

In the Province of Newfoundland a provincial co-operative union was organized with the assistance and encouragement of the local government and later this union became affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada.

Marketing.—The total value of farm products marketed by co-operatives in Canada amounted to \$769,264,824 for the crop-year ended July 31, 1951. This figure is less by \$34,300,000 than the total reported for the same period in 1950. Decreases were noted in sales of dairy products, fruits and vegetables, grain and seed, eggs and poultry and tobacco. The largest decrease was, of course, in grains and seeds for the reason noted on p. 899. The decrease was offset to a considerable extent by a substantial increase in the sales volume of co-operatives handling live stock.

It is estimated that about 34 p.c. of all farm products marketed commercially in Canada, in 1951, was handled by co-operatives. For the previous year (1950) the estimated proportion was slightly over 35 p.c. For the various commodities concerned the percentages for 1951 are as follows, with similar figures for 1950 shown in parentheses: dairy products 25.8 (27.9); live stock 21.4 (18.7); poultry and eggs 12.2 (15.3); grain and seeds 56.9 (60.6); fruits and vegetables 27.1 (35.8); tobacco 95.6 (94.4).

Merchandising.—Although Canadian co-operatives are prominent in the field of marketing agricultural products they also supply farmers and consumers with production supplies and consumer goods. This phase of co-operative activity has become more important in the last decade but has not yet assumed an important position in the over-all statistics of wholesale and retail business. No authoritative estimate exists of the proportion of wholesale and retail business handled by co-operatives but it is estimated at about 2 p.c.

Total sales value of merchandise and supplies handled by co-operatives in Canada, in 1951, amounted to \$209,985,815, representing an increase of almost \$4,000,000 over the total reported in 1950. The main increases were reported in sales of food products, petroleum products, feed, fertilizer and spray material. Minor decreases were noted in sales of machinery and equipment and in sales of clothing and home furnishings.

Wholesaling.—During 1950-51, 11 co-operative wholesales reported on their business and operations. These wholesales, with total assets amounting to \$25,000,000, supplied and serviced 1,766 co-operative associations.

On behalf of their members, the wholesales in 1951, marketed almost \$80,000,000 of farm products and, in addition, sold to their members \$61,000,000 in farm supplies and consumer goods. Total volume of business for 1951 amounted to \$141,478,212, an increase of \$13,000,000 over the total reported for 1950. Feed and fertilizer sales by co-operative wholesales in Canada in 1951 amounted to \$27,600,000 and accounted for about 40 p.c. of the total supplies handled.

All the wholesales in Canada are federated into Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited. This organization buys on behalf of the member wholesales and provides a medium for co-ordination and service. Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited also distributed flour from the co-operative flour-mill at Saskatoon, Sask., and, in addition, owns and operates a bag factory at Montreal, Que. In 1951, a coffee roasting and blending plant was opened by this organization at Vancouver, B.C., and "co-op" brand coffee is now being supplied to co-operative wholesales and local associations in Western Canada.