

La Coopérative Fédérée, with a turnover of over \$100 million annually, is one of the mainstays of agriculture in Quebec. It operates a number of abattoirs, and has recently developed contract arrangements with poultry and hog producers to establish an integrated programme of production. It is a major supplier of agricultural feeds, fertilizers, petroleum products and some types of machinery.

In addition to distributing farm supplies, petroleum and equipment, United Co-operatives of Ontario manufactures feeds and fertilizers. It also markets livestock and grain. Formerly, UCO marketed dairy and poultry products, but much of this type of business has been transferred to a new co-operative, the United Dairy and Poultry Co-operative Limited, organized in 1958. Nevertheless, UCO operates a poultry-processing plant and contracts with producers for its supply of broilers and turkeys.

Federated Co-operatives Limited provides consumer goods and farm supplies to local co-operatives throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and part of Northwestern Ontario. This co-operative was originally formed by amalgamation of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Wholesale Society and Consumers Co-operative Refineries Ltd. It has spread from Saskatchewan to other provinces by amalgamation with the co-operative wholesales serving those areas.

The provincial and regional wholesales in 1940 formed Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited. This central agency co-ordinates the purchases of certain food products, household appliances and farm supplies by consolidating the buying. The co-operative operates a chemical plant in Manitoba, a food plant in British Columbia and a bag factory in Quebec. It has control of the "Co-op" label, which is used on only high-standard co-operative products. There are more Co-op brand products sold every year.

Several Canadian wholesale co-operatives are members of National Co-operatives Limited in the United States. The business activities of this organization include the joint ownership and operation of a milking-machine factory in the United States.

Financial Structure

Although the proportion of agricultural products sold through co-operatives has changed little for some years, co-operative buying of farm supplies and consumer goods has continued to expand. This growth has accompanied a rapid increase in the total assets of the co-operative movement. In 1961 marketing and purchasing co-operatives had total assets of \$618 million, compared with \$306 million in 1951. In addition, the wholesales had assets of \$101 million in 1961, of which \$38 million were provided by their member co-operatives.

At least 46 per cent of the capital of these co-operatives was provided by the members. Their equity in the total assets (\$618 million) was reported at \$285 million in 1961. 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; this sum 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.