

Farm supplies accounted for the greater part of Canadian co-operative purchases of \$388 million in 1960-61. The co-operative purchasing of feed is particularly important in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, as much of it is shipped in from the Prairies. Petroleum products are the main commodities purchased co-operatively in the Prairie Provinces because so much power machinery is used. (Table 3.)

Co-operative purchasing of some consumer items, especially food, is also large. Even these items are sold mainly to rural people, though in Western Canada co-operative supermarkets now serve large numbers of urban people. A number of these city co-operatives were organized by farmers and gradually gained urban support.

Some co-operatives, especially in Ontario and the other eastern provinces, market a variety of agricultural products and also purchase farm supplies. These, and the purchasing co-operatives, are generally local organizations serving farmers near one trading centre.

A large part of the co-operative marketing in Canada is carried out by province-wide organizations. Each of these assembles, stores and sells a few closely-related commodities; some of them, including most dairy-product and poultry-marketing co-operatives, process as well. Most of the grain and livestock marketed through co-operatives is processed by other firms, though some co-operatives do their own. For example, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool operates a flour mill, and much of the livestock marketed in Quebec is processed in the packing plants of La Coopérative Fédérée. There is also a co-operative abattoir in Nova Scotia and a small one has operated for many years in Ontario. Likewise, honey, oilseeds, maple syrup, fruits and vegetables are processed in some co-operative plants.

A few marketing and purchasing co-operatives operate on an inter-provincial basis. The United Grain Growers Limited has elevators throughout Western Canada and terminals on the Great Lakes and at Vancouver. Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited represents the three Western wheat pools. Through it, the three member wheat pools consider programmes and policies common to each of them and to the many thousands of grain producers in the Prairie Provinces.

Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited is an independent, farmer-owned association with its head office in Winnipeg. It was set up in 1940 to manufacture and distribute farm machinery. Its membership extends over the Prairie Provinces and Northwestern Ontario. Sales of machinery by the company in 1961 were 6.5 million dollars.

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited operates on a national basis. It has handled almost 70 per cent of the wool going through government-registered stations during the past five years.

#### Co-operative Wholesales

Nearly all of the co-operatives that purchase farm supplies and consumer goods for their members are affiliated with one or more of the 10 co-operative wholesales in Canada. The wholesales provide the affiliated co-operatives with a wide range of goods, but they do not yet meet all the requirements. Some of the wholesales are also central marketing agencies for farm products. The total assets of the 10 wholesales and those of the Inter-provincial Co-operatives Limited exceeded \$101 million in 1961. Sales of over \$320 million that year were more than double those of 1951.

Over 85 per cent of the total business of the regional wholesales was reported by the three largest - La Coopérative Fédérée de Québec, United Co-operatives of Ontario and Federated Co-operatives Limited in the Prairie Provinces.