

Subsection 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 pay off a merchant, and for various 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.

Details of organization may be found in the Statistical Year Book of Quebec, in the 1936 edition of which may be found statistics of the system as a whole. Complete information of the working of each individual bank, including such details as number of members and depositors, rates of interest paid, loans made and profits realized, classification of size of loans, receipts and expenses and a résumé of chief operations from 1915 to 1935, are published in the report entitled "Co-operative People's Banks and Co-operative Agricultural Societies"

Table 29 shows the progress of these banks by quinquennial years from 1915 to 1930 and annually since then.

29.—Progress of Co-operative People's Banks in Quebec, 1915, 1920, 1925 and 1930-35.

Year.	Banks Reporting.	Members.	Depositors.	Borrowers.	Loans Granted.	Value of Loans Granted.	Profits Realized.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$
1915.....	91	23,614	13,696	6,728	8,983	1,483,160	89,893
1920.....	113	31,752	26,238	9,213	15,390	4,341,544	311,323
1925.....	122	33,279	33,527	9,384	13,682	3,909,790	449,531
1930.....	179	45,767	44,940	14,278	18,857	3,724,537	645,096
1931.....	174	43,641	43,207	13,240	16,203	2,998,046	594,235
1932.....	168	40,933	40,201	12,363	13,283	2,157,886	531,765
1933.....	162	36,470	37,683	10,784	11,407	1,682,551	452,220
1934.....	190	38,811	39,723	11,230	11,295	2,141,762	441,876
1935.....	201 ¹	43,270	43,234	12,049	12,430	2,824,136	473,545

¹ Figures for 1934 have been given in the case of 4 banks.