

The first fisherman's co-operative on the Great Lakes, the Ontario Fishermen's Co-operative, was organized in February, 1949, and was patterned after the organization of the United Maritime Fishermen. The products of the new co-operative will be marked mainly in the the United States.

In November, 1949, the Department of Fisheries and Co-operatives in Newfoundland held a conference of all co-operative leaders in the Province in order to plan future organization and extension work. As a result, working arrangements were completed between Maritime Co-operative Services at Moncton, N.B., and United Maritime Fishermen at Halifax, N.S., to supply local Newfoundland co-operatives and to aid in the marketing of fish. First steps were also taken towards the organization of a provincial co-operative union for the Province of Newfoundland which would be affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada.

Marketing.—For the crop year ended July 31, 1949, the sales value of farm products marketed by co-operatives in Canada amounted to \$783,293,225 which was an increase of \$166,945,748 over the total reported for the same period ended in 1948.

All farm products with the exception of wool and fruit and vegetables shared in the general increase. The largest increases were reported by the dairy products, live-stock and grain co-operatives. Live-stock marketing co-operatives reported an increase in sales value of nearly 40 p.c. over 1948, due mainly to the lifting of restrictions on beef-cattle exports. Wool sales were down slightly because of liquidation of flocks which also helped increase volume and value of live-stock sales. The decrease in fruit and vegetables sales was minor.

Sales value of grains increased by over \$81,000,000 due to a rise in price for western wheat as well as increased handlings by the three pools and the United Grain Growers. The latter organization and the Manitoba Pool Elevators increased their facilities at country points during the year and generally increased their physical plant for handling an appreciable increase in volume. The four grain-marketing co-operatives in Western Canada handled 50 p.c. of the total volume delivered in the three western provinces during 1949.

Considered in relation to the sales values, it has been calculated that during 1948-49 co-operatives handled 32.9 p.c. of the main farm products entering into commercial channels of trade, an increase of 0.8 p.c. over the previous year. For the various products concerned similar percentages are as follows, with the previous year shown in parentheses: dairy products, 25.5 (22.6); live stock, 18.6 (18.5); poultry and eggs, 18.4 (18.6); wool, 79.7 (68.1); grains, 55.1 (56.2); fruits and vegetables, 27.5 (27.4); maple products, 26.8 (25.1); tobacco, 89.9 (99.0); honey, 12.1 (6.0).

Merchandising.—Sales of merchandise reported for the year 1948-49 amounted to \$191,804,630, an increase of \$33,390,585 over the figure reported for the previous year. Increases occurred in sales of farm machinery, clothing and home furnishings, food products and coal and wood. Feed and fertilizer sales, which increased by 16 p.c. over 1947-48, was the largest single item handled by merchandising co-operatives with a total of over \$77,000,000.

All provinces shared in the reported sales increase except Manitoba; in that Province accurate reporting resulted in the elimination of duplication of sales between the wholesale and the locals. Alberta reported a sizable increase in sales attributable to increased coverage and reporting.