

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 following principles: lending money only for approved purposes to carefully selected members in a restricted area; limited liability; issuing shares of small amount payable by instalments and withdrawable; and 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 the date of organization to 1937, for those banks operating in the latter year, are published in the report entitled "Co-operative People's Banks and Co-operative Agricultural Societies"

Table 30 shows the progress of these banks by quinquennial years from 1915 to 1930 and annually since then.

30.—Progress of Co-operative People's Banks in Quebec, 1915, 1920, 1925, and 1930-37.

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	8,953	1,483,160	39,893
1920.....	113	31,752	26,238	9,213	15,390	4,341,544	311,323
1925.....	123	33,279	33,527	9,384	18,682	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	13,233	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.....	202	43,045	42,856	11,987	12,175	2,803,748	472,543
1936.....	234	49,590	49,796	13,453	13,974	3,370,821	459,601
1937.....	256	57,216	56,493	15,576	17,939	4,310,777	519,714

Subsection 3.—Agricultural Co-operation in Canada in 1937.*

Canadian farmers have been accustomed to the idea of mutual assistance since the days of early settlement as evidenced by barn raisings, beef rings, threshing syndicates, and the exchange of labour for various types of farm work. Isolated groups have been in business for some time but in the past thirty years the number of

* Prepared by W. F. Chown, Division of Economics, Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture.