

houses organized by farmers. A recent interesting development in the Prairie Provinces has been the organization of Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited, to sell and distribute farm machinery.

For the crop year ended July 31, 1941, 1,395 associations owned and operated by farmers in a co-operative manner reported on their business. Of this number, 699 with 376,405 members were engaged in marketing farm products and 696 associations with 75,280 members were organized for the purchasing of farm supplies.

In 1940-41 the marketing associations did almost ten times as much business as the purchasing organizations. The sales value of farm products marketed co-operatively amounted to \$214,425,733, which was a slight increase over the previous year. The increase was most marked in dairy, fruit, live-stock and poultry co-operatives. Grain and tobacco co-operatives showed a decrease in sales as a result of heavy carryovers and disturbed marketing conditions. The ratio of net worth to total assets of the grain co-operatives in Canada was adversely affected by the heavy borrowings made to finance the great increase in inventory stocks. Similar ratios for other commodity groups showed an improvement but the influence of the grain co-operatives lowered the total ratio to 35.1 p.c. as compared with 52.2 p.c. for 1939-40.

Total co-operative membership in Canada is given in the following tables as 451,685 but the possibility of duplication must be kept in mind. Thus, in many communities a farmer may be a member of more than one co-operative association. He may sell his cattle and hogs through a live-stock shipping association, his grain to a co-operative elevator and his poultry and poultry products to an association formed to market such commodities. Another measure of co-operative activity in the marketing of Canadian farm products can be obtained by dividing the total sales value of these products by the number of occupied farms. In the crop year 1940-41, co-operative sales per farm in Canada averaged \$295. On the same basis Saskatchewan was the leading province with \$515 worth of farm products marketed co-operatively. Over the period 1931-41 the average value per farm of products marketed through co-operatives was \$211.

In 1940-41, farm co-operatives handled approximately 31 p.c. of the total value of the commercial production of Canadian farms. The grain growers are the most highly organized of producers in the various commodity groups. Nearly 44 p.c. of all grain delivered at country elevators was handled through co-operatives. Organizations of live-stock producers handled 20 p.c. of the total marketings of cattle, hogs and sheep and lambs. Co-operatives marketing honey accounted for 28 p.c. of the commercial production. These co-operatives are of recent origin and have been singularly successful.

Farmers have used their organization as producers to pool their buying power. Consequently many co-operatives, set up originally to market the produce of the farms are now supplying members with supplies needed on the farm and in the household. Associations for that purpose only have also developed. In Saskatchewan there are about 400 such groups. Main commodities handled are binder twine, gasoline and oil, and coal and wood. Sales of supplies and general merchandise in 1940-41 amounted to \$25,922,374, which is an increase of almost 20 p.c. over the previous season. It is estimated that co-operative purchasing groups account for about 3½ p.c. of the sales of farm merchandise and supplies made by retail stores in the rural areas and towns with a population of less than 10,000.