

## CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

A co-operative enterprise, whose membership consists largely of Finns, has recently affiliated with the Co-operative Union of Canada. It is called the Co-operative Trading Company, Limited, Port Arthur, Ont. Its sales for the six months ending January 13th last were \$66,000, and the net profits were \$2,700. It owns real estate valued at nearly \$20,000. The possibilities of co-operation are splendidly illustrated in this enterprise.

\* \* \*

The chief news from Nanaimo of late months has been of coal strikes and military activities. It probably is not generally known that the co-operative movement is well entrenched there, just as it is in the coal mining region of Nova Scotia. The Workmen's Co-operative Co., Limited, of Nanaimo, has recently joined the Co-operative Union of Canada. The net profits for the last six months of 1913 were \$2,300. The members of this society are not withdrawing their profits, but leaving them in the business as additional capital.

\* \* \*

A few months ago a co-operative store was opened at Galt, Ontario. Its business has been so successful that the retailers of the town are trying to stop the wholesale houses from supplying this co-operative venture with the supplies it needs. The "Canadian Grocer," the organ of the retailers, reports the situation as follows:—

At a meeting of the Grocers' Section of the Retail Merchants' Association, Galt, Ont., held last week, a number of important subjects were dealt with, among them being "Why should wholesale houses sell to co-operative societies?" The matter was gone into fully, and it was decided that if the wholesalers and manufacturers wanted to do business with the grocer they should not supply his customers also, which is considered to be the

case with co-operative societies, as they were nothing more or less than customers banded together to get rid of the retailer. Several wholesalers and manufacturers were up on the carpet, with the result that they promised to sell only in future to the legitimate retail trade. Other branches of the association will be asked to co-operate to bring into line any wholesaler or manufacturer who does not "play fair" by the retailer. A wholesale house in Hamilton is considered one of the offenders, but the association in Galt is waiting an answer from them now before taking the matter up with the provincial secretary and other branches."

Several co-operative organizations have had troubles of this kind, but the wholesalers have never been coerced by the retailers to the extent that it has been necessary for co-operators to have recourse to the Combines Investigation Act. When it is realized that the co-operative movement in Canada has sales of over a million dollars a year, the wholesaler and manufacturer cannot afford to overlook the business. After all, it is the consumer the manufacturer and wholesaler want to sell to, and it is becoming more necessary for them to decide which medium of distribution they will use—the retail method or the co-operative. All that co-operators ask is that they shall be treated on an equality with other distributors in the matter of purchases. The fact that the retailers oppose co-operation shows that they consider this method as a menace to themselves. If it is a menace to them, then it follows that it must be a boon to their customers.

A story is told by a French paper of two provincials, a man and his wife, who visited the Louvre in Paris.

"What struck you most at the Louvre?" asked one of their friends, when they returned home and began to tell of the wonders they had seen.

"Oh," replied the husband, "a picture that represented Adam and Eve, with the apple and the serpent."

And his excellent wife chimed in "Yes, we found that very interesting, because, you know, we know the anecdote."—Exchange.