

may also purchase a large proportion of his farm supplies and household necessities from a co-operative store. For tractor fuel and gasoline he may go to his nearest co-operative oil station. This duplication must be kept in mind in interpreting the total co-operative membership figures for Canada of approximately 450,000. A useful measure of co-operative activity on a regional basis is obtained by dividing the total amount of co-operative business for an area by the number of farms that it contains as reported in the latest census. On this basis Saskatchewan leads all provinces in the extent of co-operative business. During the past nine years farm products marketed co-operatively in Saskatchewan have averaged \$355 per occupied farm. Alberta ranks second with \$297 and British Columbia stands in third place with \$294 of co-operative business per farm. The average for all of Canada during the ten years 1931 to 1940 was \$202 per farm.

37.—Financial Structure of Farmers' Co-operative Business Organizations, by Provinces, Crop Year Ended July 31, 1940¹

Province	Total Assets	Value of Plant	General Liabilities	Paid-up Share Capital	Reserves and Surplus
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island.....	69,114	33,674	20,266	26,390	22,458
Nova Scotia.....	2,068,921	668,170	1,175,053	451,976	441,892
New Brunswick.....	348,765	98,781	183,829	66,512	98,424
Quebec.....	7,703,540	3,223,949	4,523,851	1,065,499	2,114,190
Ontario.....	3,978,758	1,469,810	1,746,161	1,104,158	1,128,439
Manitoba.....	5,859,304	3,045,979	3,176,086	376,880	2,306,338
Saskatchewan.....	46,540,099	15,378,668	22,154,485	1,398,658	22,986,956
Alberta.....	18,831,535	6,298,270	6,918,591	506,773	11,406,171
British Columbia.....	5,797,752	1,823,721	2,771,812	1,849,674	1,176,266
Interprovincial.....	11,487,321	6,224,033	5,754,560	3,308,701	2,424,060
Totals.....	102,685,109	38,265,055	48,424,694	10,155,221	44,105,194

¹ Not including co-operative insurance companies, credit societies, telephone co-operatives, and farmers' institutes.

The grain growers are the most completely organized of the commodity co-operative marketing groups. Approximately 43 p.c. of the grain received at country elevators in Canada during the crop year 1939 was handled by co-operative agencies. Co-operative dairies and processing plants accounted for 12 p.c. of the total output of dairy products and fruit and vegetable co-operatives handled approximately 19 p.c. of the total fruit and potatoes sold in Canada and exported for sale overseas. Co-operatives handling live stock and live-stock products have been less successful in their development. In 1939 they accounted for approximately 10 p.c. of the total marketings. All marketing co-operatives handled approximately 26 p.c. of the main farm products entering commercial channels of trade.

Purchasing.—Many associations formed primarily for marketing have found it possible to render an additional service to their members by utilizing the buying power already mobilized for the purpose of purchasing supplies needed on the farm. For example, fruit-marketing associations may buy fertilizer, spray material, barrels, boxes, flour and feed, and general merchandise for their fruit-growing members. A number of associations have been formed primarily for the purpose of buying supplies, usually bulk commodities, and some are operating stores carrying a full line of general merchandise. Over half of this type operate in the Prairie Provinces and the principal commodities handled are gasoline, tractor fuel and