

difference being enjoyed by the actual producers and consumers, in better wages and conditions of labor for the producers and cheaper and better merchandise for the consumers.

British Co-operators are every year getting more and more self-contained in their industries. In 1864 the English retail societies federated to form a "wholesale" each society subscribing a £1 share for every one of its members, paying 6d. per share on account, the balance accumulating out of profits. The first complete year (1865) the Society did a trade of \$603,770. Last year it did a trade exceeding 130 million dollars. It employs 20,000 workers under relatively ideal conditions. This huge federation of working men societies does all kinds of wholesaling. It is a steamship owner carrying its own produce across the seas. It is the largest flour miller in the United Kingdom, is the banker of the movement doing a turnover in that department of about a billion and a half dollars last year. It produces nearly everything co-operators need to use or wear and much of what they eat and drink. The profits are returned to the retail societies in a similar manner. The miners of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, through their co-operative societies are receiving back the growers and manufacturers as well as the distributors profits on the tea they drink, the groceries they eat and the clothing, shoes, etc., they wear on such of their purchases as are made from the Co-operative Wholesale Society instead of the same remaining in England for the benefit of wealthy capitalists. Some of you may say, "Yes, but it takes trade out of the country." Canadian co-operators might reply that even from that viewpoint the balance of trade will be for many years on our side because the Co-operative Wholesale Society is the biggest individual buyer of Canadian produce, the British federated societies

having bought no less than \$5,000,000 worth of our commodities last year. We, as co-operators do not, however, worry ourselves on that score. We have no more use for the warfare of commerce than we have for that of arms. When merchandise is produced for use instead of for profit such considerations lose their value. We are inclusive and not exclusive. We are cosmopolitan in our social and economic ambitions. In our international fraternity we eliminate all national, racial, social and religious boundaries. The British co-operator seeks no material or other advantage over his German or other foreign brother. We see in international unselfishness our own material advantage: the most effective manner for the average man of serving his own self-interest.

I have been giving you information as to British Industrial co-operation in which you may consider you are not interested. For that reason possibly I am wearying you. I give you the information not because it directly affects you but to demonstrate the necessity as well as the advantage of our fundamental principle of fraternity in associated industry.

British Agricultural Co-operation

Agricultural co-operation in Britain is in its infancy. I attribute that fact to the feudal atmosphere of the rural districts of England with its consequent distaste for change. Although organized agricultural co-operation in Britain is barely a decade old it is making great strides. Its welfare is looked after by the Agricultural Organisation Society which was incorporated as recently as 1901. It imposes similar conditions as to ethics and methods as the industrial movement and works in perfect harmony therewith, the purpose of the one being to supplement the other on every possible occasion.

(To be concluded.)

Want and Exchange

Advertisements for received at the rate of 10 words, each additional word 1 cent. Payments strictly in advance. Amounts are too small to keep. Write copy on one side of the paper only. Many times ad. is too must reach us not late each month.

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