ciation spirit and will be made a permanent feature of the convention.

## Organization

The Life Membership of the association has grown during 1915 by 648, bringing the total number of fully paid life members to date to 1,604. Besides this there are a number of applications for life membership on which the contribution involved have not as yet been fully paid.

fully paid.

For the better furthering of the education of your members, and in order yet more to encourage them to inform themselves on matters of social and political economy, and in the art of expressing themselves in public, your executive named a Special Study Committee. It is intended to make the work of this committee a permanent feature tee. It is intended to make the work of this committee a permanent feature of our educational campaign, and we confidently anticipate that great good will result from its efforts. We commend its work to your hearty co-operation.

## 1916 Membership

Organization has been exceptionally difficult during the year 1916, but more meetings were addressed by executive members than in any former year. Weather conditions and bad roads during last winter and spring made the holding of meetings at that time exceedingly difficult. The shortness of the summer season, the dearth of labor, the absence in uniform of many of our most active local leaders, and the general unrest occasioned by the war have all told on your numbers, so that it is no surprise to your executive that we should be unable to report an increase of membership over the splendid record which was attained in 1915. The actual money accounted for in membership Fees does not fully represent the membership of the association, but basing the membership on fees received only and including the life members, the association had a paid membership of 23,760 during 1916. There were a large number of membership fees for 1916 outstanding when the books were closed December 31. Of these, \$1,793.60 have since been paid. If this be added to the paid membership the total will aggregate 27,347. The untiring devotion of many secretaries and members, many new and interesting educational and propagandist activities and the great interest centering in your cooperative undertaking are mainly responsible for such a good showing.

## Co-operative Trading

Co-operative Trading

Your co-operative trading activities show a gratifying expansion during the year, and the work of organizing the Association for the permanent and successful carrying on of co-operative endeavor has gone on apace.

There are now in this province 325 incorporated co-operative associations. The bulk of them are incorporated locals of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, have monies invested in it, and are sharing in its profits. As they become familiar with the policy of the Central and as conditions at local points become ripe for taking such a step others constantly add themselves to this number. The total business handled by the department for 1916 is \$1,089,000. The amount of business handled, our success in securing supplies in the face of great shortage, and the general efficiency of service will compare favorably with those of any company doing similar husiness in the West.

The net earnings of this Department for 1916 were \$15,389.60. From this we have paid interest on Capital Debeatures at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum in cash, and made provision for a patronage dividend of 1 per cent. to apply on deferred payments of Capital Debeatures.

The total amount of capital now available for the use of the Trading Department, amounts to \$48,235,32, all of which has been built up from surplus earnings with the exception of \$8,961,30, which was contributed in cash.

Lack of capital, of policy or precedent either at central or at locals, lack of adequate legislation under which to raise capital, the exigencies created by war, the suspicion and antagonism of sommercial bodies, the shortage of labor

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