

organization, known as the Dominion Grange, was organized under Federal Charter in 1877. It established quite a number of co-operative enterprises in Ontario and Manitoba, none of which was conspicuously successful. However, organizations of grain growers appeared in the West in the years after Confederation, and in other parts of Canada organization along provincial lines was evident in the first two decades of this century.

In 1861 a co-operative store was opened at Stellarton, Nova Scotia, by coal miners. Ten other stores were opened in that province prior to 1900 but only one survived beyond that date. A new and continuing vitality was given to co-operation in Eastern Canada about 1930 when the first directed effort towards the organization of small study groups to discuss local economic problems was made by the Extension Department of St. Francis Xavier University at Antigonish, Nova Scotia. From these discussions came the establishment of credit unions, co-operative buying clubs, consumers' co-operative stores and wholesales, and poultry pools. Other Canadian provinces, especially Manitoba, Quebec and British Columbia, have since drawn on the Nova Scotia experience and much of the recent development in co-operative endeavour in these provinces can be traced to the Antigonish Movement.

On March 6, 1909, at a conference of representatives of Canadian Co-operative Societies held at Hamilton, Ontario, the Co-operative Union of Canada was formed as an educational body similar to the Co-operative Union of Great Britain. It is governed by a Congress made up of delegates from affiliated organizations.

### Volume of Business

Co-operative associations in Canada are now rapidly assuming larger proportions in the economic life of the country, especially in the field of agriculture. For the year ending July 31, 1949, the number of co-operative associations, and their total membership and volume of business, were the highest ever reported. Over 1,200,000 members owned and controlled 2,637 co-operatives of all types, which did a volume of business in 1948-49 amounting to over one billion dollars.

Some comparisons between Canadian co-operative enterprises and similar activity in the United States and Denmark might be of interest. Such comparisons can probably best be made by using as a basis the average co-operative business per capita of rural population and per occupied farm. Using the latest figures available, for 1947, this business per occupied farm in Denmark was \$2,178.14; in the United States \$1,214.50; and in Canada \$972.36. Co-operative business per capita of rural population was \$216.00 in Denmark; \$129.81 in the United States; and \$124.20 in Canada. Taking into account the difference of population between the United States and Canada, the national average of the two countries shows a very close correspondence. While the volume of co-operative business in Canada in 1947 was about \$700 million, that of the United States was about \$7½ billion. Co-operative business in Canada and the United States has progressed approximately at the same rate over the past fifteen years, since figures for 1935 show almost exactly the same ratio.