

laid down at this point, making an average cost of \$8.55 per ton, whereas buying individually at ordinary retail prices we should have paid \$10 per ton. Thus a saving of \$1.45 was realized on each ton purchased. No distinction was made between members and non-members in selling the first carload, but in disposing of the second car we left the right to profit by these prices open to members of the Association only.

Later we arranged with one of our local dealers to grant special prices on flour to those whose names appeared on a Grain Growers' membership list placed in his hands by the secretary. By this arrangement best grades of flour, ordinarily retailing at \$3, were sold to Grain Growers at \$2.85 per cwt., for a limited time.

We also have in our possession some eighty books for the sole use of members, the nucleus of a library which we hope in time will prove a valuable asset to our society.

As regards payment for purchases aforementioned, those for twine and flour were made in cash or on time as desired, while that for coal was made by draft attached to bill of lading.

The secretary-treasurer, who collects the money and makes the payments, is not bonded, nor is our society incorporated, although there is a desire to incorporate it at as early a date as possible.

From these facts you may see that our buying to date has been limited, but it has undoubtedly served to interest quite a number who were formerly opposed to or indifferent toward the cause of co-operation, not a few joining our ranks that they may become part-takers of these and any other benefits which may be forthcoming.

J. A. LUDLOW,
Assiniboia, Sask. Secretary.

BENITO HAS ELEVATOR

During the year 1913 the Benito Branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association purchased a car of flour and feed, a car of lumber, half a car of farm fence, and 1,400 pounds of clover honey. The flour cost us \$2.50 and \$2.40 a sack, the rolled oats \$1.05 for 40 pounds, bran 80 cents a sack, and shorts 90 cents a sack. The car load came to \$647.20, a saving compared with the prices asked by local merchants of \$94.

The carload of lumber cost us only \$14 per thousand, a saving of \$75 compared with the prices at the local yards.

The honey was purchased from a Beekeepers' Association in Ontario, and cost us laid down here 13 cents a pound. Our merchants sell the same locally at 20 cents a pound, so on that shipment we saved \$98 for the farmers.

Liberal Interpretation of Direct Legislation

The Direct Legislation League of Manitoba has been endeavoring to secure a definite interpretation of the Direct Legislation plank in the platform of the Liberal party. Experience in Alberta and Saskatchewan has shown that it is not safe to trust to general statements in an important matter of this kind. Thru its president the League has received the following explicit letter from T. H. Johnson, M.P.P.:

"Dr. J. N. Hutchison,
"Winnipeg.

"Dear Sir:—

"Answering your communication relative to my conception of Direct Legislation. I wish to say I would favor a good honest measure, free from all jokers or other clauses which would render it ineffective, or which would tend to weaken the usefulness of such a measure.

"While it would be out of the question at the present time to give the necessary details of such a measure, its broad principles might be indicated as follows, all of which would have my hearty support:

- "1. The application of the Referendum and the Initiative should be mandatory and not optional with the government.
- "2. It should be applicable to all legislation of whatever nature, with the two following exceptions:
(a) Ordinary current expenses of government.
(b) Measures of a purely emergent character, which should be operative at once, subject, however, to a Referendum if desired at a later date.
- "3. Necessary petitions should not be onerous and should not exceed the customary percentages in vogue in jurisdictions where the principles in question have been successfully applied.
- "4. A government publicity pamphlet (such as is used in Oregon) to be furnished the electors, giving the leading arguments for and against measures submitted to them.
- "5. Should Direct Legislation be found to be ultra vires it should still be used in an advisory capacity to give effect to the findings of the people until the necessary constitutional changes could be secured to incorporate it into our constitution.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"Sincerely yours,

"THOS. H. JOHNSON."

This letter was sent to the Liberal leader, T. C. Norris, with a request for his interpretation of Direct Legislation and he replied endorsing Mr. Johnson's statements. As doubts have been expressed with regard to the matter of the Direct Legislation plank in the platform of the Liberal party, and as this can be taken for an official interpretation, the executive of the Direct Legislation League decided at its last meeting that it should be published as widely as possible and is taking the necessary steps to secure that end.

We have now ordered a car of shingles which will cost us \$2.98 a thousand at Benito, altho the merchants here are asking \$4.25.

Co-operative buying has certainly strengthened our Association. We allow non-members to come in on our purchases by seeking first their \$1 membership fee. Purchases are made for cash; we have not dealt on time, and I accept no orders on that plan.

In addition to this we have here a Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. The elevator cost us \$10,000 and has a

capacity of 35,000 bushels, with a grain cleaner. This is the second year the elevator has been in operation, and it is a huge success, having made \$900 in profits over and above all running expenses the first year. The shares are \$50 each, and as soon as all the subscribers' shares are paid up we intend to establish a co-operative store. We have two line elevators here, but they have no cleaners, and we have to pay the freight on dirt and dockage and get nothing for it, tho it is generally sold at \$15 a ton in Port Arthur. The farm-

ers' elevator saves all this and cleans the grain without any extra charge, allowing the farmers to gather up their screenings and boil or chop it and use for feed.

JAS. S. PATTEN,
Secretary.

