

and thus naturally organized themselves into clubs or societies. Even before the 19th century there is evidence of the existence of such clubs in Maritime Canada. These associations were encouraged by the governments and became quite numerous in the middle of the century but no attempt was ever made at federation or central organization.

Mention may be made here of the Dominion Grange, a Canadian farmers' organization, which was organized under a Federal charter in 1877. It established quite a number of co-operative enterprises in Ontario and Manitoba, none of which was conspicuously successful. Some time later another farmers' organization, the Patrons of Industry, was organized in Canada. This group made attempts at co-operative organization which also failed and by 1900 the Patrons had disappeared.

After Confederation in 1867, settlers who went west opened up the vast wheat-growing area in what is now the three prairie provinces. Several organizations of grain growers appeared and finally, in 1906, the Grain Growers Grain Company was organized to handle wheat and grain on a co-operative basis. This was followed by the organization of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company in 1910 and the Alberta Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company in 1913.

In other parts of Canada, organization along provincial lines was evident in the formation of the United Farmers Co-operative Company Limited, in Ontario, in 1914 and the Co-opérative Fédérée de Québec in 1922. In the fruit-growing areas of the Dominion, the United Fruit Companies of Nova Scotia appeared in 1912 and the Okanagan United Growers of British Columbia in 1913.

The United Grain Growers Limited is an example of further expansion into the field of interprovincial organization. This company resulted from the amalgamation of the Grain Growers Grain Company and the Alberta Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company in 1917.

In 1918, the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited was formed with branches in all provinces and has proved successful as an organization on a national basis.

There is evidence of co-operation in industrial areas of Nova Scotia in 1861 when a co-operative store was opened at Stellarton by coal miners. Ten other stores were opened in that province prior to 1900 but only one survived beyond that date. The first consumers' co-operative store on record in Ontario was opened at Guelph in 1904 but ceased operations in 1927. Other provinces provide examples of the organization of urban consumers into buying groups and western farmers used their marketing societies as a basis for group purchasing of farm supplies and general merchandise.

There is no Dominion Act providing for the incorporation of co-operative associations. In 1908, an Act respecting Industrial and Co-operative Societies passed the House of Commons but was defeated in the Senate. However, associations can incorporate under the Companies Act. They are organized as joint stock companies and their co-operative nature is set out in the by-laws. Some co-operative companies in Canada are incorporated by special Acts of the Dominion Parliament.

In May, 1939, the Dominion Parliament provided assistance and encouragement to the co-operative marketing of agricultural products in the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act, 1939. The main purpose of the Act is to make it possible for an organization of producers operating on a co-operative plan