

APPENDIX No. 3

By the Chairman:

Q. On similar lines?—A. On similar lines.

By Mr. Smith (Nanaimo):

Q. Have there been any banks established as the result?—A. Mr. Wolff, chairman of the International Co-operative Alliance, wrote me some months ago and told me that in India now they have over 200 banks; I could not give the exact figures. I received a letter some seven months ago promising me full statistics upon that point, but I have not yet received them.

By the Chairman:

Q. Are there not conclusions?—A. There are conclusions here. Those two large volumes are the report of Mr. Nicholson. Here are the conclusions of the Royal Commission (producing volume). Taken as the report of a Royal Commission, it is almost enthusiastic about the benefit that can be derived from these associations from a banking point of view, even amongst such a population as India has.

So far as other kinds of co-operation are concerned, of course I could give a good deal of data, a good deal of information. I would like, if I may be allowed, to quote just a few figures that I have found in a leading economic journal, *Le Journal des Economistes*, edited by Mr. Molinari.

Q. Is that Mr. Molinari of the Credit Foncier?—A. I suppose so. There is an article by Paul Bonnard. He gives statistics of co-operation in France, and he said that thanks to the law of 1884 there exist in France now 18,000 agricultural associations.

By Mr. Bourassa:

Q. That is only for banking purposes?—A. No, no; but those associations are created for various purposes, and there are thousands of village banks amongst them. Of course, as I said at the last meeting, it is far better to create as many associations as there are activities of different kinds.

Q. Those 18,000 associations are formed for the object of organizing the farmers for purchasing, selling, or for banking?—A. Exactly, and the membership was over 800,000. They even have co-operative associations for the insurance of cattle, for insurance of crops against hail—almost for all purposes imaginable, which purposes could not be approached at all with profit, I suppose, by the industrial insurance system. I mention that fact just to show the possibilities of co-operation.

By the Chairman:

Q. According to the Bill would we be authorized to enter into that business?—A. Well, of course that is another matter.

Q. Is it, as stated in the report here, a permissive Bill?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Monk:

Q. In France, I think, the co-operative movement has probably taken the shape of agricultural associations for the purchase of agricultural implements, fertilizers, and for transportation?—A. Yes, and selling their produce, and certain kinds of insurance as well.

Q. But there are a large number of banking and co-operative stores?—A. Oh, yes, there are several hundreds. It is very queer but one will notice that banking or loaning co-operation has developed to a wonderful extent in Germany, while other kinds of co-operation have been more slow to develop. The distributive co-operation has been wonderfully developed in England while the other forms have been more or less neglected. In France up to a recent date, just about ten years ago, productive co-operation was developed more than in any other country in the world.