

Section 7.—Co-operation in Canada*

An outline of the growth of co-operative activity in Canada and of the legislation passed in connection therewith, is given at pp. 543-545 of the 1942 Year Book.

Subsection 1.—Trends in the Field of Co-operation in 1944

During 1944, reports were received from 1,792 active co-operative business organizations engaged in marketing produce or buying supplies for their members not including fishermen's co-operatives or service co-operatives. Of these associations, 949 marketed farm products and 1,271 purchased supplies for their members or operated co-operative stores. The larger number of co-operatives purchasing supplies is explained by the fact that associations organized primarily to market produce may purchase supplies as well, and also by the fact that one association may buy several of the types of merchandise used in this analysis. Duplication because of these factors amounts to 430.

Shareholders and members numbered 690,967 and the total number of patrons, including members and non-members, was estimated to be 719,080. Total assets, after provision for bad debts and depreciation amounted to \$203,047,911 of which the book value of plant and equipment was \$40,664,827. The members' equity amounted to \$72,491,538 consisting of paid-up share capital \$15,608,150 and reserves and surplus of \$56,883,388. This was an increase in members' equity of \$10,120,784 over 1943. From 1943 to 1944 total working capital increased from \$25,503,893 to \$31,826,711. The relation of net worth to total assets increased slightly from 33.4 p.c. in 1943 to 35.7 p.c. in 1944.

Sales of farm products amounted to \$459,798,798, sales of supplies and merchandise \$65,508,771 and other revenue \$2,547,971, a total business of \$527,885,540. The increase reported in total business over the previous year amounted to \$175,069,942 which is nearly 50 p.c.

Marketing.—The value of farm products marketed increased from 1943 to 1944 by \$164,000,000; the increase in grain and seed alone amounted to \$130,000,000 leaving an increase of \$34,000,000 in all other commodities.

The carryover of grain at July 31, 1943, had reached the highest point in Canada's history. On Sept. 27, 1943, the Dominion Government raised the fixed initial price for wheat from 90 cents to \$1.25 per bu. Deliveries of grain to country elevators and loadings over platforms in the Prairie Provinces were 83,000,000 bu. more during the crop year 1943-44 than during the previous year. On the other hand, sales increased to such an extent that the carryover was greatly reduced at July 31, 1944. The co-operatives participated in this increased business at higher values which accounts for the increase of \$130,000,000 in the value of grain and seeds marketed.

The value of live stock, dairy products, poultry, eggs and wool marketed increased by \$32,000,000 or 27 p.c. in 1943-44 over the previous year. The greatest increase was in the sale of live stock while the highest rate of increase was in poultry and eggs. For Canada, the factory value of dairy products and farmers' cash income from the other products in this group increased by only 14 p.c.

For fruits, vegetables, honey, maple products and tobacco, the increase reported in co-operative marketings was \$663,000, or less than 2 p.c., whereas cash income from these crops increased by 12 p.c.

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