

Subsection 3.—Agricultural Co-operation in Canada in 1933.*

Co-operative organization forms an integral part of the economic fabric of Canadian agriculture. The activities of the larger organizations such as the wheat pools, live-stock and fruit co-operatives have reached a high stage of development, and have received world-wide recognition. In addition to these are hundreds of comparatively small organizations which are working quietly and effectively to serve local areas.

Available statistics show 687 co-operative associations actively engaged in business in 1933. Approximately 100 community halls which were listed in former reports are not included in this summary of farmers' business organizations. The 687 associations have 2,585 branches which combined make a total of 3,272 places of business engaged in the marketing of farm products and the purchase of supplies for farmers. The shareholders and members financially interested number 342,692 and patrons reported total 373,650. Combined assets total \$104,232,049 with plant and equipment valued at \$37,164,607. The total actual investment of member shareholders in capital stock amounts to \$8,686,504 and reserves and surplus total \$39,560,830. Sales of farm products for the year under review amounted to \$125,126,594. The sales value of supplies handled totalled \$7,318,734, and other receipts \$131,398, which, combined, means a total business of \$132,576,726.

Available records indicate that the most important early activity of farmers in the field of co-operation in Canada was directed toward the marketing of farm products. Such bodies to-day outnumber farmers' purchasing associations by 10 to 1. In comparing the volume of business, marketing associations transact twenty times the business handled by purchasing agencies. Membership in the co-operative marketing associations is given as 292,854 persons compared with 28,266 members in purchasing organizations.

Within the marketing group the grain and seed co-operatives which include the wheat pools of Western Canada have the largest membership and investment, and exceed all other commodity groups in volume of business, which is estimated at \$94,912,237 for the year under review. A membership of 169,475 grain growers contributed to this business through 2,146 co-operative marketing agencies. Mainly through deductions from the selling price of their grain, these members have invested a sum of \$36,186,498 in their business and in addition have paid up \$3,342,929 in share capital. Combined assets total \$88,881,252.

Eighty-two dairy co-operatives with 112 depots in Canada reported a membership of 27,499 with assets valued at \$3,695,217. Paid-up share capital amounts to \$1,674,534 with reserves of \$610,455. Sales of dairy products totalled \$10,126,259 for the year under review.

* Statistics contained in this review are based on records received by the Economics Branch, Department of Agriculture, in 1934, covering the business year of 1933.