

A CENTURY OF CO-OPERATION

AN EPITOME OF THE BIRTH AND GROWTH  
OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH  
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# A CENTURY OF CO-OPERATION.

## AN EPIITOME OF THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS.

### I N T R O D U C T I O N .

One hundred years ago the 28 Rochdale Weavers opened their humble co-operative store in Toad Lane; to-day Co-operative Organisations practising the Principles which the Pioneers conceived as the basis of their enterprise are to be found throughout the world.

Through the century 1844 to 1944 this brochure traces the early beginnings of the Co-operative Movement country by country - not many of them have yet attained a century of activity - and their development.

Although prominence is given to Rochdale Consumers' Co-operation, Retail and Wholesale, the Agricultural Movements and the Credit Societies are also mentioned in order to make the picture of a Century of Co-operative Effort more complete.

As far as possible, statistical development is shown from decade to decade, but in some instances other periods have been used, in view of exceptional development or according to the material available.

A few countries have been omitted, either because available information concerning them was too incomplete to give a satisfactory picture or because the Movements are only at the very beginning of their history.

Colonial territories are not included as, apart from Ceylon, Malaya, Nigeria, the Gold Coast, North Africa, Cyprus, and the Dutch East Indies, Colonial Co-operation is either in its embryonic stage or does not yet exist.\*

Though the Birth and Growth of Co-operation are only sketched in the briefest outline, the facts and figures reveal something of the spiritual force behind them and reflect the struggles and difficulties, the greatness and glory of the co-operative past. They tell, of course, an unfinished story - one which co-operators living all over the world are carrying on to-day - and it is to them that this survey is offered. May the achievements of the past, which are portrayed in these pages, be an encouragement for co-operators of all lands in their task of building the co-operative future.

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\* See "Co-operation in the British Colonies", a series of factual surveys published in the "Review of International Co-operation", January-December, 1942.



## G R E A T   B R I T A I N .

Up to the end of last century many countries in Europe were still co-operative deserts, while in England the modern Consumers' Movement started by the 28 Rochdale Pioneers in 1844 had by 1900 a strength of 1,439 Societies with 1.7 million members.

Practically every major constitutional development is associated with the years 1863 to 1872. The English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, founded in 1864 and 1868, respectively, the Co-operative Union (1869), the Co-operative Insurance Society (1867), C.W.S. Production and Banking, all trace the history of their development back to that ten-year period.

But it is only since 1881 that comparable statistics are available with regard to Retail Distributive Societies.

### Development of Consumers' (Retail Distributive) Societies.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million £)
1881 .....	971	547,212	15.4
1891 .....	1,307	1,044,675	30.6
1901 .....	1,438	1,793,167	52.8
1911 .....	1,403	2,640,429	74.8
1921 .....	1,352	4,548,557	218.8
1931 .....	1,188	6,590,020	207.9
1941 .....	1,059	8,773,255	302.2
1942 .....	1,058	8,924,868	319.4

The average co-operative trade per head of the population of Great Britain amounts to £35.

At the present time it is estimated that the Movement handles about 12% of the total food and allied trade of the country; in some essential commodities the proportion is very much higher, as indicated by the number of registrations for rationed goods held by Societies. In July, 1942, Co-operative Societies supplied 27% of the (estimated) civil population with sugar and preserves; 26% with butter, margarine, cooking fats and cheese; 24% with bacon and milk; 18% with eggs; and 14.5% with meat. The Movement also handles about 20% of the coal trade and supplies one-third of the nation's milk. Some years before the war, its bread sales represented more than 25% of total bread consumption.

In July, 1943, the Movement secured 3.8 million new commodity registrations, bringing the total to 82 million. Present totals for individual commodities are: sugar and preserves 11.6 million; butter, fat, margarine 11.4 million; cheese 11.3 million; bacon and ham 10.6 million; eggs 7.8 million; meat 6.3 million.

Taking Scotland alone, the figures are even more impressive. Of the population of 4.7 million, co-operative membership is 1.9 million and average co-operative purchases per head of the population £53. Co-operative

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registrations, too, are above the national average, viz., sugar 40%, butter 39%, bacon 34%, cheese 39%. Sales of Scottish Retail Societies increased from £34 million in 1932 to £58 million in 1942.

The English C.W.S., the oldest Consumers' Wholesale Society in the world, this year celebrates its 80th Anniversary. For 1943-44 its turnover was £166.8 million compared with £82.8 million in 1932 and £51,900 in 1864. The Scottish C.W.S. celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1943 with a record turnover of £35 million compared with £16 million in 1932 and £81,094 in 1868. Both Wholesales have a vast number and variety of Productive Works and Factories.

The English and Scottish Joint C.W.S., established in 1882 to handle the business of the two Wholesales in tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, and colonial produce, had a trade in its first business year of £286,848, in 1933 of over £5.9 million, and in 1943 of more than £8.3 million.

Equally impressive are the figures for the Co-operative Insurance Society, which had a premium income last year of nearly £12 million, and the Banking Department of the C.W.S. with a turnover of £1,075 million.

Great Britain is one of the two countries (France being the other) which have a National Federation of Workers' Productive or Co-partnership Societies. It was about 1850 that a band of Christian Socialists began to set up "self-governing workshops" in and about London. Early difficulties were overcome and co-partnership grew up from 12 Societies in 1883 to 70 Societies in 1893 and 110 in 1904. In 1882 the Co-operative Productive Federation, Ltd., was founded. No official figures have been issued as to the number of Workers' Productive Societies since 1931, when 74 were in operation. In 1941 the C.P.F. comprised 40 Societies, which would include the largest and most important of the Productive Societies, with a membership of 14,300 and a turnover of £3.6 million, against a membership of 43 Societies with 15,200 members and a turnover of £2.6 million in 1931.

The Agricultural Co-operative Movement began in 1889 with the formation of the Aspatria Society in Cumberland - which is still in existence - for the purchase of artificial fertilisers. The period of most rapid growth in the Societies was during the active life of the English Agricultural Organisation Society (1900-1923). Since then Agricultural Organisation Societies have continued to foster the growth of the Movement in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but the English Societies have been left to develop unaided, except for the support derived from the trading and banking facilities of the English C.W.S., of which many are members.

The Agricultural Movement has always been strongest in the distribution of agricultural requirements - feeding stuffs, fertilisers, seeds - now amounting to a total of £12 million annual sales. In Northern Ireland co-operative creameries have played a large part, but their existence is now threatened by the development of the condensed milk industry.

In March, 1943, the Movement counted in England alone 196 Societies with a membership of 84,500. Their marketing turnover amounted to £9.1 million and supply of agricultural requirements to £8.95 million.



## A U S T R I A .

Co-operation in Austria in its early years shared to a considerable extent the more salient features of the German Movement. The first Organisations to be formed were Schulze-Delitzsch Credit Societies, which founded a Union in Vienna in 1869. The development of Raiffeisen Societies on a larger scale in the present territory of Austria belongs to the years 1887 to 1893, when they received the support of the Government.

Consumers' Societies based on Rochdale Principles began to develop among the Austrian workers in the early 60s, but some of them failed. One of the first to make real progress was the First Workers' Co-operative Society of Lower Austria, founded in Vienna in 1864.

In 1872 the General Union of Austrian Co-operative Societies (Allgemeiner Verband der auf Selbsthilfe beruhenden deutschen Erwerbs- und Wirtschaftsgenossenschaften in Österreich) was formed which absorbed the Schulze-Delitzsch Union and comprised most of the Consumers' Societies. In 1896 and 1898 some Workers' Societies tried to break away from the General Union, and in 1901 they formed a Union (Österreichischer Genossenschaftsverband). Its development was facilitated by a new law on compulsory auditing which gave Unions the right to audit their affiliated Societies' accounts; at the end of 1903 the new Union comprised 184 Consumers' and some Workers' Productive Societies. The General Union still had 200 Consumers' Societies, so that the Consumers' Movement was divided into two equally strong groups; attempts to unite them succeeded in May, 1904, with the creation of the Central Union of Austrian Consumers' Societies (Zentralverband österreichischer Konsumvereine). The following year the Wholesale Society (Grosseinkaufsgesellschaft österreichischer Consumvereine, GÖC) was established.

Austria at that time was composed of many nationalities, a fact which caused much difficulty and friction. In 1908 a large number of Czech Societies in Bohemia left the Central Union and formed one of their own.

In 1912 the Central Union comprised 515 Societies with 273,000 members and a turnover of Crowns 85 million. Of the Societies, 371 were German, 82 Czech, 26 Polish, 19 Italian, 13 Slovenian, and 2 Roumanian.

In the small Austrian Republic which emerged in November, 1918, from the former Austrian Empire, the Co-operative Movement was confronted with enormous difficulties. Economic chaos reigned, inflation set in, followed by mass unemployment - the former lasted for 4 years, but the latter became permanent.

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The Central Union was reconstituted in November, 1919; it consisted mainly of Consumers' Societies but included also Productive, Building and Settlement Societies and People's Homes.

For more than three decades the greater part of the Consumers' Movement was closely connected with the Social Democratic Party, a fact for which it suffered in 1934. Four days after the outbreak of the conflict between the forces of the Dollfuss Government and the armed section of the Socialist Party in February, orders were issued for the control of the Austrian C.W.S. and the Vienna Consumers' Society. The Government's declared purpose of control was to eliminate all political activity by Consumers' Organisations and to confine them to their economic and social purposes. Self-government was restored to the Vienna Society in June, 1935, and to the Wholesale in January, 1936.

Following the seizure of Austria by Germany in March, 1938, a Commissar was appointed by the authorities of the Reich to control the activities of the Austrian Union and Wholesale, and, through them, of the whole Consumers' Movement.

Subsequently the Consumers' and Agricultural Movements (the latter in 1936 comprised 3,770 Societies with 441,400 members) were incorporated in the German Movement and shared their fate.

With regard to the membership figures of the Consumers' Movement below, the decrease from 1924 to 1928 was due to the fact that many people who had been obliged to obtain their rationed supplies from Consumers' Societies went elsewhere when State control ceased, while those who were registered as members but did not buy their requirements from their Society were struck off the membership lists.

Development of Austrian Consumers' Societies.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Turnover.</u> (In Million Sch.)
1925 .....	128	475,500	134.5
1928 .....	121	255,600	148.9
1932 .....	109	268,200	139.3
1934 .....	101	264,500	115.2
1936 .....	99	259,400	118.2
1937 .....	-	-	124.6

The trade of the Wholesale Society GÖC (including affiliated auxiliaries) in the last two years for which statistics are available was: 1935, Sch.78.6 million; 1936, Sch.82.4 million.

## T H E B A L T I C S T A T E S .

### L I T H U A N I A , L A T V I A , A N D E S T O N I A .

In the three Baltic States, which gained their independence from Czarist Russia after the last world war but became part of the Soviet Union in August, 1940, the Co-operative Movement made an essential contribution to the restoration and development of the national economic life, and Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Co-operative Organisations became the largest trading enterprises in their countries.

In LITHUANIA, the largest of the three States, the first Consumers' Society was founded in 1869 in Vilna, but pronounced co-operative development dates from about 1904. Before the first world war there were on the present territory of Lithuania 200 Consumers' Societies, 112 Credit and about 80 Agricultural Societies.

A new period of development, particularly in the sphere of Consumers' Co-operation, commenced in 1919 with the establishment of the Republic. Consumers' Societies (including Rural Supply and Sale Societies) increased from 250 in 1919 to 410 in 1923; during the same years the total of all types of Societies increased from 270 to 870 and to 1,960 in 1926. In 1939 the Movement comprised 1,170 Societies - including 185 Dairies, 160 Agricultural (including Rural Supply and Sale Societies), 360 Credit and 30 Consumers' Societies proper; also 240 Cattle-Control Circles and 125 Associations for the common use of agricultural machinery. Total membership was about 250,000.

Most of the Agricultural and Rural Consumers' (Supply) Societies, whose trade in 1938 totalled Lits 99.1 million with 22,000 members, were organised in the Co-operative Wholesale Society (Lietuvos Zemes Ukio Kooperatyvu Sajunga "Lietukis"), Kaunas, founded in 1923, which in 15 years achieved such a development as to control notable percentages of the national supply of some commodities of mass consumption - for instance, sugar 76%, salt 84%, herrings 26%, cement 59.5%, glass 22%, synthetic fertilisers 100%, agricultural machinery 80%, oil products 42%. "Lietukis" trade in 1939 amounted to Lits 138.9 million.

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The 30 Consumers' Societies proper are confined to the big towns. The largest is the Kaunas Society "Parama", which had about 30 stores, and owned the biggest bakery in the country before the war.

At the beginning of 1939, in addition to the Consumers' and Rural Trading Societies, there existed 315 Co-operative Credit Societies with 117,000 members, and 185 Co-operative Dairies with 18,000 members. The Dairies were organised in the Central Union of Co-operative Dairies (Centraline Lietuvos Pieno Bendroviu Sajunga "Pienocentras"), which controlled practically all exports of dairy produce and eggs from Lithuania.

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In LATVIA, the second largest of the Baltic States as regards population, the Movement goes back to the early 60s, but less than 4% of the 1,400 Co-operative Organisations which existed before the first world war survived. The restoration of the Movement began with the creation of 54 Consumers' Societies in 1919; 358 were founded in 1920 and 106 in 1921. In the subsequent years the foundation of Credit, Fire Insurance and Dairy Societies predominated. Altogether, from 1919 to 1925, 2,194 Societies were registered.

The natural development of Co-operation in Latvia was interrupted under the régime which followed the armed "putsch" of May, 1934, and the whole Movement was adapted to the new leadership ideology. While the Government was favourably disposed towards all sections of the Movement - Consumers', Agricultural, Credit and Insurance - it deprived them of their autonomy and independence.

Under a law of 21st January, 1937, a Central Union (Centrala savieniba "Turiba") was established to which all the assets and liabilities of the two former Unions of Consumers' Societies were transferred after their "voluntary" liquidation, and of which all their former affiliated Societies automatically became members. The chief shareholders of "Turiba" were Government Banks.

In 1939 there were about 1,700 Co-operative Societies with 431,000 members. "Turiba" then comprised 225 Consumers' Societies, 178 Dairies, and various other organisations. Consumers' Societies

had a membership of 33,000 and a turnover in 1938 of Lats 59 million. Sales to Consumers' Societies represented 41% of the total turnover of "Turība" - Lats 80 million.

Latvian Dairy Societies, an important sector of the Movement, were organised in the Central Union of Dairy Societies (Latvijas Pien-saimniecības Centrālā Savienība), which established a number of shops and restaurants for the sale of milk products, also a Central Milk Station. Although the Central Union and its auxiliaries underwent organisational changes, the Dairy Societies were not interfered with under the new régime.

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In contrast with the smallness of the country, ESTONIA has a large number and variety of Co-operative Organisations which have shown remarkable vitality.

The first Consumers' Society was founded in 1902; by 1917 there were about 150 with 17,000 members. In 1919 the Movement was organised in the Central Union of Estonia (Eesti Ühistegeline Liit) comprising 10 separate Unions for different types of Societies. The most important are Consumers', Dairies, and a variety of Marketing and other Agricultural Societies. Total membership was about 236,000.

One of the first developments after the Russian Revolution was the creation in 1917 of the Estonian Wholesale Society (Eesti Tarvita-jate Keskkühisus, E.T.K.), universal provider, large-scale producer and exporter for the whole Movement. One quarter of all goods sold were produced in its own factories; they included a great variety of commodities from agricultural machinery to paper, from soap to tinned fish. In 1939 E.T.K.'s turnover amounted to Ekr.36.3 million. In the same year, of the most important goods imported, such as ferti-lisers, agricultural machinery and implements, salt, sugar, kerosene and tobacco, over 50% of the country's requirements were imported by E.T.K. Its affiliated Societies then numbered 193, of which 185 with 54,000 members were Trading Societies, with total sales of Ekr.52.1 million.

