canada.**<sup>1</sup>—Co-operative organization forms an integral part of the economic fabric of Canadian agriculture and is practised extensively in every province in the Dominion. In size, the co-operatives range from local associations with a limited sphere of operation to large organizations of national importance. The smaller co-operatives generally function in connection with community affairs or in the purchasing of supplies, while the larger co-operatives are generally interested in the distributive trades, processing or purchasing or combining these functions.

The largest co-operatives are found in Western Canada and function in the distribution of farm products. In the Prairie Provinces are large co-operative elevator companies with a total membership of about 150,000, handling a large share of the western wheat crop. These organizations, Manitoba Pool Elevators Ltd., Saskatchewan Pool Elevators Ltd., and Alberta Pool Elevators Ltd., were formerly part of the wheat pool organization but during the past two years have operated independently as co-operative grain handling concerns. These organizations operate on the patronage dividend basis. In addition, the United Grain Growers Ltd., is a joint stock company, operating in the Prairie Provinces and largely owned by farmers.

In the live-stock industry the largest farmer-owned organization is the Canadian Live Stock Co-operative Ltd., with a membership of about 10,000. This company is in affiliation with interests in Eastern Canada and comprises about 324 local associations. The United Farmers' Co-operative Co. Ltd., of Ontario and the Quebec Federated Co-operative are also affiliated for the purpose of marketing live stock.

In the wool trade, co-operative effort is represented by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, with affiliated organizations in eight provinces. This co-operative engages in the storing, grading and marketing of wool and allied products.

There are 113 co-operatives engaged in processing, manufacturing and marketing dairy products in Canada. The largest of these co-operatives is the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries with a membership of 39,000. Manitoba Co-operative Dairies and the Alberta Milk Pool are large organizations in this field each with a membership of over 6,000.

The Canadian Poultry Pool operates largely in Western Canada but has affiliated organizations in Eastern Canada. The Pool has a combined membership of about 26,000.

In addition to the foregoing co-operative organizations many other co-operative organizations are engaged in handling farm products or in co-operative purchasing. Among these may be mentioned the Ontario Farmers' Co-operative Co. Ltd., which operates creameries, handles live stock, field crops and engages in purchasing for its members. In addition there are co-operative organizations throughout Canada engaged in the marketing of fruit, potatoes, honey and other farm products. Space will not permit a thorough canvass of co-operative effort throughout Canada, but this brief outline will serve to show the important place which co-operation occupies in the agricultural industry of Canada.

<sup>1</sup> Prepared under the direction of Dr. T. W. Grindley, Chief of the Agricultural Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.