

which \$7,930 were still outstanding. There was a total guarantee fund of \$129.89.

There are also in operation in the United States a number of credit unions among Jewish farmers in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey.

## SHARES

We now turn to the internal structure of the system and to its workings, and call particular attention to the withdrawable feature of the share capital. As previously set forth, it has been frequently objected that such a facility offered to members would seriously handicap the working of the funds. This apparent objection, however, falls completely to the ground in the light of a practical experience extending over many years under the most varied circumstances. For instance, the Levis Cooperative Bank has reimbursed \$19,950 of its share capital during its 12 years and two months of existence, and still the amount of the share capital is constantly increasing, being on January 31, 1913, \$124,931.39. This has been the case in all of the 150 banks which have been in operation for any length of time.

If on the other hand, the shares had not been withdrawable, the tendency would have been to make them as small as possible, as is done in Belgium, for instance, where shares are as small as one franc each. This is done that only the most insignificant amount need be so immobilized, each member being required to subscribe for only one share, the balance of their savings being placed on deposit.

The European system is based upon unlimited and joint liability, because many of the cooperative banks there mainly draw their funds from outside sources, while in our new system appeal is made largely to the spirit of thrift of the members.

Having taken such a view, there was no necessity of appealing to the unlimited and joint-liability principle. The pioneers of the cooperative credit movement in Europe did the best they could with the elements they had to deal with, and in departing from the main principle of their system, we acted not in a spirit of criticism or self-pride, but with