

Fishermen's Co-operatives.—In addition to the co-operative business summarized in the tables of this report, there were 83 co-operatives with a membership of 10,826 mainly engaged in the marketing of fish during 1946-47 as compared with 87 in 1945-46 with a membership of 11,575. The value of fish marketed by these groups was \$10,558,912; fishermen's gear and bait as well as consumer goods such as groceries, dry goods and clothing with a sales value of \$1,515,276 in 1946-47 were also handled. The corresponding figures for 1945-46 were \$10,720,331 and \$1,392,101, respectively.

Credit Unions.—Statistics for credit unions are given in the Currency and Banking chapter at pp. 1047-1051.

Miscellaneous and Service Type Co-operatives.—During 1946 there were 2,354 co-operative telephone systems in Canada with a total investment of \$22,600,000 and 117,656 connected instruments, as compared with 2,368 systems, investment of \$21,200,000 and 99,851 telephones in 1945. Other services provided co-operatively include housing, board and room, transportation, fire and life insurance, funeral services, electricity, machinery and electrical repairs, medical services and hospitalization. Increased interest in the latter has led to the organization of a score or more co-operative medical services in Ontario alone and these have recently organized themselves into the Co-operative Medical Services Federation.

Section 6.—Food Consumption

Consumption of Major Foods.—A study of consumption of the major foods was undertaken during the war years by the Agricultural Division of the Bureau of Statistics in recognition of the national and international significance of such information. While data on total consumption of certain commodities such as wheat, alcoholic beverages, meats, etc., have been available for a considerable period, it was found necessary to establish a per capita level of consumption of a wide range of products on a comparable basis.

The study has been continued during the post-war years but, whereas the comparison during war years was between peacetime and wartime levels of consumption, the comparison is now made between pre-war and post-war levels.

The series in Table 34 represents the official estimates of yearly supplies of food moving into consumption, expressed in pounds per capita, for the years 1935-39 as an average for comparison with the post-war years 1946 and 1947 (the estimates for 1947 are subject to revision).

The figures represent available supplies including production and imports, adjusted for change of stocks, exports, marketing losses and industrial uses. All calculations have been made at the retail stage of distribution, except meats for which the figures are worked out at the wholesale stage. The amounts of food actually eaten would be somewhat lower than indicated because of losses and waste occurring after the products reached the hands of the consumer. It should also be pointed out that there are minor discrepancies in certain of the figures since storage stocks in the hands of retailers and consumers were not available. In the main, however, the figures represent the best summary of food consumption data that has been compiled for Canada.