

The Co-operative Union of Canada was formed in 1909, with six affiliated societies and 1,595 members. In 1937, 57 societies reported to the Union, their membership being 162,801. The sales of the reporting societies totalled \$13,171,020 and the purchase dividends returned to their members amounted to \$216,187. The classes of co-operative activities covered included retailing, wholesale trading, marketing, dairying, transportation societies, and buying clubs.

Since October, 1909, the Union has published a monthly, *The Canadian Co-operator*, from which these statistics and those in Subsection 1 have been taken.\*

### Subsection 1.—Consumers' Co-operation.

The statistics in Table 29, which cover only those retail societies reporting to the Co-operative Union of Canada, cannot be considered as strictly comparable due to the fact that, should a large society fail to report in any one year (and this has frequently happened in the past), an apparent decrease in the activities of the societies, not in line with actual conditions, would result.

The following notes, covering membership only, will help the reader to judge the real trend of consumers' co-operative activity. The increase of 624 in 1932 was due, in part, to the failure of 2 existing societies to report in 1931, although 3 new societies reported a membership of 583. Of the total increase of 1,354, in 1933, 1,058 was due to the reporting, for the first time, of 4 societies which had been in existence from 2 to 5 years, while one new society reported 57 members. In 1934, the apparent increase of 418 is modified by the fact that it includes 210 members of a society not reported in 1933, while one new society, with 44 members, reported in 1934. In 1935 the situation was complicated, since 6 societies which reported in the previous year failed to do so in 1935, their 1934 membership having totalled 736—on the other hand, 2 previously-existing societies, which did not report in 1934, reported 177 members and 3 new societies reported 525 members; as these two factors almost balance, it would appear that the existing societies increased their membership by nearly 600. In 1936, three new societies reported a membership of 461, while those established societies which reported in both 1935 and 1936 showed an increase in membership of 1,022; in addition, six buying clubs in Quebec and Ontario reported a membership of 739. In 1937, the 38 societies which also reported in 1936 showed an increase in membership of 1,839; five societies which did not report in 1936 had a membership of 1,467, of these, 3 were new organizations with 474 members. Three societies, with 638 members, reported in 1936 but not in 1937.

\* For details regarding the Co-operative Union of Canada and its activities, see the 1925 Year Book, pp. 708-709.

### 29.—Statistics of Retail Co-operative Societies Affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada, 1931-37.

Year.	Societies.	Members.	Share and Loan Capital.	Reserve Funds.	Stock in Trade.	Other Assets.	Sales.	Net Profits.	Purchase Dividends Paid.
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1931....	23	8,122	574,450	449,467	455,986	956,347	2,874,746	185,116	147,175
1932....	27	8,746	536,245	436,184	443,424	829,866	2,631,515	117,895	111,130
1933....	31	10,100	504,623	360,784	443,489	638,138	2,719,212	106,434	80,220
1934....	33	10,518	515,369	370,388	479,574	728,404	3,353,884	117,722	91,784
1935....	34	11,116	573,957	372,732	503,004	877,634	3,876,195	161,113	130,518
1936....	41	13,696	637,012	365,925	585,240	891,053	4,445,339	209,379	163,952
1937....	45	16,364	809,468	415,703	670,296	1,152,963	5,041,328	229,270	182,790