

34.—Farmers' Co-operative Business Organizations, Crop Years Ended July 31, 1932-40

Year Ended July 31—	Associa-tions	Places of Business	Share-holders or Members	Patrons	Sales of Farm Products	Sales of Supplies	Total Business Including Other Revenue
	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$
1932.....	795	3,501	379,687	417,000	134,611,154	10,665,503	145,303,954
1933.....	686	3,057	342,369	376,000	106,804,186	8,779,115	115,849,894
1934.....	690	3,223	345,024	379,740	128,909,035	7,389,034	136,411,483
1935.....	697	3,301	341,020	378,730	117,783,560	7,991,755	126,064,891
1936.....	781	3,186	366,885	406,321	144,962,609	12,788,192	158,165,565
1937.....	1,024	3,987	396,918	451,231	157,031,405	16,363,966	173,927,117
1938.....	1,217	4,125	435,529	462,937	134,493,746	20,091,893	155,080,435
1939.....	1,332	3,791	445,742	486,589	180,747,471	20,400,008	201,659,984
1940.....	1,151	3,657	450,453	462,296	214,293,359	21,129,822	236,322,466

An important function of co-operative organization is the competitive regulation of other business agencies with respect to standards of quality, merchandising methods and excessive profit. In so doing the co-operatives have assisted all farmers indirectly. The dollar and cents value of co-operative organization to farmers is difficult if not impossible to measure for other business soon adjusts its methods and sales policies to meet a new competitor and as the years go by the direct benefits which the co-operative won for its patrons are lost sight of. Nevertheless the existence of the co-operative is a safeguard for the farmer and has exercised a regulatory influence on the activities of outside agencies.

Business Operations.—Co-operatives in Canada have improved their position during the past nine years from the standpoint of membership and volume of business (Table 34). The decline in value of sales to the low point in 1933 and the subsequent rise was due largely to the changing level of prices although growth of co-operative business was also a factor.

In order to increase effectiveness, sales agencies have been formed on a regional basis or on a Dominion-wide commodity basis, as the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, Limited, and the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association. Wholesale societies are also operating in most of the provinces, consolidating the buying power of the local associations and augmenting the benefits to be obtained from quantity buying. The United Farmers of Ontario, Limited, and the Co-operative Fédérée de Québec combine the functions of sales agency and wholesale buying agency for their affiliated local associations.

Fruits, vegetables, grain, seed, eggs, poultry, wool, and furs are usually graded and otherwise prepared for market before being offered for sale. Elevators, stock-yards, common and cold-storage warehouses, and chick hatcheries are owned and operated co-operatively. Butter and cheese are manufactured, chicken and apple products are canned, commercial feeds and spray materials are prepared in co-operative plants. The First Co-operative Packers of Ontario, Limited, process hogs into bacon and other pork products. The Consumers' Refineries Co-operative Association, Limited, Regina, refine crude oil into gasoline, distillate, and other petroleum products.