

APPENDIX No. 3

ter of fact, do in cases of numerous retirements, that is, before sanctioning such retirements, to call all members together and decide by vote at a general meeting whether the society is to continue its existence with reduced numbers, or whether it is to wind up there and then with the collective liability of all still to answer for its engagements. You may do this by giving each society power to lay down its rules with regard to the time when resignation given notice of is to take effect. The best rule probably is to fix such time at the close of the financial year, in order that all may be straightforward and above board and no one left in the dark. Resignations will then figure in the report and creditors will know where they are.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) HENRY W. WOLFF,

*Author of 'People's Banks,' 'Co-operative Banking,' &c.,
and Chairman of the International Co-operative
Alliance.*

October 10.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—Now I have prepared a few remarks on one or two countries. I do not know whether the committee would like to hear them.

The CHAIRMAN.—We are most anxious, Your Excellency, to hear your views on the subject. (To the committee.) It must not be forgotten that His Excellency is probably the best expert on the co-operative movement in Europe.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—Well, gentlemen, the evidence I am going to give you is gleaned from co-operative publications, and to all who are interested in the subject of co-operation it will, I think, be most welcome and encouraging. I will begin with Denmark. The figures relating to Denmark, which I am about to give you, are taken from an article by Erik Groskov, contributed to the Annual Report of the English Co-operative Wholesale for 1905.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION IN DENMARK.

After the loss of territory sustained by Denmark from the unfortunate war with Germany, in 1864, her people rallied their broken strength, calling to their aid the assistance of the principles of association and education; and by means of these two plumes the people of Denmark have winged their nation to greater heights than they ever reached in their unmutilated state.

The people of Denmark by educating themselves and by co-operating together, soon reached a degree of efficiency which has enabled them to secure the first place for their products in the markets of England.

The story of the co-operative developments in Denmark during the last 40 years has many lessons for Canada. It was shortly after the war of 1864, that a clergyman, Mr. Sonne, was repulsed in his efforts to put his flock in the way of obtaining eternal happiness in the world to come, with the remark that it would help them still more if he would only teach them how to obtain bread and butter in this world. He took the hint and set to work to study the methods of the Co-operative Movement in England, and in 1866, he established the first Co-operative Society in Denmark, on the English plan.

An enthusiast like Monsieur Desjardins, he worked and worked to make other people follow his example, and now in rural Denmark there are nearly 1,000 Societies with a membership of nearly 200,000 families, and yearly turnover of £2,800,000.

Now it must be remembered that the whole population of Denmark is under 2,500,000 souls or 500,000 families, very little more than the population of Ontario, and that the extent of Denmark is about 14,000 square miles, which would go almost twenty times into the province referred to.

Of the 915 societies in 1904, only 10 were in the towns, the rest in the country districts—thus showing that the energy of the private storekeepers enabled them to