A GOOD START

The co-operative buying of the Silverwood Grain Growers' Association for 1913 comprised a carload of apples and a carload of mill products. The carload of apples cost \$661.65 for 150 barrels, and we were able to sell them at a saving of \$2 a barrel on local prices, or \$300 on the carload. The carload of flour and feed cost \$914 and we calculate that we saved \$150 on the load. We allowed non-members to purchase apples, but the flour we restricted to our members and the members of adjoining associations. The membership for 1914 has increased very considerably as a result.

HENRY T. THOMPSON.
Makaroff, Man.

BUSY YEAR AT HOLLAND

The first co-operative purchase by the Holland Association in March, 1913, was a carload of Marquis wheat for seed. This car contained one thousand bushels. In small lots we were quoted Marquis at \$1.75 per bushel, but by carload we got a price of \$1.35 per bushel, f.o.b. Indian Head. This, with carload freight against local freight, made a big saving. The members of the association paid \$1.41 per bushel for their Marquis wheat, and farmers not belonging to the Association paid \$1.50. There was easily a saving of thirty-five cents per bushel on the carload of Marquis wheat, and we got splendid wheat.

Two carloads of green cut cedar fence posts were next purchased. These posts measured from three and a half to five inches at the small end, and were seven feet long. The cost was nine cents a post, f.o.b. Holland. The first car was delivered to members at nine cents per post, the second at nine and a half, as it was found necessary to have a small margin to pay the expense of handling. Cedar posts of the quality we received are worth locally from fifteen cents upwards, so there was a direct saving to the members of the association of six cents per post on one carload and five and a half cents on the other.

A consignment of a ton of granulated sugar was purchased in July. The price delivered to Grain Growers' Association members in Holland, after paying local freight and commission was five dollars per cwt., a saving of seventy-five cents per cwt.

Tenders were asked for and obtained

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Canadian Co-operative Union

By Geo. Keen, Honorary Secretary, Brantford, Ont.

The Co-operative Union of Canada was organized on March 6, 1909. Three societies—all of them retail—were represented at the meeting convened for the purpose at Hamilton, Ontario. Today there are in affiliation with the Union twenty-two retail societies, located as follows: Ontario—Guelph; Preston, Ottawa, Berlin, London, Brockville, Peterborough, Galt; Quebec—Valleyfield, Magog; Nova Scotia—Sydney Mines, Dominion, Inverness, Glace Bay, Sydney; British Columbia—New Westminster, Merritt; Alberta—Coleman, Eckville, Hillcrest, Lethbridge; Manitoba—Winnipeg.

The objects for which the Co-operative Union of Canada was brought into existence are similar to those which necessitated the organization of co-operative unions in every European country where the movement has achieved any considerable success. The first object named in its rules is:—

"The recognition by affiliation with the Union of all bona fide co-operative associations in the Dominion of Canada, in order that the public may be able to distinguish the same from institutions which are now, or may hereafter be, organized with a co-

operative title for purposes of personal or private advantage or profit."

Such a declaration has been found unnecessary in the constitution of co-operative unions in other countries. In the past there has been so much fraudulent imitation on this continent of the co-operative system successful in Europe that it has been felt necessary to place at the service of the people an institution which will enable them to distinguish between private exploitation schemes in the name of co-operation, and genuine attempts to practice the principles of the movement.

Scope of Union

All genuine co-operative societies, of whatever nature or kind, are eligible for admission. So far, however, distributive organizations only have applied for affiliation. This is, no doubt, owing to the fact that organizers and original members of such societies are to a great extent old country co-operators, some of whom have knowledge of the comprehensive objects of the movement and its moral basis, and have themselves aspirations for the evolution of a co-operative commonwealth; appreciating that the economic advantages of individual

co-operative organizations form but part of the machinery whereby a more equitable state of society will be brought about. There are agricultural societies in Canada which are equally non-capitalistic in their methods of operation which might be affiliated. The probability is, however, that most of their officials and members have, as yet, little or no vision of the purpose of the movement beyond the immediate financial advantage to be gained by combining with their neighbors for the conversion of raw materials into marketable produce, to dispose of what they have to sell at a better price, or to purchase the merchandise they need at a lower cost. With the spread of co-operative knowledge there is no reason why all bona fide societies in Canada should not be federated in one Union. Denmark is often quoted as an object lesson in co-operative achievements, and it is worthy of note that, in that country, all kinds of societies are federated in the one Union. In 1901 there were 684 societies in the Union, the number having risen to 1,200 societies in 1910. Altogether there are 1,300 societies in that country, so it will be seen forty only were in the year mentioned outside the Union; a remarkable

demonstration of co-operative solidarity. We hope to see in the Canadian Union, in the process of time, distributive societies, agricultural productive societies, credit or banking societies, agricultural marketing societies, housing societies, labor co-partnership societies, and, indeed, every possible class of co-operative institution working in a fraternal and equitable spirit thru the national union for the common advantage, to the ultimate achievement of a co-operative commonwealth.

Canadian Co-operative Wholesale

The rules provide for the organization of sections of the Union in the various Provinces. One only has, so far, been organized, namely, in the Maritime Provinces, and, under its auspices, the first co-operative wholesale society in Canada has been incorporated to satisfy the mercantile needs of the societies there. It is known as The Canadian Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, with headquarters at Sydney, N.S., and commenced business in July last. This organization is federated with the Co-operative Wholesale Society of England, and is a distributor of the merchandise

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