

**Subsection 3.—Agricultural Co-operation in Canada in 1935.\***

Farmers' co-operative business organizations occupy an important position in the marketing of Canadian agricultural products. 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 effectively to serve local areas.

Available statistics show 781 co-operative associations actively engaged in business in 1935. The 781 associations have 2,485 branches which combined make a total of 3,266 places of business engaged in the marketing of farm products and the purchase of supplies for farmers. The shareholders and members financially interested number 366,885 and patrons reported total 406,321. Combined assets total \$85,751,901 with plant and equipment valued at \$35,289,468. The members equity amounts to \$51,086,691 consisting of paid-up share capital \$8,954,135 and reserves and surplus of \$42,132,556. Sales of farm products for the year under review amounted to \$144,962,609. The sales value of supplies handled totalled \$12,788,192 and other revenue \$414,764, which combined means a total business of \$158,165,565.

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. 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 335,651 persons compared with 30,012 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 \$99,612,837 for the year under review. A membership of 191,635 grain growers contributed to this business through 2,128 co-operative marketing agencies. Mainly through deductions from the selling price of their grain, these members have invested a sum of \$37,836,404 in their business and in addition have paid up \$3,420,345 in share capital. Combined assets total \$67,727,047.

One hundred and thirty-six dairy co-operatives with 142 depots in Canada reported a membership of 33,211 with assets valued at \$4,478,737. Paid-up share capital amounts to \$1,899,715 with reserves of \$868,400. Sales of dairy products totalled \$11,631,338 for the year under review.

The records for 59 live-stock shipping and marketing associations show a combined membership of 35,544. Financing of these associations is mainly by membership fees and commissions. Assets are comparatively low with value of plant and equipment amounting to \$796,632. This accommodated a business of \$8,264,035. The live-stock co-operatives undertake very little processing of their product. Their main activity is the assembling of live stock in cars at producing points for shipment to central markets.

\* Statistics contained in this review are based on records received by the Economics Branch, Department of Agriculture, in 1936, covering the business year of 1935.