

Some of the Canadian co-operative wholesales also own and operate coal mines in Alberta. Three western co-operative wholesales joined in the search for oil in Western Canada and were successful in 1948 when the first co-operative oil well in Canada was brought in. Since that time several more successful drillings have been made. Oil from these wells will supply the co-operative refinery at Regina, which was the first co-operative oil refinery in North America.

Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited, dealing in farm machinery, was incorporated in 1940 with the aim of mobilizing the purchasing power of the farmer and reducing prices. This co-operative initially secured 20,000 members throughout the three western provinces and acquired \$250,000 in share capital. Early efforts to secure machinery failed and wartime restrictions on the supply of materials postponed the development of the project. In 1944, with the assistance of the governments of the three prairie provinces, a small implements factory was purchased at Winnipeg and a start was made in the distribution of sleighs, wagon boxes and small tools and implements. Assured of the support of the three provincial governments, the wheat pools and the co-operative wholesales, a new drive was launched which raised the subscribed capital to \$1 million and the membership to 50,000. In December 1945, with the aim of providing western co-operative farmers with a permanent supply of such machines as tractors, harvesters, combines, swathers and tillers, a contract for the supply of machinery was signed with a Canadian farm machinery company. Supplies under this contract, first received in 1946, were doubled in 1947 and quadrupled in 1948.

One of the oldest farmers' co-operatives in Canada, the United Farmers' Co-operative Company Limited, organized in 1941 at Toronto, has undergone a complete re-organization, which became effective in 1948. Prior to this, the company was organized on a direct individual member-shareholder basis but with a number of local co-operatives holding shares as well. Re-organization took the form of placing ownership and control within the hands of the local co-operatives and gradually absorbing the shares of the individual farmers. In conformity with the new structure the name has been changed to United Co-operatives of Ontario.

The Canadian Wheat Pools

There are three wheat pools in Canada with a combined membership of over 175,000. These pools handle almost 35 per cent of the annual grain crop of the Canadian west, and operate 1,893 country elevators with a capacity of 99 million bushels and eight terminal elevators with a capacity of over 30 million bushels. Almost 4,000 people are employed by the pools with an annual payroll of approximately \$7.6 million. Members' equity in assets amounts to over \$36 million and the pools have paid back to members in cash patronage dividends since 1924 a total of \$26½ million.

During the year 1947-48 the three wheat pools handled 176.5 million bushels of wheat and coarse grains which was approximately 44 per cent of the total wheat and coarse grain marketings in western Canada for that period.

In 1930 the Canadian pools, having made an initial payment of \$1.00 a bushel in 1929, found that sales of wheat during the season had netted an average of 85 cents per