

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

culture in Ireland, and I may say it has organized 800 creameries which are very successful and organized a great many of these other societies. I don't think it possible for the movement to have made anything like the progress it has, but for the guidance given by this society which is purely voluntary and which is now more or less merged in the Department of Agriculture. All I can say upon the point is that I think there is a very great need of some simple source of advice and guidance, for in all movements of this kind, you can see that wherever they have been successful there has been some guiding influence.

By Mr. Smith (Nanaimo):

Q. Is this voluntary society you speak of similar to the dairying societies which have been created on the co-operative wholesale system in England and Scotland?—
A. Yes.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the actual working of those societies?—A. I have not.

By the Chairman:

Q. You have no particulars, but know the general effect?—A. I know that they have been a great success.

By the Chairman:

Q. So to sum up your evidence, you say that the adoption of a Bill on the lines of the one which is now being considered by the committee would be a great benefit and advantage to the rural classes?—A. I have not studied the Bill carefully enough, I am afraid, to give a carefully studied opinion, but I think the principle is right, and would be a great benefit to agriculture in this country where not organized.

(Co-operative dairying in Denmark was filed as Exhibit 5.)

Professor SHORTT, Queen's University, Kingston, called, and examined.

By the Chairman:

Q. You have made a special study of economics?—A. Yes, that is one of my special lines.

Q. Have you read the Bill which is now being considered by this committee, entitled, 'An Act respecting Industrial and Co-operative Societies'?—A. Yes, I have read the Bill.

Q. Without committing yourself to any special clauses of the Bill, would you state if, with the experience you have, and the study you have made, the general principle of the co-operative movement or of societies is a commendable one?—A. For a number of Canadian industries I think it is. If you wish me to state the general aspect, perhaps I might. The matter, of course, historically and in its chief working, is to be found in its most perfect shape in Europe. The conditions there are favourable to co-operation, and a great many different organizations have been developed and a great many industries taken in and so on. In the reports presented, for instance, at the periodical meetings of representatives of those co-operative organizations in Europe, we have most interesting results, bringing out, however, certain local and national peculiarities. Thus, for instance, in France we have a great many industries, both agricultural and manufacturing, carried on by co-operative societies. In southern Germany, Italy and so on you have a number of others. It is rather remarkable, however, that in Germany, with the modern development of German enterprise, those tend to be cut down and to be specialized in narrower grounds, larger industries