

purchasing co-operatives had total assets of \$762 million, compared to \$419 million in 1955. In addition, the wholesales had assets of \$146 million in 1965, of which \$54 million was provided by their member co-operatives.

At least 45 per cent of the capital of these co-operatives was provided by the members. Their equity in the total assets (\$762 million) was reported at \$345 million in 1965. However, the reported members' equity does not include money lent either directly or through co-operative agencies by members of one co-operative to other co-operatives -- a sum that may now be substantial. In recent years some co-operatives, especially the wholesales, have offered debentures and other securities for sale to the general public; but it is likely that most of these have been bought by co-operatives or their members.

Local marketing and purchasing co-operatives may get loans from credit unions, central credit societies, co-operative wholesales and co-operative insurance companies. In several provinces the surplus funds of both local and wholesale co-operatives are deposited with a central credit society.

#### Fishermen's Co-operatives

Fishermen's co-operatives operate in all provinces. In 1965 there were 91 such organizations, with 11,000 members, which sold \$25-million worth of fish and \$5-million worth of supplies. There are three federations of fishermen's co-operatives: United Maritime Fishermen, Quebec United Fishermen, and Saskatchewan Co-operative Fisheries Limited.

In British Columbia all fishermen are eligible for membership in one large central co-operative, the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative Association. This association operates fish-processing plants in Prince Rupert and Vancouver, as well as a fishermen's supply business in Prince Rupert. British Columbia fishermen also have co-operative credit and insurance plans.

#### Service Co-operatives

These co-operatives provide insurance, electricity, housing and other services including water, transportation, cold storage and seed-cleaning.

Co-operative insurance companies are active in all provinces. They handle life, automobile, fire, hail, general casualty, fidelity and medical insurance.

At the time of their founding, some of the mutual insurance companies were similar to co-operatives in principle. Statutory provisions governing life-insurance companies in Canada make it very difficult to maintain democratic policy-holder control in a large insurance firm. Some of the smaller mutuals, especially in the farm-fire insurance field, operate like co-operatives.

About 50 medical-insurance co-operatives were functioning in Canada in 1965. Originally, hospitalization was the chief benefit to the members. The entry of the federal and provincial governments into hospitalization insurance has changed the role of these co-operatives, but they continue to provide general medical insurance.