

co-operative movement, and more particularly, in its phenomenal spread during the years of the recent world war."

The middleman is regarded as a parasitic growth who renders no service in return for the profits he obtains. If this is the case, then there is a whole field of distribution which should be dispensed with. Goods pass through the hands of many parties who do not change them in any way, nor even carry them from one part of the country to another. The price, and presumably the value, increases at each stage. This vast distributive organization has been built up at the request of the public, which has demanded that goods be offered to it in the most convenient time, form and place, and has until recently paid willingly for the service thus rendered. The consumer need take no thought for the morrow, for he knows that his every wish has been anticipated. This is one of the factors which has made the modern economic organization so complex.

Co-operative movements do not as a rule attempt to throw any of the burden upon the consumer. They differ, therefore, from ordinary business only in the character of the proprietors. The lack of unity in control is a business handicap, and the co-operative concern is soon eliminated, or control gravitates into the hands of a few. Where some responsibility is thrown on the consumer, as where he is encouraged to buy in large quantities, and at slack seasons, the inconvenience caused results in unpopularity. Co-operation, in short, is no substitute for present methods of distribution.

CANADA'S POSITION IN IRON AND STEEL

AMONG the fundamental industries which were disorganized by the war, one of the principal was iron and steel. Great Britain lost ground which went to her great competitor, the United States. A determined effort was made to maintain the supplies usually sent to British Dominions, but nevertheless the exports to British possessions fell from \$9,759,661 tons in the five years from 1909 to 1913, to 4,561,397 tons from 1914 to 1918. American iron and steel exports expanded greatly during the war and to a limited extent met the shortage in the export market created by the blockade of Germany, the occupation of Belgium and the diversion of the British output. The United States, Great Britain and Germany produce 80 per cent. or more of the total iron and steel output of the world, while Belgium is a considerable factor in the export international market.

Canada has always been one of the United States' best customers. This country, as is pointed out by Herbert P. Howell, vice-president of the National Bank of Commerce of New York, in an article in that bank's July Monthly, produces considerable iron and steel, but not sufficient for the growing needs. Before the war Canada bought more steel rails, steel bars and rods, steel sheets and plates, and tinplate from the United States than did any country, taking over half the exports in some cases. Since 1914 Canada's importance as a customer of the United States has relatively decreased. This is shown in the following comparison of average yearly imports (in tons):—

United States Exports —	1910-14	1915-19
Rails	393,942	468,794
Billets, ingots and blooms	150,026	1,200,013
Bars and rods	147,921	549,663
Sheets and plates	264,483	543,541
Tinplates, terneplates and taggers' tin	48,708	205,780
Exports to Canada —	1910-14	1915-19
Rails	87,830	38,117
Billets, ingots and blooms	43,402	115,489
Bars and rods	85,730	112,002
Sheets and plates	194,953	200,094
Tinplates, terneplates and taggers' tin	30,734	50,816

"Despite unfavorable exchange, Canada must buy American sheets and plates to keep the wheels turning in her own industries," says Mr. Howell in conclusion. This country has,

however, a substantial part of the world's iron deposits. The natural resources are sufficiently great and convenient to offset the lack of skill and the high production costs. Deposits in some of the other countries are nearing exhaustion. The future of the iron and steel industry in Canada seems assured, and it may not be long before there is a surplus available for export.

ANOTHER COBALT IN THE MAKING

RAPID progress is being made in opening up and permanently establishing a new silver camp in Gowganda. Situated in the very heart of Ontario's wildest wilderness, where it is almost impossible to get in supplies or machinery to work with, silver has been found equalling anything Cobalt ever produced. The history of Gowganda is similar to that of many other mining camps. A few years ago silver was discovered by prospectors and a "rush" then occurred. Claims were held at such high prices that capital was discouraged in entering the field. A few companies started operations but the very high cost of development work soon depleted their treasuries. The O'Brien interests took over the Miller Lake O'Brien mine and by chance struck it rich. They are a private company and details of their progress is not made public. They have been operating for a few years now and until recently were about the only producing mine in the district. It is known in well informed quarters that they produce about a million dollars worth of silver yearly from this mine. Over a year ago Engineer Arthur Cole, when reporting on ore reserves, estimated there was seventeen million ounces in sight. It is said by people who have been down in this wonderful mine that they have a silver vein four feet wide, which runs sixty per cent. silver. This information is given by a reliable party who had actually examined the vein personally.

Within the past year with the prevailing high prices for silver the camp has taken on a new lease of life. Several prominent Cobalt companies have taken options on claims or bought outright promising properties after proving them up. A railway will soon be put into the camp and electric power will be available in August. The camp will then go ahead rapidly.

The Canadian Industries Exhibition in London, England, for which extensive preparations had been made, proved a "dud." Such a failure is worse than no exhibition.

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Trade relations with the Russian government are to be resumed. A government which has held the reins of power for nearly three years can certainly be regarded as a *de facto* government, even if it is not officially recognized.

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Premier Drury of Ontario intimates that the provincial civil service is to be thoroughly reorganized, and that departments will be provided with staffs sufficient to carry the normal rather than the "peak" load of work. One reason why the earnings of civil servants have been low is because their earning power has not been applied to its full extent.

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"There was a time back in the '70's when the government guaranteed the bonds of solvent municipalities, but who had to pay when the collapse came?" This was asked by Premier Drury of Ontario, when he was questioned as to why the government should hesitate to guarantee the bonds of solvent municipalities. The government has wisely decided to act with caution; it must control, rather than be dominated by, the Hydro-Electric Commission.