The retail sales of the Movement represented 25% of the retail trade of the country.

262 Co-operative Dairies with 30,000 members controlled 93% of butter and 10% of total cheese production. By 1936 about 70% of the butter export was handled by two co-operative enterprises, but the same year it was monopolised and a new organisation set up by the Government.

The Marketing Organisations include Peat, Potato, Poultry, Fruit and Vegetable Societies, Distilleries. There were also 650 Societies for the Use of Agricultural Machinery.

Credit Societies numbered 216, with 82,600 members, and 362 Mutual Insurance Funds grouped 62,000 members, apart from 8 Insurance Societies, a Re-insurance Society and 2 Central Co-operative Banks.

In 1935 the whole Movement was co-ordinated in a National Chamber of Co-operation set up by the State and placed under the control of the Minister for Economic Affairs "for the appropriate organisation and development of Co-operation and the promotion and protection of its interests". At the end of 1938 the Chamber included 3,300 Societies of all types.

\* \* \* \*

In 1940, when the Baltic States were incorporated into the U.S.S.R., the Consumers' Co-operative Organisations of the three countries were remodelled according to the Soviet system and came under the control of "Centrosoyus", Moscow.

The next year, following the German attack upon the U.S.S.R., Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were invaded and occupied. Further organisational changes were imposed upon the Co-operative Movements and the German authorities have since made use of all co-operative facilities for the tasks of distribution and supply - but, for the time being, Co-operation in the Baltic States has lost its autonomy and independence.

## B E L G I U M.

The Belgian Consumers' Co-operative Movement has developed in close association with the political parties of the country and its social classes. The Socialist Co-operative Movement, linked to the Belgian Labour Party, is by far the strongest, most progressive section; the others are the Catholic, Christian, Democratic and Liberal groups of Societies, and Neutral Societies which consist very largely of civil servants.

The earliest attempts of the Belgian workers at co-operative organisation, made in 1849, were in the sphere of production, but they were short-lived. In the next 20 years the tendency towards Productive rather than Consumers' Co-operation persisted.

The nucleus of the present Socialist Co-operative Movement was a number of Co-operative Bakeries. These Bakeries were represented at the first Belgian Workers' Congress that led to the constitution of the Belgian Labour Party in 1885, and also to the extension of the Co-operative Movement, with the creation of the well-known "Maisons du Peuple" (they numbered 375 in 1939) which are the social and political centres of the whole Belgian Labour Movement.

A few years later, during a period of agricultural crisis, Co-operation began to develop in rural areas, and in 1890 a Central Agricultural Union "Boerenbond" was established at Louvain.

1900 brought the foundation of the Wholesale Society of the Socialist Consumers' Societies,\* and 1907 the creation of the Insurance Society "La Prévoyance Sociale" - which quickly became one of the largest insurance enterprises in the country, and has developed remarkable health and social welfare services, including a number of modern sanatoria.

The Union of Socialist Consumers' and Productive Societies (Office Coopératif Belge) was founded only in 1909.

During the period of the first world war and German occupation the Co-operative Movement in Belgium suffered very serious losses, and after the Armistice was faced with far-reaching tasks of reconstruction and development.

In the early 30s the Movement was severely affected by the economic crisis and more particularly in 1934 by the failure of the Labour Bank. The situation demanded the re-organisation of the Movement, which was effected in 1935 and 1936. Its structure was re-modelled and the whole of its activity - commercial, productive, education and

\* Fédération des Sociétés Coopératives Belges.

propaganda - was unified in a single Central Organisation (Société Générale Coopérative) which in the last year before the outbreak of the war sold goods to the value of Fr.164 million.

Development of the Socialist Consumers' Movement.

	<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Fr.)
<u>Consumers' Societies.</u>	1890 ....	-	13,270	4.8
	1904 ....	-	103,350	26.9
	1910 ....	-	170,740	44.9
	1923 ....	51	245,700	257.2
	1931 ....	54	288,300	723.9
	1938 ....	40	305,200	663.1
<u>Productive Societies.</u>	1924 ....	19	3,470	15.1
	1931 ....	22	5,380	41.8
	1938 ....	22	5,900	53.7

It was estimated before the war that the Belgian Consumers' Movement as a whole comprised about 25% of the population.

The development of co-operative production in Belgium is not mainly centralised, as in most other countries, in the Wholesale Society, but rather in large Regional Societies - for instance, the productive works at Micheroux belong to the Union of Liège and those at Jolimont to the Society "Au Progrès".

\* \* \* \*

The "Boerenbond" is to-day a very powerful organisation. More than 1,200 Supply and Marketing Associations with about 128,000 members were affiliated to it before the war; its Wholesale Society owns a number of oil mills, flour mills, warehouses, auction marts; in 1937 it supplied its member Societies with goods to the value of more than half a milliard francs and sold agricultural produce amounting to Fr.131 million. The "Boerenbond" has its Central Credit Institute, and its insurance business is one of the largest in the country. The Walloon parts of Belgium have their own Agricultural Co-operative Organisations, but they are smaller, less co-ordinated and, therefore, much less powerful than the "Boerenbond", which operates mainly in the Flemish-speaking parts of the country.



## B U L G A R I A.

Bulgaria declared her independence of the Turks in 1878, and the Co-operative Movement in the country dates from the early years of its independence when Western progressive ideas were eagerly adopted by Bulgarian intellectuals for the solution of national problems. Originating within the restricted limits of Credit Co-operation of the Raiffeisen and Schulze-Delitzsch types, it has developed in the course of less than half a century a rich variety of Co-operative Organisations, especially in the sphere of Agricultural Production, where almost every product is co-operatively handled.

The first Rural Society was founded in 1890, the second in 1897; the first Consumers' Society was established in Kasanlik in 1901; and the first People's Bank, a characteristic type of Society in Bulgaria, in Sofia in 1903.

The Commercial Code at that time was a hindrance to co-operative activity, which only developed freely after the amendment of the legal provisions in 1903. A Co-operative Law followed in 1907. In 1903 there were only 24 Societies; within 4 years the number increased to 238 Societies with 19,400 members. 1905 saw the foundation of the Co-operative Insurance and Savings' Society of Bulgarian Civil Servants, which has become the most important Life and Fire Insurance Office of the country.

### Development of the Co-operative Movement.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>
1903 .....	24	-
1907 .....	238	19,400
1909 .....	604	-
1924 .....	3,873	500,200
1935 .....	3,105	803,600
1937 .....	3,179	858,300
1939 .....	3,438	955,800

More than half of the membership is comprised in Urban and Rural Credit Societies. Agricultural Credit Societies usually function as General Purposes Societies, undertaking also consumers' supply and marketing activities. Agricultural Co-operative Societies collaborate closely with the Agricultural and Co-operative Bank, which is the main organ for the execution of the Government's agricultural policy. They often function as Government agencies in collection and marketing of crops, etc.

P.T.O.

Consumers' Societies based on Rochdale Principles are mostly confined to the towns. At the end of 1938 their total membership was estimated at 150,000, about half of which was organised in 63 Societies, affiliated to the Union and Wholesale Society "Napred", founded in 1919. Before the war the retail trade of "Napred's" Societies, other Consumers' Societies and Consumers' Departments of Credit Societies amounted to Leva 1,585 million, which represented nearly 25% of the retail trade of the country.

In 1942 "Napred" comprised 82 Consumers' Societies with about 100,000 members; retail and wholesale trade was Lvs.2,740 million. Of the total trade of the country "Napred" and its Societies were responsible for 78% of the total sugar supplies, 4% of rice, 50% of fuel alcohol, 35% of salt, 32% of copper sulphate, 17% of petroleum and similar products.

"Napred", like the Agricultural Co-operative Societies, has been allotted tasks in the framework of the Government's war-time economic policy. Thus it undertakes a considerable part of the collection and storage of grain on behalf of the Grain Export Direction.

The number of Co-operative Societies and their membership at the beginning of 1942 was as follows:-

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Members.</u>
Credit Societies .....	2,520	550,000
Consumers' Societies .....	155	105,000
Marketing, Purchasing and Processing Societies .....	127	20,000
Health and Public Works Societies .....	30	17,000
Insurance Societies .....	100	355,000
Productive Societies .....	923	241,000

## C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A .

As part of the general political and national evolution, Co-operation in Czechoslovakia developed in a number of separate Movements associated with political parties and national groups. It must also be remembered that before the constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic after the last world war the western provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia were under Austrian rule, and the eastern provinces of Slovakia and Sub-Carpathian Russia were under Hungarian rule.

The first Workers' Consumers' Society was founded in 1854 in Tmán (near Prague) and another in 1861 at Staschov. It was not until after the Prusso-Austrian war (1866) that the Movement began to take root among the workers. The Consumers' Society in Prague, founded in 1868, and which in its first year had 3,000 members, became the centre of a rapid co-operative development. But, owing to lack of business experience, it failed in 1875, and with it disappeared the whole Consumers' Movement, which comprised 500 Societies. About 20 years elapsed before the workers in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia undertook again the establishment of Co-operative Societies, but for a time their interest centred upon Productive Societies, the first of which was established in 1896. Consumers' Societies followed.

After the passing of the Auditing Law (1903) in Austria, most of these Societies joined the Austrian Union of Co-operative Societies. The Czech workers, however, desired to be independent; in 1908 and 1909, respectively, they founded their own Co-operative Union and Wholesale Society (Ustredni svaz ceskoslovenskych druzstev and Velkonakupni spolecnost druzstev) which attracted gradually two-thirds of the Czech members of the Austrian Union. Membership of the new Union increased from 30 Societies at its foundation to 285 Societies, with 71,500 members, in 1914. In 1918 all the remaining Czech members of the Austrian Union joined the new Union.

The German (Sudeten) and Polish Workers' Co-operative Societies formed a separate Union (Verband deutscher Wirtschaftsgenossenschaften) in 1919, and the former Austrian Wholesale Department, established 1905, was re-organised into an independent organisation, the "GEC" Productive and Wholesale Society of Industrial and Economic Societies ("GEC" Produktions- und Grosseinkaufsverband für Erwerbs- und Wirtschaftsvereinigungen) which, like the Union, had its headquarters in Prague.

In the sphere of Agricultural Co-operation the first Agricultural Credit Societies (Mutual Savings and Loan Societies) were founded only in the 60s. They were called "Kampelický", after their founder Dr. Kampelík. By 1873 there were 450 Societies in Bohemia, 330 in Moravia and Silesia. This development did not extend to the eastern provinces, where serfdom still existed.

Between 1850 and 1860 Credit Societies of the Raiffeisen type were established by the German rural population. Rural and Urban Credit and Loan Banks on the Schulze-Delitzsch model were promoted simultaneously

by Dr. Simacek. The first Czech Raiffeisen Bank was created in 1890. The number of Societies increased rapidly and consistently - in 1901 there were 1,490 Societies; in 1920 - 3,820; in 1929 - 4,190; in 1935 - 5,360. These formed the basis of the agricultural co-operative system built up in Czechoslovakia, but their original credit basis was expanded in 1895 with the formation of the first 10 Distributive Co-operatives.

In 1935 there existed 16,670 Societies of all types organised in a number of separate Unions with a total membership of 2,189,500 - Agricultural and Credit Societies 1,274,200, Consumers' Societies 915,300.

In the period between the two world wars the two chief Unions of Consumers' Societies - Czech and German - had to contend with enormous difficulties. Immediately after the first steps of reconstruction, a period of inflation set in from 1919 to June 1922, followed by an equally difficult period of deflation. The economic depression which set in in 1929-30 hit the country particularly hard - the number of unemployed during the years 1932 to 1936 reached over 900,000. All these difficulties had serious repercussions on the Consumers' Organisations, but both sections of the Movement kept their ground.

Development of the Consumers' Societies of the Czech and German Unions.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>		<u>Membership.</u>		<u>Turnover.</u>	
	Cz.	G.	Cz.	G.	(In Million Kc.)	
1922 .....	1,373	259	556,700	301,300	1,326	732
1929 .....	1,043	176	443,200	231,900	1,343	587
1936 .....	744	166	447,800	238,500	1,156	466
1937 .....	740	162	491,200	231,300	1,320	496

The Czech Wholesale Society sold goods to the value of Kc.560.6 million in 1937, and the turnover of the German C.W.S. in the same year was Kc.321 million.

After the occupation of the Sudeten territory, according to the Munich Agreement, all German Consumers' Societies in Czechoslovakia and their Central Institutions were liquidated.

When Bohemia and Moravia became a German Protectorate in March, 1939, the Consumers' Movement was centralised nationally into one Auditing Union, one Wholesale Society, and locally into one Consumers' Society for each town or district. In 1942 and 1943 Decrees were issued for the creation of new Central Organisations - Agricultural, Consumers', Building, Credit. To these affiliation was obligatory, and the Central Organisations were subject to various Ministries. For the Consumers' Societies a "Trustee" was appointed in November, 1942, empowered with all rights which normally belong to the statutory organs of Societies.

In Slovakia the Movement functions as a part of nazi war economy, but no details are available.

## D E N M A R K.

It is in Denmark that Co-operation has reached its highest peak in national economy; it has also contributed immeasurably to the high standard of efficiency and the prosperity of Danish agriculture, which is based on the export of high grade agricultural produce and the import of grain, feeding stuffs, fertilisers, and raw materials. Today, practically the whole farming community is co-operatively organised as producers as well as consumers, and in the towns, too, Consumers' Co-operation is well established.

Before 1882 no Co-operative Dairy Societies existed. In 1937 they numbered 1,416 (including 11 Co-operative Butter Export Societies) with 190,000 members; together the Dairy Societies handled 91% of milk supplied to all dairies in the country, while the Butter Export Societies handled 51.8% of the total butter exported. In the same year Co-operative Bacon Factories, started in 1887, were responsible for 84% of the animals slaughtered at all exporting slaughterhouses, and, jointly with the Egg Exportation Society, founded in 1895, they handled 25% of the total export of eggs.

Co-operative purchasing of feeding-stuffs was organised in 1899; by 1938 the co-operative share of all purchases amounted to 67% of the total consumption, while the Co-operative Fertiliser Society (established 1901) supplied 39.6% of the total consumption of commercial manures.

Consumers' Co-operation had preceded the formation of Farmers' Sale and Agricultural Supply Organisations. The first Society on the Rochdale model was founded in 1866 at Thisted in Jutland, and from the 80s onward Consumers' Societies rapidly developed. While in other countries the working classes took the lead in their establishment, in Denmark it was for many years almost exclusively the rural population who formed Consumers' Societies, and only towards the beginning of the 20th century did factory workers, civil servants, etc., begin to avail themselves of the advantages of Consumers' Co-operation.

The Danish Wholesale Society (Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger, F.D.B.), Copenhagen, founded in 1896, serves both the Agricultural and Industrial Consumers' Societies and collaborates closely with the other co-operative sections of the Central Organisation of the Farmers' Movement, De Samvirkende danske Andelsselskaber.

P.T.O.

The Industrial (Workers') Co-operative Movement, which before the war comprised 40 Consumers' Societies with 77,200 members and turnover of Kr.33 million (including the Copenhagen Society "Hovedstadens Brugsforening", the largest in the country with 33,600 members) is organised in the Co-operative Union, Det Kooperative Faellesforbund, Copenhagen, founded 1922.

Development of Consumers' Societies.

