

Co-operative News

PROGRESS IN CANADA

Co-operation in Canada is gradually spreading and that, too, without the wake of failures which follows our American endeavors. Quote evidently the Canadians are profiting by the experience of their English forerunners, a thing we have been either too wise or too stupid to do. There is a consolidated company known as the Co-operative Union of Canada, which publishes a bright and well-edited journal every month known as the "Canadian Co-operator." It completed its first year of existence in October. In the September number the annual reports of several of the societies were given, and they were of such interest that we reproduce them.

Ontario

Guelph—This society, which may be regarded as the pioneer of Western Ontario, continues to make gratifying progress. Its duly audited financial statement for the first half of the present year was submitted to the members at their meeting on August 4 with much detail. The history of the Guelph society shows that Co-operative principles will succeed in Western Ontario as elsewhere, if the true Co-operative spirit is entertained and the democratic methods as to management are followed. The trade for the half year was \$36,843.68, being an increase of \$7,000 over the corresponding period of the previous year. The profits were \$2,366.73 and had increased \$1,232 (more than double), and the committee were consequently able to recommend an increase of purchase dividends from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent., and 3 per cent. to non-members. The committee points out that through the enterprise of the society in entering into the retail coal business the whole of the Guelph people have been able to get coal at 50 cents per ton less than previously, although the wholesale price to the merchants has been exactly the same. The cut in price has been made to put the Society out of business, but notwithstanding after paying expenses thereon the members of the Society got their purchase dividends on the coal also, thereby securing for them a reduction in price of 57 cents per ton. The committee goes on to say: "We know efforts have been put forth to prevent us buying coal, but Co-operators are used to overcoming difficulties, and the coal prospects were never better."

British Columbia

New Westminster—The duly audited statement for the half year ending June 30, submitted by this society to its members on July 29, shows that it continues to make great progress. The sales for the six months were \$24,753.29, which was an increase of 20 per cent. over the previous year, and 50 per cent. over the corresponding period of the previous year. The share capital increased \$1,097.74. The statement disclosed assets amounting to \$7,388.45 and a paid up share capital of \$5,672.46; deposits, \$120; reserve fund, \$223.65; and a net profit of \$1,260.03. This was disposed of by carrying 3 per cent. to reserve fund, \$37.80; dividends on members' purchases were increased from 4 per cent. to 6 per cent., absorbing \$609.80; non-members 2 per cent., \$171.83, and the balance of \$80.69 was carried to next term. There was a net gain of membership for the period of 23, but 28 new members have been added since July 1, and they are still coming. The society has been requested to open up a branch in Vancouver. The ground has been looked over, but no decision has been yet arrived at.

Nova Scotia

Glace Bay, N.S.—The sixteenth quarterly meeting of the Glace Bay Co-operative Society was held in the Society's hall on Saturday, August 25, when the financial statement, exhaustive in details and duly audited, was submitted. The report of the committee, which accompanied it, pointed out that the business done for the quarter amounted to \$25,498.45, as compared with \$23,791 for the preceding quarter and \$30,621.38 for the corresponding quarter of the previous year. As a con-

sequence of the large increase of business—nearly \$12,000 during the last quarter—and no material increase in expenses, the net profits for the three months had risen from \$2,129.09 to \$3,753.41. The committee were in consequence able to increase the dividend on members' purchases from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. The reserve fund, which stood at \$4,893.08, was increased by appropriation from profit of \$354.25, and admission fees and interest \$97, to \$5,405.49, the capital account standing at \$6,233.69, the share capital and \$12,196.17 members' deposits.

Sidney Mines, N.S.—This society has completed another very successful quarter's business, showing an increase in trade over the corresponding period of last year of \$10,042.35, the average weekly sales being \$2,239.52, with a membership of 320.

Quebec

Valleyfield, P.Q.—The 28th quarterly meeting of this society was held on September 7, when a balance sheet was submitted and passed, showing sales of \$8,616.09, being an increase of \$158.14 over the previous quarter. The net profits for the quarter were \$433.72 which, with \$271.12 balance brought forward from the last quarter, gave an available net profit balance of \$706.84. Of this amount a dividend of 7 per cent. on members' purchases (\$7,331.88), and 3½ per cent. on non-members' (\$1,284.21) absorbed \$544.84, leaving a balance to be carried to next quarter of \$162. The share capital stands at \$2,833.14, and reserve fund \$412.50.—*Twentieth Century.*

THE CURSE OF LANDLORDISM

Henry Vivian, M.P. for Birkenhead, at a meeting of the Union of Canadian Municipalities held in Toronto recently, said that in England a comparison between children 14 years of age, brought up under decent sanitary conditions, and those who had lived in one or two-roomed flats showed that the latter were five inches shorter and weighed thirty pounds less than their more fortunate brothers.

He also stated that in Finsbury the death rate in the poorest quarter was forty per thousand against eight or ten in families dwelling in houses of four or more rooms, that is to say, the death rate among the poorest was four hundred per cent. greater than among the comfortable classes.

That the conditions that produce these things are the direct result of land monopoly is admitted by everyone who has given any study to the question. Yet no effort is put forth by the government or even the so-called governing class to abolish such foul wrongs.

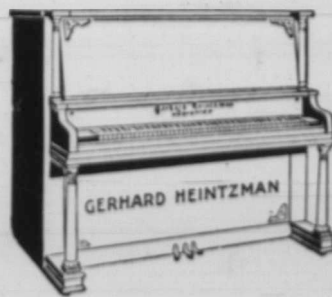
It is true that we have heard much from the exponents of protection of Britain about the decadence of British commerce and the degeneracy of Englishmen, but these protectionists belong to the very class who have fastened the curse of landlordism upon the neck of their fellows, and so far from stirring a finger to help, they are seeking through protection to add to their burdens in the hope of preventing any change in the land laws.

If the English were not among the most patient people in the world there would be a tremendous upheaval and the medieval grants of land to the favorites of kings would be speedily annulled in the interests of the nation.

It is strange to an onlooker to see how little advantage is taken of the many things of which the landed aristocracy are guilty, and how little use is made alike of the cruel effects of the land monopoly, and the historic conditions attached to the original grants of land, and which the owners have generally disregarded. The agitation seems rather to partake of the calm discussion of professors in an academy than the demand of determined men for the immediate righting of a foul wrong.

What England needs today is a second Hiltebrand who will preach a new holy war against the nation's destroying curse of poverty and privilege from the text of "The Land for the People"—*Square Deal*

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