

Due to the light grain crop in Western Canada in 1941 and restricted marketings, sales of grain by the grain co-operatives amounted to \$87,000,000 for the year ended July 31, 1942, in comparison with a total of \$139,000,000 for the previous year. The drop was more than offset by increases in the volume of marketings of dairy products, live stock, fruits and vegetables and poultry. Sales of this group of products increased from \$65,000,000 in 1941 to \$102,000,000 in 1942, or an increase of 57 p.c.

Some Canadian farmers market the entire output of their farms on the co-operative plan. A farmer may deliver his grain to a co-operative elevator, live stock to a live-stock shipping association and milk to a co-operative dairy. He may also purchase a large proportion of his farm supplies and household necessities from a co-operative store; for tractor fuel and gasoline he goes to his nearest co-operative oil station. This duplication must be kept in mind in interpreting the total co-operative membership figure of approximately 500,000 for Canada. 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 which it contains as reported in the latest census. On this basis for the crop year 1941-42 British Columbia led the provinces with average marketings per farm of \$491, Manitoba was second with \$462, Alberta third with \$331, and Saskatchewan fourth with \$322. The average per farm for Canada as a whole was \$293. During the past eleven years, farm products marketed co-operatively in Saskatchewan have averaged \$361 annually per occupied farm. British Columbia ranked second with \$310, Alberta was third with \$302, and Manitoba stood in fourth place with \$242 of co-operative business per farm. The annual average per farm for all of Canada during the eleven years 1931 to 1942 was \$217.

The grain growers are the most completely organized of the commodity co-operative marketing groups. Approximately 40 p.c. of the grain received at country elevators in Canada during the crop year 1941 was handled by co-operative agencies. Co-operative dairies and processing plants accounted for 25 p.c. of the total output of dairy products, and fruit and vegetable co-operatives handled approximately 26 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 accounted for approximately 25 p.c. of the total marketings. All marketing co-operatives handled approximately 32 p.c. of the main farm products entering commercial channels of trade.

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 organized for the purpose of buying supplies, usually bulk commodities, and some are operating stores carrying a full line of general merchandise.

Out of the 1,722 co-operative associations reporting in 1942, a total of 558 handled food products to the value of \$9,000,000 and 180 associations handled nearly \$1,500,000 of clothing and home furnishings for their members and patrons. These associations included the business of approximately 250 urban consumer societies. Petroleum products handled by 561 associations were valued at \$7,000,000. In order to increase crop and live-stock production, farmers of 834 associations purchased \$16,000,000 of feed, fertilizer and spray material on a co-operative basis.