(Agricultural and Industrial)

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u>	<u>Wholesale Turnover.</u>
			(In Million Kr.)	
1892 ....	547	75,300	-	-
1908 ....	1,191	169,100	-	41.1
1911 ....	1,286	181,300	-	48.8
1921 ....	1,799	336,400	-	174.6
1931 ....	1,796	321,500	242.0	131.5
1939 ....	1,901	402,000	361.5	216.2

In 1942 the membership of the Consumers' Societies reached 427,000, and the trade of the consumers' sector in that year was Kr.614 million out of a total co-operative trade of Kr.2,202 million. Before the war the Consumers' Movement handled 30% of the country's retail grocery trade, and, on the basis of 4 persons to a family, nearly 50% of the population was served by Consumers' Societies.

In 1940 there were 7,296 Co-operative Societies of all types, including 1,390 Dairies, with a total membership of 1,896,000 and a trade of Kr.2,497,000,000.

In Denmark, as in Norway, there have been signs of growing confidence in the Movement during the war. These are particularly reflected in the progress of the Copenhagen Society, whose membership had increased by the end of 1942 by 30%, number of shops by 21, and volume of trade by 15% compared with a rise of only 5% in the food price index.

F I N L A N D.

In 1900 only one Co-operative Store existed in Finland. To-day one out of every six inhabitants is a member of a Consumers' Co-operative Society.

In 1903 Societies counted 190 with 19,500 members; 310 Co-operative Stores, 300 Dairy Societies, 200 Credit Banks, and 190 other Societies had been established by 1907, a total of over 1,000 Societies in six years.

By 1931, in just over a quarter of a century, the number of Societies had reached 5,600 with 730,800 members, of which 4,900 with 275,500 members were Agricultural Societies.

Since 1916 two Consumers' Movements have existed in Finland, the "Neutral" and "Progressive". The Wholesale Society (Suomen Osuuskauppojen Keskuskunta, S.O.K.) - now the C.W.S. of the Neutral Movement represented by the Union, Yleinen Osuuskauppojen Liitto, Y.O.L. (1908) - was established in 1904 with 27 affiliated Societies. The Progressive Societies left S.O.K. and founded their Union (Kulutususkuntien Keskusliitto, K.K.) in 1916, and their Wholesale Society (Osuustukkukauppa, OTK) in 1917.

K.K. Societies are urban in their location; those of Y.O.L. are rural, which accounts for their much larger number. As regards individual membership, retail and wholesale trade, the two Movements are fairly comparable in strength.

Development of Consumers' Societies.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>		<u>Membership.</u>		<u>Retail Turnover.</u>	
					(In Million Fmk.)	
1903 ..	66		13,000			
1909 ..	506		102,000			
	<u>Y.O.L.</u>	<u>K.K.</u>	<u>Y.O.L.</u>	<u>K.K.</u>	<u>Y.O.L.</u>	<u>K.K.</u>
1922 ..	470	112	176,500	160,850	416.6	735.7
1931 ..	422	111	228,900	241,600	1,506.7	1,067.8
1938 ..	417	125	299,300	306,600	3,034.4	2,103.3
1940 ..	400	119	295,100	317,800	3,516.8	2,887.0
1941 ..	400	119	340,000	336,000	4,020.0	3,000.0
1942 ..	-	-	360,000	358,000	4,400.0	3,295.0

Before the war the two Movements together handled one-third of the national retail trade and well over one-third of the wholesale trade - proportions unsurpassed in any other country.

Both Wholesales possess flour-mills, match factories and other successful productive enterprises. Value of supplies from S.O.K. factories in 1941 was Fmk.400 million, its total turnover for that year was Fmk.1,775 million and in 1943 Fmk.1,770 million; OTK turnover for the same years was Fmk.1,613 million and Fmk.1,612 million, respectively.

The Finnish Agricultural Co-operative Movement, comprising about 5,000 Societies, is united in the "Pellervo" Society, founded on the initiative of the Finnish Co-operative Pioneer, Hannes Gebhard, in 1899. "Pellervo" comprises in its membership all sections of the Movement - consumers', producers' and credit - and also acts as Central Organisation for Education and Propaganda.

The Agricultural Trading Co-operative Societies and the Rural Consumers' Societies are supplied by their Wholesale Society "Hankkija" (1905) with agricultural requirements. The Co-operative Dairy Societies, which are responsible for about 80% of Finnish dairy production, have their own butter export organisation - "Valio" Society (1905) - which handles about 90% of the country's butter export.

More than 1,000 Credit Societies are affiliated to the Central Union of Agricultural Credit Societies (Osuuskassojen Keskusliitto), founded 1928.

The Agricultural Co-operative Societies in the Swedish-speaking districts - about 180 with 45,000 members - have their own Central Union (Finlands Svenska Andelsförbund), founded 1919, Wholesale Society and Butter and Export Marketing Organisations. The Union is also a member of "Pellervo".

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During the Russo-Finnish war and by the terms of the Peace, the Consumers' Movements lost valuable distributive and productive enterprises, restaurants, warehouses and administrative buildings in Karelia. After the reconquest of the territory following Finland's entry into the world war in June, 1941, many of the Societies, factories and other property were found to be wholly or partly destroyed. Rehabilitation and rebuilding was undertaken immediately and a large part of the enterprises are now again active.



F R A N C E.

In France Co-operation developed mainly in three sectors: Consumers', Agricultural, and Workers' Productive.

The famous French Consumers' Society, "Commerce Véridique et Social", at Lyons, founded by Michel Derrion and Joseph Reynier in 1835, was short lived, and only in the second half of the century, under the influence of Rochdale, was a lasting foundation laid for the development of the Consumers' Movement. In 1869 there were 110 Co-operative Stores and 30 Co-operative Bakeries; at the turn of the century 1,560 Consumers' Societies with 454,700 members, 250 Workers' Productive Societies, and 2,500 Agricultural Syndicates. France maintained the lead over all other countries in the organisation of industrial production through Workers' Productive Societies.

In 1931 the total number of Societies of all types was 35,360 with 5.4 million members, including 30,030 Agricultural Societies with 2.9 million members, and 3,260 Consumers' Societies with 2.3 million members.

The French Consumers' Movement in its early years was organised in two Unions - the Neutral, founded in 1885 at the first French Co-operative Congress in Paris and inspired by the famous School of Nîmes, a small group of co-operative idealists led by Professor Charles Gide and Emile de Boyve, who saw in Rochdale the germ of a future social order; and the Socialist Union, founded at Paris in 1900. After 10 years of discussion and effort unity was achieved by the Pact of Union signed at the Congress of Tours in 1912, and the National Federation of Consumers' Societies, F.N.C.C. (Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation) was created.

The first Wholesale Society was founded in 1888, but it lived only until 1895. The existing Wholesale Society (Magasin de Gros, M.d.G.) began business in 1907 with the modest turnover of Fr.3.8 million; by 1939 its turnover had increased to Fr.1,277 million.

Development of Consumers' Societies and Co-operative Bakeries.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Fr.)
1901 .....	1,560	454,700	-
1911 .....	2,810	799,200	262.5

Consumers' Societies Affiliated to F.N.C.C.

1922 .....	1,940	1,399,000	-
1931 .....	1,240	1,576,000	2,764.0
1937 .....	1,010	2,454,000	2,996.3
1938 .....	837	2,500,000	3,290.0

P.T.O.

An outstanding feature of the development of the French Consumers' Movement was the 13 large Regional Societies, the greater number of which were found in the industrial districts of North and North-Eastern France.

It was estimated, before the war, that the Consumers' Movement reached about 10% of the population.

After the fall of Paris far-reaching changes of structure in the French Movement were imposed by the new social and economic legislation. The F.N.C.C. and the M.d.G. were merged into one Organisation, the Central Committee of Reorganisation (Comité Coopératif Central de Réorganisation, C.C.C.R.). These drastic changes included the retirement of three well-known co-operative leaders, but the direction of the Movement was placed and has remained in the hands of one of the three General Secretaries of the F.N.C.C., a Director of the M.d.G., and a Director of the Society of Control.

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The Workers' Productive Societies are organised in the Chambre Consultative des Associations Ouvrières de Production, founded in 1884. Before the war they numbered between 400 and 500, with 33,000 members; more than half were engaged in building and public works.

French Agricultural Co-operation is very diversified. It is estimated that about 80% of the French farmers and peasants are linked with the Agricultural Movement, whose Central Organisation is the Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité et de la Coopération Agricoles, founded in 1910.

The "syndicats" - agricultural professional associations - numbering about 20,000 with about 1½ million members and operating under a special law of 1884, fulfil largely the functions of Purchasing Organisations, while special Co-operative Societies, under the Agricultural Co-operative Law, amended and codified in 1939, exist for the marketing of agricultural products, such as cereals, dairy products, wine, edible oils, etc. The 1,500 Wheat Co-operative Societies handled about 80% of the wheat crop in 1939, and the 2,500 Dairy Societies were responsible for about 20% of dairy production. The capacity of the wine cellars of the 800 Wine Producers' Societies is equal to about 30% of the average yearly production of the country.

Credit Societies, about 6,000 in number with a membership of 450,000, are closely linked with the Government's agricultural credit policy; their apex Organisation - Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole - is a public corporation with financial autonomy.

## GERMANY.

The names of two co-operative pioneers stand out in the early history of the German Co-operative Movement - Schulze-Delitzsch and Raiffeisen. The initiative for the formation of the first Co-operative Organisations in Delitzsch came from Herman Schulze-Delitzsch, who in 1849 founded a Sick Benefit and Death Fund followed by 2 Supply Associations for joiners and bootmakers. In 1850 he founded the first Loan Association, out of which evolved the well-known Schulze-Delitzsch Credit Societies. In Eilenburg, a small industrial town, the first Consumers' Society was formed in 1850, followed by Associations of Artisans. About the same time - in 1849 - Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen founded an Association for the purchase of cattle, out of which evolved the first Agricultural Credit Society based on unlimited liability.

The co-operative idea spread rapidly. Each year until 1866 an average of 21 Societies were formed; from 1867 to 1888 the average was 64; from 1889 to 1903 it was 715; in the three years 1904 to 1906 it rose to 1,194. At the end of 1906 there were 25,710 Societies of various kinds, a figure which had increased by 1931 to 53,030 Societies with 9.5 million members, of which 1,700 were Consumers' Societies with 3.71 million members.

The first Central Co-operative Organisation was established in 1859 following the first Congress of Loan and Credit Societies organised by Schulze-Delitzsch; in 1864 the General Union of German Industrial and Economic Societies (Allgemeine Verband der deutschen Erwerbs- und Wirtschaftsgenossenschaften) was founded, which comprised 337 Loan and Credit Societies, 40 Supply and Productive, and 15 Consumers' Societies; in 1894 the German Consumers' Wholesale Society (Grosseinkaufsgesellschaft deutscher Consumvereine), Hamburg, was founded.

In the 90s relations between the middle-class Credit Societies and the predominantly working-class Consumers' Societies became strained, all the more as the latter experienced a rapid development which threatened the predominance of the Credit Societies. Ideological differences added to the difficulties, and at the Congress of 1902 at Kreuznach the C.W.S. and 98 Consumers' Societies were excluded from the General Union. These Societies and others founded their own Union in 1903, the well-known Central Union of German Consumers' Societies (Zentralverband deutscher Konsumvereine), Hamburg.

The Central Union enjoyed only ten years of unbroken development; then came the first world war, excessive state economic control and inflation. More stable conditions prevailed from 1925 until the advent of the nazi régime in 1933.

P.T.O.

Development of Consumers' Societies of  
Zentralverband deutscher Konsumvereine, Hamburg.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Turnover.</u> (In Million Rm.)
1903 ...	627	573,100	131.8
1913 ...	1,140	1,705,000	472.0
1925 ...	1,113	3,383,800	616.0
1930 ...	974*	2,820,141	1,240.0
1932 ...	949	2,950,000	944.0

There also existed a much smaller Consumers' Union, the Reich Union of German Consumers' Societies (Reichsverband deutscher Konsumvereine), Cologne, established in 1908-12, which comprised mainly the Roman Catholic Consumers' Societies in Western Germany - particularly the Rhineland and Westphalia - and some Societies of Civil Servants. In 1923 these Societies formed a Wholesale Society "Gepag", Cologne. The Union in 1932 comprised 259 Societies with a membership of 758,000 and a trade of Rm.150.9 million.

After the advent of the nazi régime the old Consumers' Unions were liquidated and a new Central Organisation, the "Reichsbund", was formed under nazi control. The two Wholesale Societies were amalgamated. The whole Movement was deprived of its co-operative character, many Societies, including the largest, were liquidated and subsequently what remained of the great German Consumers' Movement was absorbed by the German Labour Front. In place of the former Consumers' Societies, Supply Centres have been organised, whose Wholesale Organisation is the Labour Front controlled "Gemeinschaftswerk" which has absorbed the Wholesale Society with all its valuable assets.

Agricultural Societies, which are operating under the direction of the "Reichsnährstand", the corporate organisation of German agriculture, number about 46,000 - including 21,000 Credit Societies, 14,000 of which are also engaged in trading operations, 16,000 Trading Societies (Marketing and Purchasing), and more than 8,000 Societies for common use (electricity, machines, etc.). The total membership of the Agricultural Societies is about 5 million.

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\* The decrease in membership was due to the exclusion of so-called "paper soldiers" who joined Societies during the war and inflation period, but returned to private traders as soon as the latter were able to meet their requirements.

## H U N G A R Y.

Distributive Co-operation was practically unknown in Hungary in the beginning of the 90s - there were perhaps 20 stores in existence. On the other hand, Co-operative Banks were leading the way, and at the end of the century numbered about 1,000. An experiment to extend co-operative distribution through a Co-operative Central Bank resulted in the establishment of over 50 Co-operative Stores by the end of 1899.

In 1898 the "Hangya" Co-operative Wholesale and Productive Society ("Hangya" Termelő-, Ertékesítő- és Fogyasztási Szövetkezet: a Magyar Gazdaszövetség Szövetkezeti Központja) was founded, and has developed into a powerful organisation for the supply of its farmer members and for the sale of their produce, the latter mostly through a number of subsidiaries. Its affiliated Consumers' Societies extend to practically all the villages throughout the country.

At the end of 1931 there were 4,310 Societies with 1.4 million members, of which 1,567 were Distributive Societies with 805,800 members.

### Development of Consumers' Societies.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Pgö.)
1898 .....	29	12,540	1.0
1901 .....	171	152,820	5.0
1911 .....	1,093	167,990	55.5
*1918 .....	2,140	658,270	124.9/
1921 .....	1,911	795,140	56.6
1931 .....	1,616	638,040	77.6
**1940 .....	1,887	641,800	220.6
1941 .....	1,953	700,120	-

"Hangya" is to-day the largest trading concern in Hungary. Its trade has rapidly increased during the war from Pgö.212 million in 1939 to Pgö.254.3 million in 1940, Pgö.359.5 million in 1941, Pgö.451

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/ Turnover figures re-calculated on average monthly rate of exchange of the Gold Crown, as published by the Hungarian Finance Ministry.

\* After the Treaty of Trianon. \*\* After the Second Vienna Award, 1940.

million in 1942 and Pö.602 million in 1943. It fulfils many functions as a Government agency - collection of Government controlled produce, export monopolies, etc.

Although the first Urban Credit Society for Artisans was established in 1851, the first Rural Credit Society on the Raiffeisen model was only founded in 1886 by Count Alexander Karolyi and became the starting point of a rapidly developing Credit Movement. By 1894 the first Central Credit Organisation could be established with 400 Credit Societies, which led in 1898 to the foundation of the present Central Credit Institute of Credit Co-operative Societies (Országos Központi Hitelszövetkezet).

Development of Co-operative Credit Societies.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>
1899 .....	712	141,600
1909 .....	2,206	579,100
1913 .....	2,425	693,200
1917 .....	2,430	635,400
*1919 .....	1,026	296,700
1929 .....	1,010	363,300
1938 .....	1,012	468,500
**1940 .....	1,386	668,000
1941 .....	1,464	734,000

The oldest Agricultural Co-operative Society is the Co-operative Association of Hungarian Farmers (Magyar Mezőgazdák Szövetkezete), founded 1891, a Supply and Marketing Society for large and medium landowners with a membership before the war of 6,300.

