

## Section 5.—Co-operative Organizations\*

Reports were received by the Department of Agriculture from 2,637 co-operatives of all types—marketing and purchasing, fishermen's and service—covering their business years ended within the 12 months preceding July 31, 1949. Membership reported totalled 1,219,712 and the total volume of business, including other revenue, reached a record of \$1,001,437,990. Each of these figures—number of reports, volume of business, and revenue—showed a substantial increase over 1948. Most significant was the increase of over \$200,000,000 in volume of business. Marketing co-operatives reported a volume increase of approximately \$167,000,000 in 1949 and purchasing co-operatives \$34,000,000. Increases reported by other types were insignificant.

The number of marketing and purchasing co-operatives reporting increased by 128. Fishermen's co-operatives reporting increased by 16, due mainly to the inclusion of Newfoundland and an increase in Prince Edward Island. Service co-operatives increased by 88, a result of increased coverage in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. Membership in 1949 showed an increase of 60,668 over the total reported for 1948.

**Developments during 1948-49.**—During 1949 the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Wheat Pools marked 25 years of service in marketing grain for the farmers of western Canada. The Alberta Wheat Pool had celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1948.

Recognizing the recent rapid growth of co-operatives in Canada some provincial governments have expanded their staffs and services in order adequately to service and supervise all co-operatives within their jurisdiction. In March, 1949, the Department of Agriculture in Manitoba announced the formation of a Directorate of Co-operative Services within the Department which would include the offices of registrar of co-operatives and supervisor of credit unions. Upon the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation on Mar. 31, 1949, it was announced that one of the portfolios of the new provincial cabinet would be the Department of Fisheries and Co-operatives. Eight of the ten provincial governments now have officials directly responsible for administering co-operative legislation and supervising co-operative activities. In Prince Edward Island, however, this task is performed by the P.E.I. Co-operative Union, Limited, aided by a grant from the Province. The secretary of the co-operative union is required to report officially to the Government each year.

On June 1, 1949, Part XII of the Companies Act of Ontario relating to co-operative corporations became effective. The former Part XII—considered inadequate by many co-operative leaders in the Province—was repealed and a new and more acceptable section was passed into the statutes. The main feature of the new legislation provides for the purchase for redemption of all or part of the shares held by a shareholder upon payment of an agreed-upon sum not exceeding the par value of the shares. Shares purchased for redemption may not be re-issued.

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