

to finance its producers through the marketing period. This is accomplished through a Dominion guarantee against loss on an initial payment to producers, the amount of which is agreed to by the co-operative association and the Dominion Government. The Act applies to practically all farm production except wheat for which a special Act was provided entitled the Wheat Co-operative Marketing Act, 1939.

The first co-operative legislation in Canada was passed by the Provincial Legislature of Manitoba in June, 1887. Early efforts in most other provinces concerning incorporation of co-operative associations were made under the Companies Acts or by securing passage of a special Act of the Provincial Government. At present every province has in its statutes legislation governing the incorporation of agricultural co-operative associations and co-operative societies for the production and distribution of commodities.

Separate legislation for co-operatives is to be found in every province except Ontario and Manitoba. Co-operatives in Ontario incorporate under Part XII of the Companies Act, by an amendment added in April, 1917. Similarly, Manitoba societies incorporate under Part VII of the Companies Act (R.S.M., 1940).

Saskatchewan and Alberta each have two Acts concerning co-operatives—one for farmers' marketing associations and one for all other types. Quebec has somewhat similar facilities except that credit unions and co-operative stores incorporate under the same Act, whereas in other provinces credit unions are incorporated under a special credit union Act.

In every Act, except those of Ontario and British Columbia, provision is made for the appointment of a supervisor of the associations that incorporate under the Act. The agricultural societies in Quebec report to the Department of Agriculture and this Department is quite active in directing and guiding the rural co-operatives in the Province. Ontario has a Co-operation and Markets Branch in the Department of Agriculture which looks after the farmers' co-operatives. Official supervision and regulation in these three provinces is, however, vested in the Registrar of Companies or the Provincial Secretary.

Recent Trends.—During the past two decades, co-operative activity in Canada has passed through a period of rapid success and great enthusiasm followed by reverses and declining interest. Some of the associations passed from the picture during the latter period but the great majority, profiting from adversity, strengthened their foundations and provided for further expansion. At present there is evidence of new progress which derives its vigour partly from the experiences, power and vision of the great western farmers' organizations and partly from the movement of education that has sprung up in the east. This movement began about 1930 among the farmers, fishermen and miners of eastern Nova Scotia under the auspices of the Extension Department of St. Francis Xavier University at Antigonish, N.S. The first directed effort was towards the organization of small study groups which discussed the pressing economic problems of the community. From these discussions came the establishment of credit unions, co-operative buying clubs, consumers' co-operative stores and wholesales, poultry pools, and renewed interest in egg circles and live-stock shipping clubs everywhere in the Maritime Provinces.