Organisations of more recent foundation are - The Hungarian Central Association of Co-operative Dairies (Országos Magyar Tejszövetkezeti Központ mint szövetkezet), founded in 1922, with 794 Societies and 99,300 members (1937); and The Central Union of Handicraftsmen's Co-operative Societies (Iparok Országos Központi Szövetkezete) created by the Law of 1924 for providing credit to small industry, supplying raw material, machinery, tools, marketing and, in some cases, exporting members' products. In 1937 it comprised 52 Societies with 7,500 members.

The apex of the whole Movement is the Union of Hungarian Co-operative Societies (Magyarországi Szövetkezetek Szövetsége), a non-trading Central Organisation established in 1909.

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\* After the Treaty of Trianon. \*\* After the Second Vienna Award, 1940.

## I C E L A N D.

Iceland in the far north of the Atlantic, with its northern coast touching the Arctic Circle and with a sparse population of only about 120,000 inhabitants, has, notwithstanding natural handicaps, developed a comparatively strong Co-operative Movement.

Since 1263 the island has been a colony, of Norway until 1381 and then of Denmark. In 1918 it became an independent state in a personal union with Denmark, a tie which in 1944 has been severed by the Declaration of an Independent Republic. The connection with Denmark has had a profound influence on the trading conditions of Iceland. For 200 years the Danish Government sold to certain commercial houses the privilege of all trade with the island. For the next 50 years trade was only open to persons residing in the Danish realm, and it was not until 1855 that freedom of commerce was obtained. But the earlier conditions had left their mark upon the country, the people were very poor, they had no capital, no ships for the export and import of goods.

In 1869 three Trading Societies were established with the object of ameliorating the standard of life of the people. They were joint-stock companies formed by public subscriptions from the districts which they served. In the following years the number of Trading Societies increased, but most of them had a short existence and the last only survived a little after 1880.

The first real Co-operative Society, which is still in existence, was founded in 1882 in Thingeyjarsýsla in the north of the island by people who had heard of the Movement in England and Denmark. Goods were bought from a wholesale house in England and sent to the Society twice a year; in return the ship brought back wool and live sheep. The Society increased its membership rapidly; similar Societies developed in other parts of the country, and by 1900 were functioning in most districts; soon they began to establish their own slaughter-houses.

In 1902 the Federation of Icelandic Co-operative Societies (Samband Islenskra Samvinnufélaga, S.I.S.) was founded. In 1910 it commenced the sale and purchase of goods for Societies, and in 1917 opened a Wholesale Department at Reykjavik. Purchase and sale agencies were established in Leith, Copenhagen and Hamburg, but the latter was closed in 1933. In 1940 a New York agency was opened.

S.I.S. also owns and operates a number of factories; in 1938 their output was Kr.2.3 million, in 1942 Kr.6.3 million. Its affiliated Societies - with the exception of two Consumers' Societies - are all of the marketing and purchasing type. They own and operate slaughter-

houses, refrigerating plants, dairies, fishing stations, a fish meal factory, a cod liver oil refinery, greenhouses and other enterprises. The Federation handles more than a quarter of the country's total imports, and controls 80% to 90% of the export of agricultural goods (frozen and salt lamb, wool, sheepskins), fish, etc.

Development of the Federation of Iceland Co-operative Societies.

Trade Turnover.

Societies.                      Federation.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Socie-</u> <u>ties.</u>	<u>Members.</u>	<u>Supplies.</u>	<u>Sales of</u> <u>Produce.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Supplies.</u>	<u>Sales of</u> <u>Produce.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
			(In Million Kr.)			(In Million Kr.)		
1927 ..	38	7,100	-	-	-	4.6	7.4	12.0
1930 ..	39	7,600	-	-	-	7.4	6.4	13.8
1938 ..	46	15,300	18.9	11.7	30.6	10.5	11.7	22.2
1941 ..	48	18,600	39.7	31.5	71.2	27.7	26.7	54.4
1942 ..	50	20,200	61.5	47.9	109.4	45.4	23.8	69.2

Consumers' Co-operation is practically confined to the capital where the Movement developed only about ten years ago. In August, 1937, the Consumers' Society "Kron" emerged from a fusion of a number of small Societies. It has 12 stores in Reykjavik itself and 5 in surrounding districts. Its membership increased from 2,820 in 1937 to 4,070 in 1942. There is only one other Consumers' Society, a small one with less than 200 members. Combined turnover increased from Kr.3 million in 1938 to Kr.11.2 million in 1942.

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NOTE: Fluctuation in prices and increases in money values are largely responsible for the turnover developments shown above between the years 1938-1942.



## I T A L Y.

In Italy, as in Germany and Austria, Credit Societies formed the cradle of co-operative activity. The first People's Banks on the Schulze-Delitzsch model were founded by Luigi Luzzatti in Lodi in 1864 and in Milan in 1865. Luzzatti - who had come into contact with Schulze-Delitzsch in 1863 during his studies in Berlin - published a book on People's Banks, and for fifty years he promoted this form of Co-operation.

In 1876 he founded a Union of People's Banks. In 1923 they numbered 829 with 498,800 members, a share capital of Lire 305,500, and deposits amounting to Lire 3.9 million.

The first Raiffeisen Credit Society was established in 1883; Agricultural Co-operative Societies - Societies for the Supply of Seeds and Dairies - started about 1872; and Agricultural Syndicates on the French model were organised from 1889 onwards.

Productive and Labour Societies (groups of "braccianti" - manual labourers) were an important part of the Italian Co-operative Movement; the first was probably the well-known Society founded in 1883 in Ravenna, which developed later into the Union of Ravenna which embraced the whole province. Another stronghold of these Societies was Reggio Emilia, where they were under the leadership of Antonio Vergnanini who, after spending seven years in Geneva as a political exile, returned to Italy at the beginning of the century. At one time before the first world war there appear to have been as many as 8,000 Societies engaged upon important contracts for the construction of roads, bridges, harbours, drainage schemes, and public works of all descriptions. A well-known feat of these Societies was the building and management of the railway from Reggio to Ciano (50 km. in length) which was opened in 1907.

The first attempts at Consumers' Co-operation were made by the railway workers of Turin, who, in 1854, opened supply depôts in order to obtain some relief from the prevailing high prices. These depôts developed into a highly successful Consumers' Society, and the example of the Turin railwaymen was followed by those of Milan in 1879. Consumers' Societies based upon Rochdale Principles, however, did not develop extensively until after 1890.

The Consumers', Workers' Productive and Labour Societies were largely organised in the Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative, founded in 1886 with headquarters in Milan and a branch in Rome, as the outcome of the first Congress of Italian Co-operators held at Milan that year and attended by the English pioneers, Holyoake and Vansittart-Neale. It comprised at its foundation 68 Societies; in 1901 the number had increased to 530; in 1911 to 2,050; and in 1921 to 4,300, of which 2,230 were Consumers' and 2,020 Workers' Productive and Labour Societies. The membership at that time was about 1.2 million.

The advent of the fascist régime in 1922 led to the persecution and destruction of the Lega Nazionale; by 1925 only 1,000 Societies remained, and in November of that year the Lega was dissolved by a decree of the Prefect of Milan.

In December, 1926, a new Central Organisation - National Institute of Co-operation (Ente Nazionale Fascista della Cooperazione) - for the supervision and assistance of Co-operative Societies was created in Rome. In 1936 it comprised 15,600 Societies with 3.3 million members grouped in 11 National Federations - Agricultural, Transport, Consumers', Housing, Agricultural Labour, Workers' Productive, Agricultural Productive and Processing, Mutual Aid and Mutual Insurance. Rural Credit Societies and Co-operative People's Banks were organised in separate Federations. The Federation of Consumers' Societies included 3,460 Societies with more than a million members and an aggregate turnover of Lire 2 milliard.\*

In 1927 the first National Consumers' Wholesale Society was founded in Milan with 10 member-Societies, which number increased during the first ten years to 2,115.

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\* Figures for the Federation of Consumers' Societies in 1942, received since the foregoing survey was compiled, show 2,850 Societies, 526,727 members, and combined turnover of Lire 1.7 milliard.

T H E N E T H E R L A N D S .

The first association of a co-operative character in Holland was a Credit Society founded in 1874 under a law of 1855 for the establishment of associations not directly concerned with the material interests of their members. Royal assent was refused to this Society, but economic developments moved in the direction of Co-operation, and in 1876 the first Co-operative Act was passed (it is still in force to-day but was amended in 1925). Only associations incorporated under this Act are recognised as Co-operative Societies, yet there are hundreds of Societies under the Law of 1855 whose aims and activity are hardly distinguishable from those of genuine Co-operative Societies. Other Societies working on co-operative lines are organised as limited companies.

595 Societies were registered by 1897; in 1900 - 924; in 1906 - 1,679; in 1924 - 3,040; in 1931 - 3,179; and in 1937 - 3,308, of which 2,350 were Agricultural Societies, including 804 Credit.

Consumers' Co-operation has developed rather slowly and rather differently from that in most other countries. The Neutral, Catholic, and a few Christian and Socialist Societies have their separate Unions but are all affiliated to the Co-operative Wholesale and Productive Society "De Handelskamer", commonly known as "Haka", which is their common Central Organisation for trade and production. The largest Unions are the Central Union of Dutch Consumers' Co-operative Societies (Centrale Bond van Nederlandsche Verbruikscöoperaties), The Hague, founded 1920, with 130 Societies and 216,000 members in 1939; and the Federation of Catholic Unions of Co-operative Societies (Federatie der Diocesane Bonden van Katholieke Coöperatieve Vereenigingen in Nederland), Utrecht, founded 1919, with 120 Societies and 39,860 members.

The following table shows the development of the Societies affiliated to "Haka" - but the turnover is that of the Wholesale as no complete figures of retail trade are available:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Retail Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Wholesale Turnover.</u> (In Million Fl.)
1915 .....	134	92,300	6.2
1921 .....	385	192,400	14.9
1931 .....	286	155,000	17.4
1938 .....	295	261,400	28.5
1939 .....	350	301,000	31.0
1940 .....	290	258,900	27.8

"Haka's" productive works - including flour and feed mills, coffee roastery, biscuits, confectionery, soap, maccaroni - had a turnover before the war of Fl.3.42 million.

The Consumers' Movement before the war reached about 15% of the population.

Dutch Agricultural Co-operation is strong in all spheres of processing and marketing of agricultural products, as well as in the supply of agricultural requirements and in the sphere of credit.

In the field of processing and marketing, special features are the Co-operative Sugar Factories, which handle about 60% of all sugar beet grown, and the "veillings" Societies for the sale by auction of agricultural produce, vegetables, eggs, wool, etc. More than half of all Dutch dairies and creameries - 482 out of 819 in 1937 - are Co-operative Organisations, and they handle approximately 75% of the milk marketed. The Purchasing Societies control a large percentage of the agricultural requirements of fertilisers, feeding stuffs and fuel. The Agricultural Credit Societies - about 1,300 - play a leading rôle in supplying short-term credits for the farmers, and their membership 227,000 - roughly equals the number of farmers.

All sections of the Co-operative Movement in Holland, through the Central Unions and Wholesale Societies, were united in the National Co-operative Council (Nationale Coöperatieve Raad) founded in 1934, primarily for the purpose of defending the Movement against attacks from middle-class organisations.

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Towards the end of 1940, following the German occupation of the country, the Dutch economic system was reorganised on corporative lines; six corporate bodies were set up, one for each essential branch of industry, of which all economic undertakings, including Co-operative Organisations, were obliged to become members.

Subsequently the National Co-operative Council was dissolved by an Ordinance of the General Secretaries of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Industries, and a new Co-operative Council (Nederlandsche Coöperatieve Raad) with far-reaching powers of supervision was established.

## N O R W A Y.

Agricultural Co-operation had an earlier development in Norway than Consumers' Co-operation. The first Farmers' Requirement Society was formed in 1880, and the first Co-operative Creamery in 1885.

After some attempts at Consumers' Co-operation in the 60s, the successful Consumers' Movement of to-day - comprised in the Central Union and Wholesale Society (Norges Kooperative Landsforening, N.K.L.) - was started in 1885 with the formation of the Christiania (Oslo) Consumers' Society. The initiative came from Advocate Oskar Dehli who, while studying labour problems in England, became acquainted with the Rochdale Consumers' Movement. The establishment of N.K.L. in 1906 was also due to his efforts.

### Development of Consumers' Societies Affiliated to N.K.L.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Kr.)
1907 ...	19	6,350	2.3
1917 ...	237	60,000	40.0
1927 ...	439	100,400	101.7
1937 ...	585	160,100	168.3
1940 ...	664	181,000	195.8
1942 ...	673	200,000	203.0

N.K.L.'s wholesale turnover has suffered a setback as a result of the shortage of goods, the disruption of transport and other difficulties during the war years; from Kr.62.6 million in 1939 it had fallen to Kr.49.8 million in 1942. Its margarine, chocolate, shoe factories and flour mills, which are largely dependent on imported raw materials, have had to reduce their output drastically.

It is estimated that almost one-third of the population are served by Consumers' Societies, and during the war years there have been obvious signs of increasing confidence in the Movement. In 1942, membership of Societies increased by 4,256; their financial position remains relatively good, and share capital has increased by 11.3%.

The strongest groups of Agricultural Co-operative Societies are the Dairies - 664 in 1940 with 85,800 members; the Slaughter Houses - 12 with 84,400 members; and the General Supply Co-operative Societies - 1,908 with 65,000 members. Trade of these three groups of Societies was over Kr.270 million in 1940, of which the Dairies accounted for more than 170 million. The six Regional Agricultural Wholesale Societies, which supply mainly the General Supply Societies, had a turnover of Kr.51.3 million in 1941.

\* \* \* \*

The Norwegian Movement has suffered persecution at the hands of the occupying power, it has suffered from the acute supply situation and from other obstacles to progress - but it has been able to maintain its economic position.

The new record as regards individual membership, which in 1942 for the first time exceeded 200,000, has been accompanied by a marked improvement in financial stability. Between January, 1940, and December, 1942, own capital has increased from Kr.46.3 million to Kr.58.4 million, and its percentage of the balance sheet total from 56.6 to 74.3.

The Co-operative Consumers' Movement is the only democratic institution in Norway which has not been dissolved or placed under control, but the Co-operative Organisations and Co-operators alike have been deprived of their freedom - as in all the occupied countries.

## P O L A N D.

The first attempts at reforming Poland's economic life on the basis of solidarity and self-help were apparent at the beginning of the 19th century, but the political and economic situation which prevailed during the century and the partitioning of the country by its three adjoining powers was the greatest impediment to the development of Co-operation. Whilst the Movement in the Russian part of Poland was mainly of the Consumer Society type, that under German rule comprised Agricultural Societies and Credit Societies of the Schulze-Delitzsch type, and under Austrian rule Agricultural Societies of the Raiffeisen type. Among the first Consumers' Societies founded in 1869 under the inspiration of Rochdale were three in Warsaw, Plock and Radom, which had an aggregate of 1,600 members.

The Russian Revolution of 1904-05, when the Poles gained certain rights and freedom of action, was an important landmark in the Polish Movement. In 1906 the first number of the co-operative journal "Spolem" appeared and the Society of Co-operators was formed in Warsaw. Its record shows that in 1908 there were in the Russian part of Poland 670 Co-operative Societies of various types, with 66,000 members. Three years later the Warsaw Union of Consumers' Societies "Spolem" was created, with 180 Societies and 21,000 members, which acted also as a Wholesale Society.

