

number of associations reporting; a rise in the prices for dairy products; and an increase in the numbers and prices of hogs marketed co-operatively. One new co-operative seed plant with a substantial volume was in operation for the first time during the year 1947-48.

Merchandising.—The reported sales volume of supplies and merchandise purchased by co-operatives for members and patrons amounted to \$157,874,045 in 1947-48 compared to \$127,001,488 in 1946-47—an increase of almost 24 p.c. The largest increase was noted in co-operatives handling food products, clothing, home furnishings and petroleum products. Farm machinery sales through co-operatives more than tripled. Feeds and fertilizer, the most important goods handled in terms of volume, increased in sales by approximately 25 p.c.

All provinces shared in the general increase in sales of merchandise with Quebec reporting an increase of about \$15,000,000. This, however, was the result of better coverage in that Province when over 100 purchasing co-operatives reported for the first time.

Wholesaling.—Every province, except Prince Edward Island, now has a provincial or regional wholesale that supplies the local co-operatives with farm requirements and consumer goods. These wholesales are federations of locals and are themselves federated into Interprovincial Co-operatives, Limited. In addition, seven are regional members of National Co-operatives, Incorporated, in the United States from which they obtain durable consumer and production goods such as washing-machines, radios, refrigerators, milking-machines, electric fences, batteries, tractor and automobile tires and other automotive accessories. Through Interprovincial Co-operatives, Limited, the provincial wholesales can obtain under a "Co-op" label salmon, jams, flour and other commodities such as twine, roofing, etc.

Ten co-operative wholesales reported for the year 1947-48. They served 1,650 member associations and reported total assets of \$17,395,214. Plant value, less allowance for depreciation, was \$3,941,515 and members' equity totalled \$7,683,100. Liabilities to members was only \$1,600,000 compared with liabilities to the public of \$9,712,114.

Total sales of merchandise during 1947-48 amounted to \$42,096,580 while the value of sales of farm products was \$52,316,972. The main product marketed was live stock with a sales value of \$26,301,943. The major items supplied to members by the wholesales were feeds and fertilizer, valued at approximately \$21,670,733. It is significant that while local co-operative retail stores reported sales of over \$37,000,000 in food products only \$3,700,000, or about 10 p.c., was supplied by the co-operative wholesales.

Retailing.—Total sales volume of co-operative retail stores (including branches) in Canada for the year 1947-48 was reported as \$74,687,177. Approximately 50 p.c. was accounted for by sales of food products while sales of feed and fertilizer ranked second in volume with sales of \$13,642,648. The number of stores reporting was 631, exclusive of branch outlets.

Sales of petroleum products through co-operatives amounted to \$7,879,409 and were made mainly in the three Prairie Provinces. Alberta alone reported sales of over \$3,000,000.

Miscellaneous and Service Type Co-operatives.—Reports were received from 68 service co-operatives and covered co-operative activity in transportation, medical services, automobile and electrical repairs, restaurants, boarding-houses,