

Fishermen's co-operatives reported increases in sales values of fish marketed. In 1953, the volume was \$17,200,000, compared with \$13,900,000 in 1952. Sales of supplies to fishermen through co-operatives fell off slightly. Service co-operatives reported total revenue from services offered was \$20,600,000. This is a substantial increase over the 1952 figure and is the result of more complete and accurate reporting.

Developments 1952-53.—Numerous valuable and interesting publications dealing with co-operatives were issued in 1953. One was *A Guide to Co-operative Housing*, prepared and published by St. Patrick's College, Ottawa, Ont. The United States Department of Agriculture made a study of the possibilities of trade between Canada and United States Co-operatives and published a bulletin entitled *Trade with Canadian Co-operatives*. One colour film was in production in 1953 for Manitoba Pool Elevators Limited.

Canada sent a team of agricultural and co-operative specialists to India, Pakistan and Ceylon in 1953, under the auspices of the Colombo Plan; late in the year, the Government of India sent a mission of four co-operative leaders to study co-operatives in Canada.

Marketing.—During 1953, over 1,100 farmers' marketing co-operatives were in operation and marketed agricultural products valued at \$876,287,346, an increase of \$36,000,000 over the total reported for 1952. The sales value of dairy products marketed by co-operatives in 1953 increased by \$2,300,000 over the comparable figure for 1952.

Co-operatives engaged in marketing grain increased their volume by \$80,000,000, to a total of \$510,500,000, mainly owing to the record crop of western wheat. Live-stock marketing co-operatives reported decreased sales in 1953 as hog slaughterings were down and prices of cattle fell sharply.

Cash income from the sale of farm products handled by co-operatives increased by about 4 p.c. in 1953 over 1952. The increase in the sales of farm products by co-operatives also increased by 4 p.c., which would seem to indicate that co-operatives are keeping pace with the increased volume.

Co-operatives handled 32.4 p.c. of all farm products marketed commercially in Canada and there has been little change in this proportion since 1947.

Merchandising.—Total sales of farm supplies, household and consumer goods by co-operatives in 1952-53, were valued at \$256,730,885, greater than the 1951-52 total by \$22,000,000. The greatest increase was reported by co-operatives handling food products (groceries). There was a substantial increase in the number of co-operatives reporting business in the grocery line and better analyses and more returns were received from Ontario and Quebec.

Financial Structure.—Total assets of co-operative marketing and purchasing associations in Canada, as at July 31, 1953, amounted to \$419,000,000. The excess of assets over liabilities was \$185,600,000 and was made up of direct liabilities to members in the form of loans and deferred patronage dividends amounting to \$73,300,000 and net worth (share capital, reserves and unallocated surplus) of \$112,300,000. Plant value was reported to be \$117,000,000 and working capital totalled \$68,400,000.