

similar stores had been started in the neighbourhood, and within six years there were 130 co-operative stores in the north of England and in the midlands of Scotland. The Rochdale store itself went steadily forward. From 28 members it grew to 900 members in the first 10 years, to 4,750 in the next decade, and to 7,600 members in the third. Its funds in the meantime increased to nearly \$1,000,000 and its profits to \$200,000 annually—all within thirty years. The general movement throughout Great Britain corresponded to this rapid rate of progress both intensively and extensively. On this topic space forbids more than a few statistical totals. At the present time there are over 1,500 co-operative stores in Great Britain. The total membership exceeds 2,350,000. Their total annual turn-over is in the neighbourhood of \$600,000,000, and their annual profits in the neighbourhood of \$60,000,000, while their accumulated share capital, made up of a part of the savings of their patrons, is over \$140,000,000. With this tremendous development, conditions both external and internal have been forced to keep pace. With regard to legislation, a tentative measure of support was passed in 1846 and an Industrial and Provident Societies' Act in 1852, the latter being extended and improved by amendments in 1862 and 1871 which materially widened the field for the movement. Gradually also the organization of co-operation from within was perfected. Wholesale organizations were formed after 1862, in which year the law made it possible for one society to hold shares in another. Rochdale extended the principle of co-operation to manufacturing in 1868. Finally a co-operative union was formed for the whole United Kingdom by which annual congresses have been held since 1869, and the general duty of which is the uniting of co-operators and the diffusion of a knowledge of co-operative principles. The movement has had for many years an accredited journalism, which has reached an immense

circulation. Highest of all in the scale of organization has arisen the International Co-operative Alliance of which the honorary president is at present the Right Honourable Earl Grey, our governor general, and whose committee includes representatives from nearly every country in Europe and from the United States. The alliance is designed "to elucidate by international discussion and correspondence the nature of true co-operative principles"; it was established in 1895 and holds a congress every two years. All this machinery has not been devoted to trade alone. Over 400 reading rooms have been opened by the co-operative societies of Great Britain. Their education committees classes are attended by over 9,000 pupils. At Oxford itself two scholarships have been established. Such in merest outline, are the history and proportions in Great Britain of the movement we are now discussing with regard to its possible meaning for ourselves.

One item included in the above is perhaps worthy of special mention. The Civil Service Supply Association, under which title the co-operative enterprise of the British Civil Service is designated, was established in 1867, in imitation of the Rochdale Society, but, as will be pointed out further on, with somewhat different ends in view. Up to 1882, profits were capitalized, but from that time on they have been distributed upon capital as in an ordinary joint stock association. The result is, that a share in this society on which only ten shillings was originally paid is now worth £125, and has yielded 12 per cent. in dividends on a nominal value of £80 for the past 15 years. At the same time the stockholders have obtained their goods from the beginning at cost prices.

In Canada the co-operative movement has had powerful enemies to contend with. Of these the most obvious is the comparative restlessness of our industrial population. Men are here to-day and gone to-morrow in Canada to a degree that is un-