CHAPTER III

COOPERATION IN MANY LANDS

There are to-day all over the world numerous forms of cooperatives despite great changes and upheavals through which the society is passing. In most of the countries cooperation flourishes to a more or less extent. Each one of them presents peculiar phases of cooperative development with the other either in the same branch of cooperative effort or by developing another form of cooperative undertaking. Though there are common elements in most of the forms of the cooperative movement, various countries show striking contrasts in the development and progress of the movement in the common cooperative establishments or in different cooperative forms. Such difference in the progress of cooperatives and in branches of the same form of a cooperative undertaking between one country and the other and even in the same country depends upon a number of contributing factors such as the nature of the circumstances at the time of establishment, the geographic situation, the relation of the State to industry, trade and commerce, and the general economic conditions of the people of the country. Each country, therefore, progresses ahead in that branch of cooperation in which it has special natural and economic advantages in comparison with the other countries.
Starting with Rochdale Pioneers' venture in 1844, with their sound principles of one man, one vote, sale at market prices and the distribution of profits according to the purchases of members, consumers' cooperation met with spectacular success in England. Consumers' co-operation also made remarkable progress in Scandinavian and numerous other countries. Credit co-operatives are the leading developments in India, Germany, Egypt, Holland and France. Co-operative agricultural marketing is most developed in the U.S.A., Denmark, Canada and to a lesser degree in Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon and India. In general, agricultural co-operatives are mostly found in those countries which are having an agricultural economy. Rural consumers' co-ops and handicrafts co-ops are special phases of Russian co-operation. Co-operative farming is prevalent in Russia, Palestine, East European countries, Mexico and U.S.A. Co-operative housing has been important in the U.S.A., Germany, Great Britain, Scandinavian countries and to a lesser extent in India, in recent years. Denmark, formerly a country of tenant farmers, has been transformed into one with peasant proprietors. Health co-operatives have been popular in U.S.A., Yugoslavia, New Zealand, and on a small scale in India, Ceylon, Spain, France, Belgium and Denmark. Co-operative insurance is a leading development in France, Belgium, and Great Britain; while co-operative insurance in agriculture is to be found mostly in Australia and Palestine. Iceland is perhaps the most highly co-operatized country in the world.
The following is a brief account of the development of the special phases of the co-operative Movement in various countries.

Great Britain Great Britain is the birth-place of consumers' co-operation. To many lands of the world, the idea of consumers' co-operation is an "invisible export" from the British Isles. Among the numerous factors that have contributed to the success of consumers' co-operation in Great Britain are the efforts of Robert Owen, William King, the Rochdale Pioneers, Vansittart Neals, and laterly of J.T.W. Mitchell who amplified the conception of the consumer and gave it its large application.

The Movement has grown spontaneously, with a small beginning, always local in character. With the expansion of the Movement, the need of federation of societies was soon felt. As a consequence, after 1869, a Co-operative Union was formed in London which was a federation of societies, for education, propaganda, and protection. Most of the societies in Great Britain are today its members. The Consumer Co-operative society in Britain today deals in butter, milk, sugar, bacon, dried fruits, eggs, tea and most of the household needs of the consumers. Other important form of co-operation in Britain is co-operative insurance. Much consideration is given to co-operative education by the societies. In 1950, the membership of the co-operative Movement exceeded 10 millions, with 1019 societies having a share-capital of £231,708,800 and employing about 3,30,000 men and women.
The Co-operative Wholesale Society in England and Wales, and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, which were established in the latter part of the 19th century, have 185 retail branches with sales of £11,475,000. The C.W.S. itself had a trade of £321,424,000 the S.C.W.S. of £62,216,000 in 1950. The C.W.S. bank had resources totalling £221,456,000, the S.C.W.S. bank of £15,707,000. The value of C.W.S. productions was £94,724,700, of the S.C.W.S. £24,780,200.

The C.W.S. manufacturing and wholesaling organization of the British Co-operative Movement, with nearly 200 factories producing every kind of food and almost every type of household goods and wearing apparel, is Britain's biggest business, and the world's largest co-operative organization. The S.C.W.S. performs services similar to those of the English C.W.S. They jointly own tea and other plantations in the East and are the largest importers of grain, butter, sugar, and dried fruits in Great Britain.

To almost every part of the globe, from Palestine to Australia, Arabia to Peru, products of these two wholesale societies find their way.

As a result of a great number of the population of Ireland dependent upon agriculture, the success of co-operative store Movement is not so marked as in England. In Ireland, the development of agricultural


2 From an announcement of the C.W.S. Ltd., in the "Review of International Co-operation" Loc cit, cover page.
organisations such as the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society have more suited to the needs of the rural and agricultural Irish people. The I.A.O. Society was voluntary and non-sectarian and its approach found expression in the motto of "Three B's" - better business, better farming, better living which was laterly adaptable to the Indian soil.

