

fourteen different factories in operation and over 3,000 persons regularly employed. Three flour and meal mills are also owned by the Scottish Wholesale, and the amount of grain necessary to keep these going is very large. In 1906, a buyer was appointed and an office taken in Winnipeg, where six large elevators have been erected.

Such, briefly, are the manifold operations of the co-operative movement in Scotland. It may be added that half dividend is given on non-members' purchases; and that there is one large store for employees where goods may be purchased at cost price, but on which no dividend is paid. The latter has given rise to some feeling, as it is regarded as an unfair handicap on the average member who deals at the ordinary rates.

The attitude of the private traders is uncompromisingly hostile in the main. There are, of course, several of the largest wholesale and retail houses which can easily afford to ignore the co-operative movement; but it is obviously otherwise with the smaller class of merchant or dealer. At the last meeting in Glasgow, on January 26, the Scottish Traders' Defence Association dealt with the co-operative movement, the chairman remarking that that was a fruitful source of unemployment. He hoped that the public would, on that account, and also on account of the disadvantage to themselves in dealing with co-operative societies, support individual traders: and their grievance—apart from the unemployment— which the private trader frequently expresses himself upon, is the fact that the dividends paid by the co-operative societies are not subject to Income Tax by the Imperial authorities. This is contended by the private traders to be a manifest injustice and an additional handicap in the competition for a profitable existence. On the

other hand, the co-operators contend that, as the great bulk of the dividends are paid to the poorer class and to artisans generally, the Income Tax would be unjust and uncalled for.

There are thus points for a distinct cleavage as between the individual merchant and the strongly buttressed co-operative system; and keen as the fight has been during the last decade, the contest is destined to be of even more absorbing interest within the next few years. If the private trader is to survive the competition, he must necessarily be brought up in the hard school wherein economy, industry and perseverance play such a conspicuous part.

---

The Montreal Gazette says:—"There are some anomalies in the law which almost of necessity deprive the men responsible for the working of the civil service of the opportunity of quickly rewarding with advancement appointees who show special zeal or aptitude for their duties. The commissioners have drawn attention to these and some other matters that might be improved, and doubtless their advice will be taken into consideration. There is a greater weakness in the law, however, than any the commissioners have especially to consider. Parliament confined the operation of the reformed order to the departments at Ottawa, and left under the old patronage rule nominations to what is called the outside service, including the custom houses, the post offices, etc., throughout the country. The logic of the situation is that what is good in the one case is good in the other, and that the law which evidently works well at Ottawa should be extended to all other places where large numbers of public servants are appointed and employed. Till this is done only half the possible benefits of civil service reform will be realized."