During the first world war the Movement passed through a terrible ordeal and many Societies were entirely wiped out. In 1919, when Poland became a united and independent nation, the Warsaw Union of Consumers' Societies was transformed into the Union of Polish Consumers' Societies. Later it became the Union and Wholesale Society of the Consumers' Co-operative Societies of the Republic of Poland - "Spolem" (Związek Spółdzielni Spożywców Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej - "Spolem").

At the beginning of 1921 there were 1,750 Co-operative Societies with a membership of 891,000 organised in 7 different Unions. By 1931 the figures had risen to 22,600 Societies with 2,073,300 members; during the next six years the number of Societies was reduced to 12,850, but membership increased to 3,016,000. Of the total, 5,500 Societies with 1.7 million members were organised in the Union of Agricultural and Industrial Societies, Warsaw (Związek Spółdzielni Rolniczych i Zarobkowo-Gospodarczych Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej).

P.T.O.

Development of Consumers' Societies Affiliated to "Spolem".

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Zl.)
1911 .....	178	21,600	14.5
1913 .....	274	36,900	22.3
1924 .....	707	350,200	78.5
1931 .....	794	339,200	145.7
1938 .....	1,880	395,630	170.0

The wholesale turnover of "Spolem" in 1938 was Zl.98 million.

The Ukrainian population in Eastern Poland has a Co-operative Movement of its own which started in the last decade of the 19th century. It was originally predominantly a credit movement, but later expanded into other forms of co-operative activity.

An Auditing Union of Ukrainian Co-operative Societies (Revisijnyj Sojuz Ukrainських Kooperatyv) was founded in 1904 in Lwow, and the Movement developed steadily except for the years of the last war, when it suffered grievous losses. The Union comprised 3,455 Societies with 643,000 members - about two-thirds were Agricultural Consumers' and Supply Societies, the remainder Dairy Societies, Co-operative Credit Associations and others.

The Credit Associations are affiliated to a Central Ukrainian Co-operative Bank ("Centrobank", Krajowyj Sojuz Kredytowyj), and the different types of Trading Societies have their Special Wholesale Organisations - "Narodna Torhowla" for the Consumers' Societies, "Centrosoyus" for the Agricultural Trading Societies, and "Maslosoyus" for the Dairy Societies. In 1938 aggregate turnover of these Wholesales exceeded Zl.50 million.

Among the Jewish section of the population, Artisans', Agricultural and Credit Societies emerged towards the end of the 19th century, but it was only during the final years of Poland's independence that Consumers' Co-operation developed. The most successful branch of Jewish Co-operation was its Co-operative Housing Societies, which in the last years before the war built for the working people a number of blocks of modern flats and houses. Although the Jewish Consumers' Societies were federated to the Union of Workers' Consumers' Co-operative Societies, the Jewish Movement was a part of the National Movement.

The German minority, too, had their own Societies - mostly Agricultural and Credit.



## R O U M A N I A .

Co-operation in Roumania is predominantly agricultural. The first Co-operative Organisations were Credit Societies, so-called People's Banks, which were started in 1891 with the help of village school teachers and priests. By a Law passed in 1903 the Movement had imposed upon it a far-reaching tutelage of the State which lasted until 1929, when a new Law freed it to a very considerable extent, although the Central Organisation, the National Office of Roumanian Co-operation, was mainly directed by the Government.

In March, 1935, the Government passed amendments to the Law of quite a reactionary character; the National Office was suppressed and control of the Movement was handed over to 5 Central Organisations, which were united in a Central Co-operative Office. By the Law of June, 1938, the functions of these Central Organisations were transferred to a National Institute of Co-operation (Institutul National al Cooperatiei "Incop"), the decisions of which were subject to Government veto.

According to information received in 1942, the Movement was again undergoing re-organisation. A new type of credit institution, the Village Bank, was being created all over the country, and so-called Farmers' Communities were being formed to take over most of the tasks usually fulfilled by Agricultural Co-operative Societies. The Government had promised to support these Communities in every way, especially by the preferential granting of State assistance. The purpose of these latest measures was to accelerate the process of intensifying agricultural production.

Although some attempts to organise Co-operative Societies in the towns were made as early as 1870, Consumers' Co-operation made little advance before the first world war. During the post-war years a more rapid development set in, but most of the Societies were short-lived. Even to-day the influence of the Consumers' Movement is still very small. In order to protect consumers against exploitation, especially by black marketeers, the Government recently resorted to a plan of organising, from above, compulsory Consumers' Groups for supplying their members with food and other essentials, and ordered Collective Purchasing Organisations to be set up in all big factories, offices, business enterprises, and in public institutions.

How far these plans have materialised is not known, but for the time being compulsory organisation takes the place of Voluntary Co-operation in protecting the Roumanian consumer.

Development of Credit Societies (People's Banks).

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>
1901 .....	256	20,600
1913 .....	2,901	583,600
1922 .....	3,213	717,500
1926 .....	4,413	915,400
1935 .....	5,860	1,104,400

At the end of 1926 the total number of Societies of all types was estimated at 10,750 with 1.6 million members; at the end of 1938 there existed 10,080 Societies, 7,990 of which reported 1.5 million members.

Since 1939 the National Institute of Co-operation "Incop" has become one of the main agencies through which the agricultural policy of the Government is implemented. It controls a large section of the agricultural processing industries, the marketing of agricultural products, and the supply of farm requirements. It overshadows the individual Co-operative Societies, of which there were 7,510 at the beginning of 1941, with 1.2 million members.

## R U S S I A - U.S.S.R.

The birth of Co-operation in Russia, in the form of Artels - associations of artisans, fishermen or peasants for the joint carrying out of work either for themselves or for a third party - dates back to medieval times. The first modern Consumers' Society was established in Riga in 1865, and the first Credit Society in Dorowatowo in 1866, but it was not until the famine of 1891 that the real development of the Movement began, following a change in the former antagonistic attitude of the Government which had regarded Co-operation as a dangerous political experiment.

The Moscow Union and Wholesale Society of Consumers' Societies was founded in 1898. In 1917 it was renamed All-Russian Central Union of Consumers' Societies "Centrosoyus"; in 1928 it was divided into the Central Union of Consumers' Societies of the U.S.S.R. and the Central Union of Consumers' Societies of the R.S.F.S.R.; in 1930 these two Unions were merged in the Central Union of Consumers' Societies of the U.S.S.R. and R.S.F.S.R. "Centrosoyus".

The first Russian Revolution in 1905 marked the beginning of rapid co-operative expansion. For that year the total number of Co-operative Societies of all types is recorded as 5,700, a figure which increased to 11,300 with over 2.8 million members by 1st January, 1908. Of these, 3,500 with 550,000 members were Consumers' Societies, 5,000 with 2 million members Credit, 2,500 with 290,000 members Rural Purchase, Sale and Productive, and 300 Urban Productive Societies, for which no membership figure is available.

The total number of Societies in 1914 was 33,000, which included 12,000 Consumers' Societies with 2 million members, and 14,000 Credit Societies with 8 million members.

The development, experiments and fundamental transformations of the Russian Co-operative Movement during and since the first world war can only be given here in broadest outline.

In 1917 "compulsory" Consumers' Co-operation was decreed, but was not carried into effect till 1919. Under the New Economic Policy (NEP, 1921) the principle of compulsory membership of Consumers' Societies for all citizens remained in force, but the formation of voluntary Co-operative Societies was again allowed, and at the end of 1923 the voluntary basis of Co-operation was to some extent restored.

1930 marked another turning point in the history of the Soviet Consumers' Movement - the gradual substitution of Co-operative Organisations by State Enterprises, culminating in the Decree of September, 1935, which ordered the liquidation of all Urban Consumers' Societies, and the handing over of all their functions and assets to the People's Commissariat of Internal Trade. The Rural Consumers' Societies were not affected by the Decree.

Development of the Consumers' Movement.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Rb.)
1907 . . . .	3,500	550,000	-
1914 . . . .	11,400	1,650,000	290
1919 . . . .	53,000	18,500,000	-
1924 . . . .	21,700	7,105,000	1,060
1931 . . . .	44,000	71,898,000	17,760
1935 . . . .	25,300	40,837,000	15,420
1938 . . . .	24,000	37,000,000	35,950
1940 . . . .	28,400	36,000,000	43,000
			(25% of total internal trade).

Agriculture in the U.S.S.R. is organised in the well-known Collective Farms (Kolkhozes), of which there are about 243,000 with 19 million members. Approximately 99% of all arable land was cultivated by the Collective Farms before the war.

Other existing groups of Societies include 12,230 Artisan Societies with 1,642,000 members organised in 412 Federations, and one All-Russian Council; 2,320 Productive Societies of Disabled Men, with 240,300 members; 3,900 Forestry Societies with 371,000 members; and 1,000 Fishermen's Collective Organisations with 150,000 members.

## S P A I N.

Propaganda for Co-operation and the establishment of Co-operative Societies started in Spain, as in other countries of Western Europe, about the middle of last century, but it was only towards the end of the century that the Rochdale Principles were first disseminated by Juan Salas Anton, a Catalonian and Republican, who became the apostle of Consumers' Co-operation in Spain and founded the first Consumers' Societies in Catalonia. In 1899 he organised the "Congreso Cooperativo Catalano-Balear" at Barcelona, which resulted in the foundation of the first Co-operative Federation, the Regional Chamber of Co-operative Societies in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands. In 1919 this became the Provincial Federation of Catalonian Co-operative Societies (Federación Regional de Cooperativas de Cataluna), Barcelona. Meanwhile, in 1914, a Regional Union of the Societies in Northern Spain (Unión de Cooperativas del Norte de España) was founded at Bilbao and, in 1920, a Union of Civil Servants' Co-operative Societies (Federación de Cooperativas de Funcionarios de España) in Madrid.

The Agricultural Movement also developed towards the turn of the century. From 1901 to 1906 nearly 100 Agricultural Credit Societies, mostly with unlimited liability, were founded; by 1920 they numbered 725 with 70,000 members. Agricultural Syndicates for the sale of produce and supply of requirements were given a privileged position by the Law of 1906. The law furthered their rapid development and they worked in close collaboration with the Agricultural Credit Societies. In 1916 the National Roman Catholic Agricultural Confederation (Confederación Católico-agraria) was founded in Madrid; in 1926 it comprised 54 Federations with 4,700 Societies and 2.5 million members.

Following two unsuccessful attempts in 1913 and 1921 to form a National Federation of Societies based on Rochdale Principles, the National Federation of Co-operative Societies of Spain (Federación Nacional de Cooperativas de España) was founded in Madrid in February, 1928. In 1933 it comprised 465 Societies with 109,000 members, organised in the Union of Co-operative Societies of Northern Spain, the Federation of Co-operative Societies of Catalonia and the Regional Federation of Co-operative Societies of Central Spain (Federación Regional de Cooperativas del Centro de España), founded in 1932.

At the Proclamation of the Republic in April, 1931, co-operators had the ground well prepared for successful action. In the autumn of that year a Law was passed guaranteeing the free development of Co-operative Societies and encouraging their activities. In May, 1936, the Spanish Wholesale Society (Central Cooperativa de Abastecimientos) started operations.

P.T.O.

When the Civil War broke out in July, 1936, the National Federation placed the services of the Movement at the disposal of the National Commission of Food Supply, and Co-operative Organisations, central and local, played an important rôle in feeding the population until the war ended in March, 1939.

The National Federation experienced a tremendous development during those difficult years. At the end of 1937 it comprised 3,773 Societies with 1.2 million members (1,200 Consumers' Societies with 832,800 members, 2,200 Agricultural Societies with 230,000 members, 365 Workers' Productive Societies with 20,000 members, and 8 Housing Societies with 63,400 members).

The totalitarian or syndicalist régime, established in the spring of 1939, brought the Co-operative Movement under the direct control of the State and deprived it of its autonomy and free development. By a new Co-operative Law, published in January, 1942, the whole co-operative organisation became part of the totalitarian structure of the country; centralised control and a compulsory system of regional and central associations of Co-operative Societies were introduced.

## S W E D E N.

Co-operation was born in Sweden at the turn of the century. In the decade 1897 to 1906 no less than 3,160 Societies of different kinds were registered. In 1931 the whole Movement counted 14,640 Societies with 722,620 members. In 1941 total membership was 736,500 in Consumers' Societies and 765,000 in Agricultural Societies.

The Union and Wholesale Society of the Consumers' Movement (Kooperativa Förbundet, K.F.), Stockholm, was founded in 1899.

The smallness of the population in relation to the area of the country presented peculiar difficulties for developing the Co-operative Movement, but they have been overcome.

### Development of Societies Affiliated to K.F.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Kr.)
1901 .....	44	11,000	-
1908 .....	394	63,700	22.0
1911 .....	492	81,900	25.4
1921 .....	896	253,400	227.7
1931 .....	803	481,300	348.0
1941 .....	678	736,500	720.8
1942 .....	676	765,700	731.1

The importance and influence of the Consumers' Movement is far greater than its figures suggest. It has deliberately and consistently devoted itself to reducing the general level of prices, and has thus served not only its members but the whole community. By its fight against cartels and monopolies it has won universal renown.

In 1943 individual membership increased to nearly 800,000, while retail trade (Consumers' Societies plus K.F. retail enterprises) was about Kr.830 million.

P.T.O.

The Consumers' Movement is estimated to reach nearly 30% of the population; it handles from 20 to 25% of the nation's food trade, and produces 30% of Sweden's consumption of crisp bread and margarine.

K.F.'s enormous expansion of co-operative production during the war years is of outstanding importance as a contribution to the Swedish national economy. In many spheres of production it has pioneered, establishing new rationalised processes of manufacture, introducing new inventions and creating new opportunities for the use of Swedish raw materials to relieve the shortage of imported goods or to give employment to Swedish workers. In some industries, especially in the production of artificial wool and staple fibre, K.F. has attained not only a leading, but a dominant, position. It has added many new factories to its imposing range of productive enterprises, and the range of K.F. products has extended far beyond the "consumer goods" sphere - to cellulose, staple fibre, paper, pulp, artificial rubber, charcoal gas, producer gas equipment, chemical raw materials, synthetic fertilisers, and a great variety of other commodities.

Among the Agricultural Co-operative Societies, Dairy Societies with 214,000 members, Meat Marketing Societies, also with 214,000 members, Rural Credit Societies with 111,000 members, and General Purchase and Sale Societies with 59,000, form the strongest groups. In 1941 the value of the turnover of the Agricultural Trading Societies exceeded Kr.1 milliard.



S W I T Z E R L A N D.

Co-operative organisation in Switzerland is even older than the State itself, whose name "Eidgenossenschaft" testifies to the co-operative character of the Swiss community. Among the original types of Co-operative Organisation were Cattle-Grazing and Alpine Water Societies. The first modern Co-operative Societies were established about the year 1800.

In 1890 the Swiss Commercial Register contained 1,570 Co-operative Societies, 3,770 in 1900, 7,180 in 1910, and nearly 11,170 in 1920. In 1931 the number of Societies had risen to 12,800 with nearly 900,000 members, but, as a result of the process of amalgamation, which has been the policy of all progressive Co-operative Movements during the last 20 years, it was reduced to 11,570 at the end of 1941.

The strongest group are the Agricultural Societies - Dairies, Cheese Factories, Stockraising Societies, Agricultural Purchase Societies.

Consumers' Societies number approximately 1,200 and are organised in the Union and Wholesale Society of Swiss Consumers' Societies (Verband schweiz. Konsumvereine, V.S.K.), Basle, founded 1890; the Union of Agricultural Societies of Eastern Switzerland (Verband ostschweiz. landwirtschaftl. Genossenschaften, V.O.L.G.), Winterthur (Rural Societies), founded 1896; and the Union of Swiss Co-operative Societies "Konkordia" (Verband der Genossenschaften "Konkordia" der Schweiz.), Zurich (Catholic Societies), founded 1908.

