

Co-operative purchasing of some consumer goods, especially food products, is quite substantial. However, this does not signify any extensive urban development of purchasing co-operatives. Many farmers purchase their groceries co-operatively and few co-operative stores have commenced operation without farmer leadership and support. Co-operative supermarkets now serve large numbers of urban people in most of the cities of Western Canada, but even these co-operatives have depended to a considerable extent on farmer support.

A large portion of the co-operative marketing in Canada is carried out by province-wide organizations, each of which performs assembling, storage and selling functions with respect to a few closely-related commodities. Some, such as milk and cream, are generally processed by the co-operative buying them. Most of the grain and livestock marketed through co-operatives are processed by other firms. Nevertheless, there is some co-operative processing in these fields, as the Saskatchewan Co-operative Producers Limited, now known as the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, operates a flour mill, and there are co-operative abattoirs in Ontario and Quebec. Another co-operative abattoir recently commenced operation in Nova Scotia.

There are a number of marketing co-operatives that operate on an interprovincial basis. The United Grain Growers Limited has elevators distributed throughout Western Canada and terminals on the Great Lakes and at Vancouver.

Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited represents the three western wheat pools. This organization is not an operating company, its purpose being that of liaison organization. It provides the means through which the three member wheat pools consider programmes and policies common to each of the members and to the many thousands of grain producers in the three Prairies Provinces.

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

Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited, an independent, farmer-owned association, was set up in 1940, with head office in Winnipeg, to manufacture farm machinery. Its membership extends over the Prairie Provinces and western Ontario. Sales of machinery by the company in 1958 amounted to almost \$3-million.

Other co-operatives, especially in Central and Eastern Canada, market a variety of agricultural products and combine marketing with purchasing farm supplies. Such co-operatives are generally local organizations serving farmers round one trading centre. Likewise, purchasing co-operatives are usually organized on a local basis.

#### Co-operative Wholesales

Most, if not all, of the co-operatives that purchase either farm supplies or consumer goods for their members are affiliated with one or more of the ten co-operative wholesales in Canada. Some of these wholesales act as central marketing agencies for farm products as well as wholesalers of farm supplies, machinery and consumer goods. Their total assets exceeded \$65 million in 1958. Sales of over \$250 million that year were practically double the amount of business done in 1950.