Development of Consumers' Societies Organised in V.S.K.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Retail Turnover.</u> (In Million Fr.)
1891 .....	43	35,000	14.5
1901 .....	128	96,489	35.7
1911 .....	350	224,420	109.3
1920 .....	493	362,280	330.8
1931 .....	516	415,660	300.5
1941 .....	546	508,460	371.2
1942 .....	546	529,340	406.1

V.S.K.'s wholesale turnover in 1943 was Fr.267.3 million. It controls a number of subsidiaries engaged in production, notably the Bell, A.G., the largest Swiss meat factory, and two big flour mills.

P.T.O.

During the war the Co-operative Movement has made and is making an invaluable contribution to the nation's food supply which was seriously threatened by the blockade. V.S.K. organised a very effective "Grow More Food" campaign in support of the official campaign, and one of its subsidiaries, the Swiss Market Gardening Co-operative Society, which already cultivated 1,350 ha. - mostly reclaimed moor and waste land - has put another 200 ha. of waste land under cultivation.

The V.O.L.G., the Central Organisation of Agricultural Consumers' Societies in 11 Cantons of Eastern Switzerland, supplies consumer goods as well as agricultural requirements to its affiliated Societies, and markets the produce of their members. The number of Societies affiliated to V.O.L.G. in 1943 was 330 with more than 25,000. V.O.L.G.'s trade in 1943 was Fr.90.5 million, including Fr.35.5 million of marketing turnover, but not including deliveries of grain to the Government to the value of Fr.17.5 million.

In Switzerland one out of every eight persons is a member of a Co-operative Society, and Consumers' Societies supply about 45% of the population.

## Y U G O S L A V I A .

In the Kingdom of Yugoslavia Co-operation had its birth at different periods in the three territories which have constituted the State since 1919.

In Serbia the well-known pioneer and doyen of the Movement, Michael Avramovič, who had studied Co-operation in France, Italy and Germany, founded the first Raiffeisen Credit Society near Smederevo in 1894. These Societies, which grew in number, did not confine their activity to credit but also supplied the general requirements of the farmers. Gradually Consumers', Dairy, Vine-Growers' and other Societies were established in the villages. In 1895 the Union of Serbian Agricultural Societies (Glavni Savez srpskih zemljoradnickih zadruga) was created with headquarters at Smederevo, later in Belgrade. In 1912 there existed about 700 Societies of various kinds.

The Balkan wars, 1912-1913, followed by the world war of 1914-1918, destroyed practically all that had been achieved.

Slovenia, one of the smallest territories of Yugoslavia, possesses the oldest Co-operative Movement. The first Credit Society was established among artisans in Ljubljana in 1855, but a systematic development of Credit Co-operation commenced only in the 80s when the first Urban Credit Societies on the Schulze-Delitzsch model were founded. In the villages Credit Societies of the Raiffeisen type were being formed. When Slovenia formed part of the old Austrian Empire, the Workers' Societies of Slovenia belonged to the Austrian Union of Consumers' Societies, but in 1919, when their territory became part of Yugoslavia, they founded their own Union in Ljubljana (Zadružna Zveza v Ljubljani).

The Croat Movement dates from 1900; its origin was inspired by a Declaration by a Croat Catholic Congress that Co-operation presented the best means of raising the living standard of the agricultural population. A Committee for the propaganda of Raiffeisen Credit Societies was formed and by the end of the next year 24 Societies were in operation. Agricultural Societies were at first supported by the first Croat Savings' Bank and later the Croat Agricultural Bank. In 1911 the Agricultural Bank founded a Union of Agricultural Societies which became independent only in 1918.

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The first years after the world war were devoted to the re-organisation and revival of the old Co-operative Societies and to the formation of new Organisations.

In 1919 the whole Movement, which in accordance with the general character of the country is mainly agricultural, was centralised in the General Federation of Co-operative Unions in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia

(Glavni Zadružni Savez u Kraljevini Jugoslaviji), Belgrade, which comprises 39 Auditing Unions and 40 Central Unions (or Trading Organisations).

The two largest groups of Societies are the Credit, 4,900 in 1938, and 2,520 Consumers' and Supply Societies.

The turnover of the Central Trading Organisations in 1938 reached Dinars 458.4 million - Din.115.2 million represented supply operations and Din.343.2 million marketing.

The largest Consumers' Organisation, the Union of Civil Servants' Co-operative Societies (Savez Nabavljackih Zadruga Drzavnih Sluzbenika), Belgrade, was founded in 1921. It includes not only civil servants but also the much more numerous employees of State undertakings, i.e., workers, railway employees and miners (the entire Yugoslav railway system and most of the mines are State undertakings).

The Societies affiliated to the Union, which also included Credit, Housing and Productive Societies, increased from 125 in 1930, with 74,900 members, to 304 with 153,400 members in 1937, and sales of the Consumers' Societies from Din.186 million to Din.250 million.

Development of Societies of all Types.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>
1925 .....	3,860	519,500
1930 .....	7,030	855,800
1935 .....	8,740	1,023,400
1938 .....	10,830	1,414,900

Co-operation in Yugoslavia is renowned for its Health Societies, which owe their existence to the appalling health conditions which prevailed in Serbia at the end of the first world war. The country had suffered more than most others from the war and had lost 23 per cent of its population compared with 6 to 7 per cent in others. The acute situation led to the formation of the first Co-operative Health Societies in November, 1921, which have since become widely known for their excellent work. They have their own medical practitioners and their "Health Houses". Founded in 1922, the Union of Health Co-operative Societies, Belgrade, had 134 affiliated Societies with 66,000 members before the present war.

C H I N A.

The youngest Movement in Asia, but one which has shown the most rapid growth, is the Chinese. The Pioneer Society was the Shanghai National Co-operative and Savings' Bank, founded in 1919 by Professor S.Y.Hsieh, but it was Dr.Sun Yat-Sen, China's National Father, who conceived the idea of a Planned Co-operative Economy as a national policy, and in the same year he envisaged the extension of district self-government in Agricultural, Industrial, and Credit Co-operation, and Co-operative Insurance.

The China International Famine Relief Commission brought the co-operative plan to the famished people of the drought devastated regions in North China in 1922; it was also instrumental in establishing the first 2,000 Credit Societies and later in initiating marketing organisations.

In December, 1928, the China Co-operators' Union, an autonomous Organisation, was founded, but since November, 1935, when the first Co-operative Law was enacted, the promotion of the Movement has been undertaken by the Government.

In 1937 the Japanese invasion of China and the occupation of large tracts of territory created new impetus for co-operative activity as a means of defence.

In order to promote a more rapid development of the Co-operative Movement, a Central Co-operative Administration (CCA) was set up as an organ of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in 1938 (transferred to the Ministry of Social Welfare in the spring of 1941). In February, 1940, the Co-operative League of China was created, which is working hand in hand with the CCA, while the China Co-operators' Union supplements its work in the educational sphere.

Development of the Co-operative Movement in China.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>
1931 .....	2,796	56,400
1935 .....	26,224	1,004,400
1939 .....	64,505	3,112,600
1940 .....	116,199	5,998,500
1941 .....	155,647	9,373,700
1943 .....	165,018	11,871,800

Until 1942 more than 80% of all Societies were Credit, but they now represent only 53%, and Agricultural Productive, Marketing, Supply, Industrial Productive, and Consumers' Societies are gaining increasing importance.

The Chinese Industrial Co-operative Movement (C.I.C.) launched its first units in September, 1938, with the object, supported by the Chinese Government, of establishing a vast network of small industrial Producers' Co-operative Societies. At that time most members were refugee workers; to-day only 16% of all members are refugees, and 5% disabled soldiers.

By the spring of 1941, 2,400 C.I.C. Societies were producing a vast variety of goods, and "Guerilla Co-operatives" were operating behind enemy lines. Owing to war-time difficulties - inflation, scarcity of raw materials, and especially shortage of working capital - the membership has recently shown a decline.

A survey made in Chengtu in October, 1942, gives the number of Societies as 1,490 with 23,480 members, while the latest survey in November, 1943, records about 1,000 Societies with 18,000 members. But the number of people for whom the C.I.C. provide a livelihood is much higher - nearly 40,000, including hired workers and apprentices and home workers.

Supplies of war materials to the Chinese and Allied Armies are an important part of C.I.C. production. By March, 1944, contracts with the American Army totalled \$62 million, and include orders for the manufacture of tents, mosquito nets, parachutes, furniture, foodstuffs, heating stoves, knives, forks, spoons, shoes, blankets, buildings and road construction.

The C.I.C. also organise transport with motor trucks and mule carts, consumers' stores, restaurants, hostels, clinics, training schools for C.I.C. workers, primary schools for children, night schools for illiterate adults. Experimental and research work is organised for the development of Chinese raw materials.

The Movement is at present being reorganised on the basis of a plan adopted in June, 1943, which created a development body called Association for Advancement of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives as distinct from the Movement proper, which consists of the C.I.C. and their Federations. To guarantee the future of C.I.C., to purchase machinery in the U.S.A. and Great Britain, and to make the best use of foreign contributions, an Equipment Trust, controlled by the Federation, is to be formed. Dr.H.H.Kung, President of C.I.C., stresses the necessity for making the main work for the immediate future one of consolidation and not expansion, and for the C.I.C. in the days to come to discover China's unexplored sources of energy and to harness them for the welfare of the nation.

## I N D I A.

The Indian Co-operative Movement is of fairly recent origin; it was officially launched by the Co-operative Credit Societies' Act, 1904, passed by Lord Curzon's Government. The greater severity and frequency of famine towards the close of the last century had emphasised the inadequacy of the existing legislation dealing with loans to agriculturists in times of stress, and the increasing indebtedness of the Indian peasant had shown the urgent need for cheap credit. Indigenous Co-operative Credit Movements had been developing in the shape of "Nidhis", or Mutual Loan Associations in the Madras Presidency, and Co-operative Credit Societies in the United Provinces; in 1901 the former numbered 200 with 36,000 members, the latter 200. But it was in pursuance of the recommendations of the Famine Committee of 1901, following two terrible famines, that the State effectively took the matter in hand. A Committee of the Legislature drafted legislation to be embodied in the Co-operative Credit Societies' Act of 1904, in consultation with Henry W. Wolff, the first President of the International Co-operative Alliance, who in 1894, in view of the prevailing conditions of the Indian peasant, pointed out to the Minister for Indian Affairs the necessity of introducing a law enabling the formation of Co-operative Societies.

The new Act was intended primarily to enable the agriculturists to form themselves into Societies of the Raiffeisen type with unlimited liability, though it also provided for Urban Credit Societies which were free to choose the Schulze-Delitzsch model. Opportunity for the application of the principles of Co-operation to other forms of economic activity was not given till 1912 when the original Act was revised.

Up to the present the Movement has consisted mainly of Agricultural Credit Societies which have in recent years shown a tendency to assume wider functions (marketing of agricultural produce, etc.). Industrial and Consumers' Societies have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded by the war. Cottage industries are making a useful contribution to national supplies; in the United Provinces they are employing over 65,000 workers on the production of gauze cloth, camouflage nets, coating and shirting cloth, towels, saris, knitted goods, military and A.R.P. hats, boots, mosquito nets, etc., required by the Defence Services. At the end of 1943 goods to the value of about Rs.5 million had been supplied, and orders were in hand to the value of Rs.1.2 million. As the requirements of the Supply Department decline, the preparation of cloth for civil needs of the public is being undertaken. In Madras and Bombay Handloom Weavers' Societies have received a remarkable impetus. Since its inception in 1934 the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers' Society has increased its sales more than twenty-fold, from Rs.49,000 to over Rs.1.2 million in 1942.

A striking instance of the development of Consumers' Co-operation during the war comes from the Province of Madras. In 1938-39 there were only 85 stores in existence with sales amounting to Rs.2.4 million. By June, 1941, the number of primary stores had increased to 354 with 54,800 members and sales to about Rs.5.8 million. Two years later, in June, 1943, 956 stores were operating, with 179,300 members and sales amounting to Rs.27 million, while by the end of the year the number had reached 1,131, membership 268,300 and sales Rs.32 million. Restrictions of sales to non-members have been waived as many Societies have become supply centres of rationed goods for a large proportion of the population. In the City of Madras 13% of the 200,000 ration-card holders are registered with the Co-operative Societies.

The Store Movement in other Provinces, particularly Bombay and Mysore, has also expanded.

Development of the Indian Co-operative Movement.

<u>Average for -</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Individual Members.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
		<u>Agricultural Societies.</u>	<u>Non-Agricultural Societies.</u>	
1906-07 to 1909-10	1,926	107,643	54,267	161,910
1910-11 to 1914-15	11,786	459,096	89,157	548,253
1920-21 to 1924-25	57,707	1,661,098	493,509	2,154,607
1930-31 to 1934-35	105,714	3,063,628	1,258,641	4,322,269
1933-34* .....	102,916	2,950,299	1,293,665	4,243,955
1938-39* .....	122,167	3,640,074	1,734,038	5,374,112

At present the Movement comprises 142,500 Societies with 6.5 million members.

Among the Credit Organisations are to be noted 600 Central Banks and 12 Provincial or Apex Banks. Their object is to lend to individual Societies and to recruit deposits from a larger sphere than that of the Primary Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Society. Most of the Central Banks also carry on trading activities on a small scale.

The total working capital of the Provincial Banks in 1938-39 amounted to Rs.129 million; of the Central Banks to Rs.294 million; and of the Primary Societies to Rs.1,065 million.

\* Excluding Burma.



J A P A N.

Co-operative Consumers' Stores were founded in Tokyo as far back as 1879, but it was in the early 90s, under the influence of Viscount Shinagawa, and of Count Hirata who had seen something of Co-operation in Germany, that the Movement showed signs of development.

In 1900 a law was passed which regulated the formation of Co-operative Societies for credit, sale of produce, purchase of requisites and utility services.

Five years later, when the Central Union of Co-operative Societies (Sangyo Kumiai Chuokai) was founded by Count Hirata to organise and develop Societies and Federations of Societies, the Movement began to expand rapidly, though mainly in rural districts.

Credit predominated at first, but more and more Rural Societies were transformed into General Purposes Societies which undertook the four branches of activity - credit, sale, purchase and utility. In 1933, of 14,650 only 1,756 were simple Credit Societies.

The Urban Consumers' Movement developed slowly; in 1906 it comprised 2 Societies with 2,200 members; in 1916 - 27 Societies with 14,100 members; 1925 - 129 Societies with 120,000 members; 1936 - 200 Societies with 253,000 members and a turnover of Yen 33 million. In 1931 a National Union of Consumers' Co-operative Societies (Zenkoku Shohi Kumiai Kyokai) was formed.

Credit activities are centralised in the Central Co-operative Bank (Sangyo Kumiai Chuo Kinko), founded in 1923, and trading activities in the Co-operative Wholesale Society (Zenkoku Kobai-kumiai Rengokai), also founded in 1923; the National Federation of Co-operative Rice Grain Marketing Societies (1931); Federation of Co-operative Raw Silk Marketing Societies (1927); National Federation of Co-operative Cocoon Dessicating and Marketing Societies (1935), and other Central Co-operative Organisations.

In 1938 turnover of the C.W.S. and the Federations of Rice Grain and Raw Silk Marketing was, respectively, Yen 99.4 million, Yen 174.1 million, and Yen 54.8 million.

In the same year Societies' supplies to members totalled Yen 426.4 million and sales of produce Yen 749.6 million.

Development of Co-operative Societies of all Types.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Working Capital.</u> (In Million Yen.)
1900 .....	21	-	-
1905 .....	1,671	137,000	2.3
1910 .....	7,308	789,300	19.3
1920 .....	13,442	2,290,200	354.6
1930 .....	14,082	4,743,100	1,684.3
1938 .....	15,328	6,842,200	2,709.6

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K O R E A.

At the beginning of this century the Japanese Financial Adviser to the Korean Government recommended the introduction of the co-operative credit system on account of the lack of banking facilities and the prevalence of usury. A law was accordingly passed in 1907.

After the annexation of Korea by Japan (1910) the Credit Movement advanced rapidly with the encouragement of the Governor General. In 1918 Provincial Federations were formed to which the local Societies were automatically affiliated. A Central Union (Chosen Kinyukumiai Rengokai) was established in 1928, which since 1933 functions also as a Central Bank.

Credit Societies increased from 10 with 5,600 members in 1907 to 400 with 244,300 members in 1920 and to 780 with 1,636,800 members in 1938. The latter figure included about 60 Rural Distributive Societies with 86,500 members and 15 Fishermen's Societies.

Up to 1935 the activity of the Credit Societies was limited to credit transactions, but in that year the Village Provident Societies Act introduced into the Credit Movement the purchase of requisites and marketing of produce. In April, 1936, the Central Union opened a Wholesale Department for this new branch of activity.

## P A L E S T I N E .

The Co-operative Movement in Palestine is just completing its first quarter of a century. It dates back to October, 1920, when the Mandatory Government enacted the "Co-operative Societies' Ordinance". Although Co-operative Organisations had no legal status under the Ottoman Law - Palestine before 1914 was a district of the Turkish Province of Syria - some Societies were established before the first world war, a few of which are still active, for instance, the "Pardess" Co-operative Society of Orange Growers, Ltd. (established 1900), the "Vigneronne" Co-operative Society of the Cellars of the Vine-Growers of Rishon-le-Zicheron Jacob, Ltd. (1896), and some Credit Societies.

The past 25 years have seen a period of intensive Jewish settlement and constructive activity in Palestine, in which the Co-operative Movement has had a remarkable development.

The Jewish Movement comprises two main sectors: Labour Co-operation, centred around "Hevrat Ovdim", the General Federation of Jewish Labour in Palestine; and General Co-operation with a membership mainly derived from middle-class settlers and town-dwellers.

"Hevrat Ovdim" (founded 1924) now comprises about 130,000 members, 45 per cent of the total adult Jewish population, compared with 22,000 in 1927. It fulfils the tasks usually undertaken by trade unions and also promotes and develops settlements, reconstruction, labour immigration, training. Its economic activities are mainly in the form of co-operative enterprise.

A unique feature of the Movement are the Co-operative Agricultural Settlements - Communal or Collective Settlements "Kibutzim" and "Kwutzoth", and the Smallholders Co-operative Settlements "Moshavei Ovdim". The former type number 134 and the latter 70, and together they include 45,000 inhabitants with 26,000 adult members.

The Central Agricultural Marketing Agency of the Co-operative Settlements "Tnuva" (founded 1926) has increased its turnover from £P.207,000 in 1933 to £P.2,071,000 in 1942.

Co-operative passenger and freight transport services are another distinctive feature of the Movement and have been highly developed. Their urban and inter-urban lines carry a very large part of the country's traffic.

Another co-operative activity peculiar to Palestine is building and public works contracting, which is also a product of the specific conditions prevailing. The leading contracting organisation "Solel Boneh" (founded 1921) has since 1939 carried out works valued at £P.7.5 million.

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47 Industrial and Handicraft Societies have 850 members and employ about 500 temporary workers; Building and Housing Societies have made an important contribution to the housing needs of middle-class and workers' families. By the end of 1939 they had built 3,150 houses and apartments.

Consumers' Co-operation developed very slowly until the outbreak of the war. Until well on in the present century the structure of the Movement comprised "Hamashbir Hamerkazi" (founded 1916), the Wholesale Society of the Central Consumers' Association, with branches in various towns and colonies which were later replaced by local Consumers' Societies.

Development of Consumers' Co-operation.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Turnover.</u> £P.
1931 .....	11	772	38,500
1939 .....	57	9,400	341,000
1942 .....	92	25,000	1,100,000

In the same period the Wholesale Society increased its turnover from £P.68,000 in 1931 to £P.543,000 in 1939 and to £P.1,285,000 in 1942. In addition to the usual consumer goods, the C.W.S. supplies its affiliated Societies in the Settlements with the greater part of their agricultural requirements.

Credit Societies have played an important part in the building and settlement activities; their main function is the granting of short and medium term loans to members. As a rule they are organised on the basis of limited liability. Their number at the end of 1942 was 109 with 81,810 members. A number of Co-operative Central Financial Institutions complete the co-operative credit structure.

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Co-operation has not yet taken root among the Arabs, although the formation of Arab Societies became one of the primary functions of the Registrar and his newly constituted Department in 1933. The Movement is almost entirely a Credit Movement on the Raiffeisen model of unlimited liability; it increased from 14 Societies with 260 members in 1933 to 121 Societies with 5,120 members in 1937. Since then it has made no further progress.

U. S. A.

Co-operation in America has 100 years of history, but the Movement has not had steady continuous development as in Europe and it is only in comparatively recent years that it has spread rapidly.

In 1845 the Workingmen's Protective Union opened its first co-operative store in Boston; in 1853 the American Protective Union, a rival of the former, began to foster the development of others, and by 1870 there were altogether about 700 local co-operative stores. Only a few of them, however, survived the American civil war.

In the early years after that war, another attempt to establish a Co-operative Movement was made by farmers who were suffering from the prevailing agricultural depression. The Societies they founded were called "Granges", and the Grange Movement achieved almost phenomenal success for a number of years. In 1873 it comprised 21,000 local Societies, but during the last quarter of the century most of them failed.

The first Movement with a Rochdale basis appeared in 1874 on the initiative of a secret Order - The Sovereigns of Industry. Within three years 94 local Societies had been founded, but by 1880 both the Co-operative Movement and the Order had come to an end.

An attempt in the 80s by the first American Industrial Union known as The Noble Order of the Knights of Labour, which owed its conception to a disciple of the English Christian Socialists, resulted in the establishment of some 180 Productive Co-operative Societies, some of which also functioned as consumers' stores. This Movement lasted less than 10 years.

Other less important and less successful attempts were also made during this period, but towards the turn of the century more significant and the first successful efforts were undertaken by emigrants from Finland and Bohemia.

The first two decades of the present century saw still further efforts by native Americans, but these, like their predecessors, were not successful. One, a so-called "American Rochdale Plan", was conceived to build from the top downwards through Wholesale Societies to local co-operative stores.

It was not until after the first world war that Rochdale Co-operation was successfully launched. In 1921 an oil Co-operative was formed by farmers at Cottonwood in Minnesota. In 1933, 8 Wholesale Societies interested in motor fuels formed a Buying Pool - National Co-operatives, Chicago. Gradually, farmers developed an interest for Co-operatives of which they became members, and both filling stations and stores increased in number. Although these were called Consumers' Societies,

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they did not correspond to Consumers' Societies as they are known in Great Britain and western European countries, although many have extended their services to the sale of groceries and household goods.

In the towns the Movement developed more slowly until after the world economic crisis of 1929. In 1916 the Co-operative League of the U.S.A. was founded in New York for the promotion of Rochdale Co-operation and the development of a co-ordinated National Co-operative Movement. In 1918 The League comprised nearly 100 Societies, but in the next six years its affiliates increased to 330 Societies with 50,000 members; by 1934 it had 450 Society members; and 165 Societies with 1.1 million individual members in 1942. Agricultural Consumers' Societies form the majority.

The existence of 25 Regional Wholesale Societies operating in different States is one of the many interesting features of the American Movement. Fourteen of them are affiliated to National Co-operatives, Inc., which also comprises 2 Canadian Wholesales. During the past 5 years its member Regional Organisations nearly trebled their business; in 1939 it amounted in value to \$48.8 million and in 1943 to \$123 million.

It is estimated that the present number of Co-operative Organisations, including gasoline stations and farm supply organisations, is 7,500; that the Movement has reached 2.5 million families; that at least 3 out of every 5 farmers are connected with some form of co-operative activity.

A total of 10,450 Marketing and Purchasing Societies with 3.8 million members handle goods to the value of \$3,780 million a year. Other important groups are 850 Rural Electricity Societies with 1.2 million members; 10,000 Credit Unions with 3.1 million members; 5,000 Co-operative Telephone Societies; 2,000 Insurance Societies with 330,000 members.

Over 100 Mills, Factories, Refineries and other Productive Enterprises are owned by Co-operative Organisations, in addition to more than 280 oil wells and 1,270 miles of pipe lines which serve the refineries. The acquisition of the Coffeyville Oil Refinery with 269 wells and 768 miles of pipe lines constituted one of the most important steps in the expansion of co-operative production.

Consumers' Co-operative Association, N.Kansas City, Mo., has a world-wide reputation for its bold entry into the oil industry, and an ambitious plan for future developments on an international basis has recently been drawn up.

As sources of supply it is estimated that the Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Organisations handle over 25% of foodstuffs marketed in the U.S.A., and that their share in Lend-Lease shipments is approximately 33%.

## C A N A D A.

The Co-operative System was first introduced in Canada by miners in Nova Scotia who had emigrated from Great Britain where they had been members of Co-operative Societies. The first Society was founded at Stellarton in 1861; it worked successfully for 53 years but failed in 1916. Ten other Societies were established in Nova Scotia prior to 1900, but only one survived beyond that date. This was the Society at Sydney Mines (1863), which was reorganised in 1906 as the British Canadian Co-operative Society, Ltd. It is now the best known and probably the most successful Consumers' Society in Canada; in 1943 it had 3,500 members and turnover of about \$1.6 million.

Apart from the Store Movement the three Maritime Provinces - Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island - possess active Fishermen's and Producers' Organisations for the marketing of fish (lobster), fruit, vegetables, livestock and other agricultural produce. New Brunswick is the seat of the Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Maritimes), founded in 1927 with headquarters at Moncton, whose activities include the purchase of agricultural and domestic requirements.

Among the agricultural communities Co-operation began in Ontario in the 70s with the introduction of general professional and political organisations, such as the Grange (later the Patrons of Husbandry), following the example of the United States. They operated some supply and insurance organisations on a co-operative basis, but none survived into recent years.

In the Province of Quebec Alphonse Desjardins founded the first Credit Society amongst the French Canadians\* at Lévis, on the St. Lawrence. Although the Society was modelled on Schulze-Delitzsch lines, the small means of the members and the stress on moral aims resembled the Raiffeisen type. These People's Banks, called after their founder Caisses Populaires Desjardins, are the mainstay of the French Canadian Movement in Quebec, which has at present about 300 Agricultural Societies with 18,500 members and a Central Trading Organisation (Coopérative fédérée de Québec) founded in 1910, reorganised 1922. In 1939 the Conseil Supérieur de la Coopération was founded at Quebec to be "the guardian, the interpreter and the apostle of the Co-operative Idea".

In the West, in the Prairie Provinces, Co-operation virtually began in 1906 with the organisation of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1911 the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company was formed, followed by the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company in 1913. The latter merged with the Grain Growers' Grain Company in 1917 to form the United Grain Growers.

By 1923 a new and distinctive Movement was developing. The first Co-operative Wheat Pool was formed in Alberta, followed by the Pools of

\* in 1900

Saskatchewan (1923) and Manitoba (1925). The Pool Elevators of these three Organisations handle 75%, 45% and 30% of the grain marketed in their respective Provinces.

Central Livestock Organisations accompanied the Wheat Organisations - Ontario 1914, Manitoba 1927, Saskatchewan 1929.

Co-operative Creameries in Saskatchewan date from 1896; Central Dairy Organisations were established in Saskatchewan in 1917, in Manitoba in 1921, in Alberta in 1929. An All-Canadian Federation was created in 1934 which comprised before the war about 110,000 dairy farmers.

In British Columbia co-operative dairying and marketing of fruit predominate, and Central Organisations for the two branches of activity have existed since 1913 and 1922, respectively.

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Consumers' Societies (most of them also supply farm requisites) laboured for years under the disadvantage of lack of contact. In March, 1909, this prompted the formation of the Co-operative Union of Canada (Brantford, Ontario) by Societies of Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia.

Separate Wholesale Societies for Consumers' and Farm Supplies are of recent origin - Manitoba Co-operative Wholesale, Ltd., and Canadian Livestock Co-operative (already mentioned), 1927; Saskatchewan C.W.S., 1928; Alberta Co-operative Wholesale Organisation, 1929; British Columbia C.W.S., 1939; Cape Breton Co-operative Services, Ltd., 1943 (formerly the wholesale warehouse at Sydney, Nova Scotia, of the Canadian Livestock Co-operative). All of these Wholesales are members of the Union.

In 1937 the Union comprised 63 Organisations with 20,000 members, in 1940 the number had increased to 93, in 1941 to 207, and in 1942 to 228. Most of its Organisations are Retail Societies operating stores, oil stations or warehouses. Their trade in 1942 reached nearly \$13 million, and their membership was 45,300. In the same year trade of the 6 affiliated Wholesale Societies, with that of Consumers' Co-operative Refineries, Regina, Saskatchewan (1934) amounted to \$10.8 million.

Amongst the other Organisations affiliated to the Union are the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Wheat Pools with a membership of 152,200 - about three-fourths of the Union's total membership of 202,300 - and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers, Ltd., with sales amounting to \$12 million.

The Union's rules provide for the establishment of autonomous Provincial Sections, the first of which was formed in Saskatchewan in 1939. In 1942 an ambitious plan was launched for a similar development in each of the other Provinces.



## L A T I N   A M E R I C A .

Latin America, like Anglo-Saxon America, has known Co-operation for a long time. European immigrants propagated the co-operative idea but it was only in 1929-1930 that the Movement forced itself upon the attention of the public in general, and especially of the leaders and intellectual circles in the various countries. Latin America offers immense possibilities for co-operative development; responsible circles in the different countries are well aware of this and in some are sponsoring the development of Co-operation.

ARGENTINA has the oldest Co-operative Movement in Latin America. The tentative period commenced in 1875, was accentuated in 1884, and terminated in 1905 with the foundation of "El Hogar Obrero" (The Workers' Home), Buenos Aires, a Building, Credit and Consumers' Society which now has about 10,000 members. The latest statistics published in 1943 show about 600 active Societies of all types with a total membership of 390,727. The three most important Unions are the Federation of Argentine Consumers' Societies (Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Consumo), grouping 48 Societies with 70,900 members; the Federation of Electricity Societies (Federación Argentina de Cooperativas de Electricidad) with 52 Societies and 63,392 members (1942); and the Association of Argentine Co-operative Societies (Asociación Cooperative Argentina) which has 80 affiliated Agricultural Societies, mainly in the grain growing Provinces.

BRAZIL. Co-operative propaganda began about 1926 and its first visible expression was the establishment of a few Societies of the Raiffeisen type. A Vine-Growing Co-operative Society created at La Forqueta (Rio Grande do Sul) in 1929 was the forerunner of the present Co-operative Movement which has 1,570 Societies with 254,000 members, principally in the Coastal States. Co-operation is most firmly established in the State of Sao Paulo, which has more than one-fourth of the Societies. Here the Department for the Assistance of Co-operation has published a large number of text books on the organisation and administration of various types of Society. Several of these are devoted to Scholars' Co-operative Societies, which are strongly encouraged, not only in Sao Paulo but throughout the whole country.

P.T.O.

CHILE. At the beginning of the century the propaganda by Charles Gide in France had strong repercussions in Chile, but prior to 1920 only a few Societies of a professional character were formed. Co-operative legislation was initiated in 1924, and in 1929 the National Federation of Co-operative Societies was created with the support of the Government. Before the war there were 57 Consumers' Societies with 64,000 members and 38 Agricultural Societies with nearly 2,000. In 1940 Societies were formed amongst the recent settlers on the land; they now number 43 with 1,800 members.

COLOMBIA. The Law of December, 1931, favoured the development of Co-operation as part of the economy of the Republic, and the first official survey for 1941 shows a total of 124 Societies. Many of these are divided into Sections - Credit, Consumers', Purchase and Sale, Production, Housing, etc. In May, 1942, the number of Societies had increased to 160 with 349 Sections. Individual membership was 45,500.

The First National Congress of Colombian Co-operative Societies held in September, 1943, in Medellin, decided upon the creation of a National Federation of Co-operative Societies and a Superior Council of Co-operation. The Federation, with headquarters in Bogotá, the capital, is already in the process of formation. The Council will be a mixed Co-operative and Government organ charged with the supervision of Societies, the supply of information, and technical advice.

ECUADOR has about 200 Societies formed since the passing of the Co-operative Act of 1937 and 1938, which established the constitution, functions and supervision of Productive, Credit, Consumers' and Joint Co-operative Societies.

MEXICO is co-operatively the most advanced Central American State. Its first General Law of Co-operative Societies dates back to 1927. In August, 1942, a National Co-operative Confederation was founded to which 1,250 Workers' Productive Societies with approximately 45,000 members and 800 Consumers' Societies with 150,000 members are affiliated. Workers' Consumers' Societies, which collaborate closely with Trade Unions, number 240 with 55,000 members.

PERU has a Division of Agricultural Co-operation in the Department of National Economy, which is responsible for the organisation, registration and supervision of Agricultural Co-operative Societies. Following the adoption of a new General Co-operative Law at the beginning of 1942, based on the Rochdale Principles, the Division was transformed to include all types of Societies. At the end of the year there were 56 Productive Societies, mostly of the general agricultural type, with 2,560 members, 15 Consumers' Societies with 3,500 members, and 1 Credit Society organised by a group of workers at Callao.

URUGUAY. Co-operative Marketing Societies are organised in the Federation of Agricultural Syndicates, constituted in 1927, and Consumers' Societies in the Co-operative Association of Uruguay, founded in 1933. A bill for a General Law on Co-operation, laid before Parliament in the autumn of 1941, gave legal status to all Societies. The number of existing Societies is estimated at 70, with 30,000 members. Co-operative Dairies form the most important group.

VENEZUELA. Co-operative development was not possible until the advent of a new liberal political régime in 1936. In 1939 a comprehensive Co-operative Decree provided for the organisation of Distributive, Producers' and Housing Societies, and entrusted the Bolivar Society, of which the Department of Co-operation forms a branch, with the encouragement, constitution and development of Co-operative Societies. In 1942 a Law for Co-operative Societies was passed. The number of Societies of all types at the end of 1941 was 348 with more than 30,000 members; about 300 with over 28,000 members were Rural Credit Banks, which have had a marked success.

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The outstanding feature of the Co-operative Movement in Latin America is the promotion of co-operative education by the creation of Co-operative Study Centres and Institutes, especially in the Bolivarian countries in the North-West of South America. These Centres and Institutes have formed close Inter-State connections and have endeavoured to lay the basis for a common Latin-American co-operative policy.

At a Conference of representatives of the Institutes and Centres of Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela, and of students' federations in Colombia and Venezuela, held in January, 1944, at Popayan, Colombia, it was decided to establish a Bolivarian Co-operative Union, comprising the Study Centres and Institutes represented. The Union has at present a provisional character, but it is to be formally constituted at Caracas in December, 1944, and will then probably be extended into a Co-operative Union of Latin America.

## N E W F O U N D L A N D .

Newfoundland, with its 300,000 inhabitants grouped in 1,300 scattered communities along a 9,000 mile coastline, offers good opportunities for co-operative development.

In the first decade of the present century several isolated attempts to form Co-operative Societies were made, some on the initiative of Sir Wilfred Grenfell (Grenfell of Labrador), but most of them failed either partly or completely.

The most ambitious effort was the Fishermen's Protective Union, founded in 1908, which combined some of the functions of a trade union with co-operative supply and the marketing of fish - but this, too, failed. Some premature experiments were also made at about that time in the export of fish.

One successful Consumers' Society, and one which is still in existence, is the Grand Falls Co-operative Society, which was established in 1920 and is now an affiliated member of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society. In 1939 it had over 1,000 members and a turnover of \$398,000.

In 1934 an investigation into the possibility of co-operative development was undertaken by the Horace Plunkett Foundation, at the suggestion of Sir Wilfred Grenfell. The investigation had his personal support, also that of the British Co-operative Union, together with the assistance of the Newfoundland Government. This led in 1935 to the introduction of a scheme for co-operative development, the appointment of a Director of Co-operation, and in 1936 to the formation of a Co-operative Division.

While the formation and registration of Societies is the task of the Registry, the object of the Division is to promote the education of the people by the Study Circle method, thus following the example of the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The Division carries out its task through Study Groups, which are visited regularly by field workers; schools and classes are also organised. By the end of 1940 activity had commenced in 217 communities which together have a population of 98,200 - approximately one-third of the population of the country.

The early Societies operated under the Industrial and Provident Societies' Act, 1919, which was not adapted to conditions in Newfoundland. In July, 1939, a Co-operative Societies' Act was passed which provides legislation covering all kinds of Co-operative Organizations, and also protects the use of the word "co-operative".

Total membership of all Societies - Credit, General Purposes, Marketing and Distributive - in 1939 was 5,015; their purchases amounted to \$703,000, sales to \$931,020, and total assets to \$430,558. In 1940 the corresponding figures were 6,308 members, purchases \$834,130, sales \$1,063,900, total assets \$527,600.

An interesting and important event in co-operative development in Newfoundland was the organisation of the lobster industry on a co-operative basis, carried out by co-operative workers from Antigonish in 1936. In the space of one winter the greatest marketing agency of its kind in the world was developed by the West Coast lobster fishermen. In 1940 co-operative lobster shipments from Newfoundland reached over 1 million lbs. in weight and \$130,000 in value.

In 1942 the 50 Consumers' Societies had a membership of 5,200, and a turnover of \$1,266,000 compared with \$1,052,000 in the previous year.

From one Society with 100 members in 1937, Credit Societies have increased to 41 Societies with 2,960 members in 1940 and to 49 with 4,480 members in 1942. Their total assets in the same years rose from \$151 to \$45,200 and \$92,660. The Societies help in financing the marketing of livestock, the lobster and fresh fish industry, the marketing of agricultural produce, Consumers' Societies and co-operative housing.

Regional Co-operative Councils are planned and will form the nucleus of the proposed Newfoundland Federation of Co-operative Societies. Two already exist - the West Coast Co-operative Council and the Avalon Co-operative Council. In 1944 the latter was admitted to membership of the Canadian Co-operative Union under a special provision just inserted in the rules of the Union to enable it to accept as members Co-operative Societies from Newfoundland.

P.T.O.

## A U S T R A L I A .

In Australia the first traces of Consumers' Co-operation are found in the 60s, when the workers were resisting the lowering of living standards which followed the gold-mining boom. During the depression the trade unions endorsed Co-operation as a remedy for the loss of purchasing power. The first Consumers' Societies were formed in Brisbane in 1859 - before the separation of Queensland from New South Wales - and Adelaide in 1866. A new period of activity followed the great water-side strike of 1890. In 1896 the Port Adelaide Society was established. Between 1916 and 1921 interest in Co-operation greatly increased, and many Societies were formed.

At the end of 1943 Consumers' Societies in the six States of the Australian Commonwealth had a membership of 140,000 with a turnover of nearly £9 million. The stronghold of Consumers' Co-operation is New South Wales with 51,400 members and a turnover of £4.5 million. They are served by the New South Wales Co-operative Wholesale Society founded in 1912. Its annual turnover in 1942 was £761,000.

An outstanding event in the history of Australian Co-operation was a Commonwealth Consumers' Co-operative Conference held at Canberra in December, 1943, which decided to establish a Co-operative Federation of Australia which will comprise Consumers' and Producers' Organisations.

Both in the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand, Producers' Organisations constitute the major part of the Co-operative Movement.

Western Australia is the leading State as regards Agricultural Co-operation in the Commonwealth. In 1914 only a few Co-operative Societies were registered, but considerable progress followed the foundation that year of Westralian Farmers, Ltd. In 1924 the Co-operative Federation of Western Australia was founded and in 1938 it comprised 76 Societies with 17,000 members.

In Western Australia before the war 88% and in 1941-42 95% of the wheat crop was marketed co-operatively. Co-operative wheat marketing is also well developed in South Australia, and, to a lesser extent, in Victoria.

Co-operative Organisations handled before the war 90% of the butter and cheese output and 45% of fruit exports (60% in 1942). The percentages for eggs, livestock and wool were also significant. 90% of raisin producers were organised in the Australian Dried Fruit Association.

## N E W Z E A L A N D .

In New Zealand Consumers' Co-operation is still in its infancy. In 1941 the Manawatu Society, founded in 1935 at Palmerston North, an important railway junction, the largest of about 12 Societies operating in the country, had over 1,000 members and turnover of £50,000.

Co-operation amongst dairy producers dates back to the "hungry 80s"; the first Co-operative Dairy was established in 1883; the South Island Dairy Association, Dunedin, in 1893, and the National Dairy Association, with headquarters at Wellington, in 1895.

Co-operative Organisations before the war handled 90% of the butter and 92% of the cheese output, with 87% of total butter exports. The New Zealand Fruit Growers' Federation (1916) had a virtual monopoly of fruit marketing, chiefly apples and pears. The New Zealand Co-operative Pig Marketing Association, Ltd., established 1927, had a trade in 1943 of £750,000.

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### Inter-Co-operative Relations.

#### Australia and New Zealand.

Producers' Wholesale Co-operative Federation Proprietary, Ltd., Melbourne, was established in 1918 and unites the larger Agricultural Co-operative Organisations in the various State of Australia and New Zealand.

#### New Zealand and Great Britain.

In 1921 New Zealand Produce Association, Ltd., London, was formed to be the selling agent in Great Britain for New Zealand Dairy Companies which wish to market their produce co-operatively. Its shareholders are New Zealand Producers' Co-operative Marketing Association and the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies.

P.T.O.

## S O U T H A F R I C A .

In South Africa experiments in Co-operation among European farmers are recorded from 1904 in Natal and 1905 in the Cape Province, in the Transvaal from 1908 and the Orange Free State from 1910, but little was achieved in those early years. The Co-operative Societies Act of 1922 (consolidated and amended by the Act of 1939) gave new scope to Farmers' Organisations.

During the next twenty years the Movement developed from 54 Societies with 12,900 members in 1922 to 261 Societies and 189,400 members - comprising 207 Agricultural Producers' Organisations - 115,416 members; 41 European Trading (Consumers') Societies - 34,159 members; 9 non-European Trading Societies - 1,129 members; a Society of Co-operative Officials - 79 members; and 3 Banks with 8,569 members.

In 1940-41 total turnover was £31.8 million (sales of requisites £4.4 million, fees for services rendered £221,545), an increase on the previous year of £2.7 million, to which Consumers' Societies contributed £219,680.

No Agricultural Organisations for natives have yet been formed, and, although the development of Consumers' Co-operation is noticeable, in some native communities it is severely hampered by lack of trained and experienced personnel.

The importance of the Movement in South Africa can be gauged from the fact that Co-operative Organisations exist in every area of importance and that there are few farmers who are not members of Co-operative Societies.

Before the war 50% of the total fruit output was marketed co-operatively through the Fruit Growers' Co-operative Exchange, founded in 1921.

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### Inter-Co-operative Relations.

#### Consumers' and Producers' Organisations.

An important example of collaboration between Consumers and Producers has been set by the Overseas Farmers' Co-operative Federation, Ltd., established in 1921, with headquarters in London, by Producers' Organisations of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and the English Co-operative Wholesale Society.



STATISTICAL APPENDICES.

1. Co-operative Development, 1909 - 1937.
2. Development of Consumers' Co-operation  
in Six European Countries During the War.
3. Membership of Consumers' Societies in  
Percentage of Population - 1938.



C O - O P E R A T I V E D E V E L O P M E N T, 1909 - 1937.

	<u>1909-10.</u>	<u>1931.</u>	<u>1937.</u>
	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Members.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>
	<u>Members.</u>	<u>Societies.</u>	<u>Members.</u>

E U R O P E.

Excluding Russia ..	104,238	16,153,700	238,783	41,238,926	300,323	52,470,589
Russia - U.S.S.R..	16,000	6,000,000	325,895	96,462,400	286,595	60,389,271*
Including Russia ..	120,238	22,153,700	564,678	137,701,326	586,918	112,859,860*

T H R O U G H O U T T H E W O R L D.

Including U.S.S.R..	-	-	731,256	165,957,979	810,512	143,260,953*
Excluding U.S.S.R..	-	-	405,361	69,495,579	523,917	82,871,682

\* The decrease in the figures of the U.S.S.R. between 1931 and 1937 is due to the liquidation of Urban Consumers' Societies (See Page 37).

DEVELOPMENT OF CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATION IN SIX EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DURING THE WAR.

	<u>Societies</u>			<u>Membership</u>		
	1938	1942	$\frac{\text{+ Increase}}{\text{- Decrease}}$ %	1938	1942	$\frac{\text{+ Increase}}{\text{- Decrease}}$ %
Gt. Britain	1,018	1,058	+ 40 3.93	8,404,688	8,924,868	+ 520,180 6.19
Sweden . . .	693	703	+ 10 1.44	634,700	755,700	+ 131,000 20.64
Finland . .	542	519*	- 23 4.24	605,995	718,279	+ 112,284 18.53
Switzerland	872	874	+ 2 0.23	504,790	554,231	+ 49,441 9.79
Norway . . .	626	673	+ 47 7.51	169,175	200,000	+ 30,825 18.22
Iceland . .	46	50	+ 4 8.70	15,298	20,189	+ 4,891 31.97
	3,797	3,877	+ 80 2.11	10,334,646	11,183,267	+ 848,621 8.21

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\* 1941. A number of Societies in Karelia re-started activities in 1942.

MEMBERSHIP OF CONSUMERS' SOCIETIES IN PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION - 1938.

(Organisations Affiliated to I.C.A. Only).

<u>Country.</u>	<u>Membership.</u>	<u>Population.</u>	<u>Members in % of Population.</u>
Great Britain .....	8,404,688 .....	47,367,000 .....	17.74
France .....	2,454,000 .....	41,980,000 .....	5.85
Czechoslovakia*.....	640,290 .....	15,239,000 .....	4.20
Sweden .....	634,700 .....	6,310,000 .....	10.06
Finland .....	605,995 .....	3,630,000 .....	16.69
Hungary .....	598,483 .....	10,111,000 .....	5.92
Switzerland .....	504,790 .....	4,210,000 .....	11.99
Denmark .....	458,916 .....	3,793,000 .....	12.10
Poland .....	412,762 .....	35,090,000 .....	11.76
Belgium .....	305,197 .....	8,386,000 .....	3.64
Japan .....	253,573 .....	72,223,000 .....	0.35
Holland .....	255,925 .....	8,727,000 .....	2.93
Norway .....	169,175 .....	2,921,000 .....	5.79
U.S.A. ....	126,590 .....	130,215,000 .....	0.96
Yugoslavia**.....	87,000 .....	15,630,000 .....	0.56
Bulgaria .....	79,869 .....	6,371,000 .....	1.25
Estonia .....	49,770 .....	1,134,000 .....	4.39
Lithuania .....	17,593 .....	2,575,000 .....	0.68
Canada .....	17,428 .....	11,209,000 .....	0.16
Iceland .....	14,623 .....	118,000 .....	12.39
Palestine .....	6,000 .....	1,435,000 .....	0.42
U.S.S.R. ....	37,000,000 .....	169,000,000 .....	-

\* Old Territory.    \*\* Civil Servants' Societies.