G.W. Russell in "Co-operation and Nationality" writes, "Our co-operative associations in Ireland gathering more and more into themselves the activities connected with production, consumption and distribution, and even in the social activities, as they grow more comprehensive in their aims, make the individual more conscious year by year that his interests are identical with the interests of the community." This sums up Co-operation in Ireland.

Modern consumers' co-operative Movement may be traced back to the year 1885, when a small group of economists and social thinkers drew together under the name of the School of Nimes. Its founder was Emile De Boyve and in Charles Gide, the social philosopher, it found a distinguished member, who afterwards held the Chair of Co-operation in the College de France. Charles Gide impressed upon French thought the true meaning of the subject of co-operation and kept the Movement away from allying itself with the Socialist party without at the same time being unfriendly to the latter.

The basic structure of the French consumer co-operative Movement is very much close to that of the English Movement. A peculiar feature of the French Consumer co-operative Movement is "the large regional federation closely integrating the work of a number of small societies, running branches of its own and supplying a central departmental store, wholesale and manufacturing enterprises, delivery services and travelling shops."

Despite the adverse effects of war on the co-operative Movement, it has emerged successfully and heads many European countries in co-operative enterprise and claims a membership of 3 million. There are today more than 4000 distributive societies. Federation Nationale des Co-operatives de Consommation has 1120 societies included with a membership of one million, employing about 25,000 persons. Magasin de Gros, a successful wholesale, with trading and ultimately manufacturing departments was established in 1907. Its activities included grocery and wine warehouses, a soap factory, a chocolate factory, a clothing factory, a coffee roastery and a saw mill. The Co-operative Society of Paris maintains a number of establishments including grocery stores, butcher shops, restaurants, cafes, pharmacies, etc., with a membership of about 75,000.

Holiday centres for children and co-operative restaurants and hotels are features of the French Movement. Fruit, vegetable and wine marketing co-operatives have showed a good progress in France. French-operatives generally deal in perishable foods. In the field of agriculture co-operation,

1 Margaret Digby: The World Co-operative Movement, loc cit, p. 46.
there is a state-aided Agricultural Credit Organisation which occupies a unique position in the field of providing long-term credit to farmers. Co-operative insurance is also making a headway.

Belgium. Modern co-operation has had its origin in 1880 in Belgium, when industrial workers of Belgium became inspired with the idea of consumers' co-operation. Prior to that Belgium spent forty long years in experimenting with productive workshops. There is a triple alliance of Co-operation, Labour and Politics in Belgium. A group of societies fairly large in size, with a membership of about 350,000 grouped in the Society. General Co-operative, which was both a Union and a Wholesale.

"Active collaboration with the Belgian Labour Party, a cordial family atmosphere, and a concern with all sides of the workers' life through the educational and recreative Maisons du Peuple, a vigorous Women's Co-operative Guild, and similar non-trading activities, were the distinguishing characteristics of the Movement." ¹

Co-operative bread bakeries in Belgium through their surplus-saving make provision for old-age pensions, life insurance, insurance against sickness and unemployment, medical and other services. There are beautiful buildings owned by co-operative societies. Co-operative community centres are training ground for lessons in democracy. Belgian insurance business is co-operatized to a small extent. The Belgian Wholesale Co-operative Society has a variety of manufacturing

¹ Margaret Bigby: The World Co-operative Movement, cit loc, p.49.
enterprises. There are co-operative societies for civil servants politically neutral without any alliance with the workers' movement.

Germany History of German co-operation is marked by great vicissitudes. From Germany has originated a special form of co-operative organisation, the co-operative banking, spreading therefrom to many lands of the globe. Co-operative societies originated in the revolutionary movements of the 1840's in Europe. Conditions were particularly distressing in Germany: hunger and poverty prevailed in many parts of the country in 1848. Usually when conditions are as bad as anything and beyond control, a ground is prepared for the successful operation of co-operative effort. Two pioneers, F.W. Raiffeisen (1818-1888), burgomaster of a group of villages around Neuwied and Herr Schulz (1808-83), Mayor of Delitzsch, became interested in the credit problem at about the same time. They were the founders of the country and town banks in Germany. Each one of them was working for the oppressed, Raiffeisen for the poor farmers, and Schulze for the low-paid wage-workers. Both began with individual effort to relieve the distress of the poor in their respective districts and came to the conviction that only by self-help made effective, a lasting improvement of the economic conditions of the people be achieved. They say that small savings and thrift alone save the oppressed from the clutches of the usurers who extracted abnormally high rates of interest from the starving peasants, artisans and small tradesmen.

Raiffeisen's outlook was rather conservative, closer to the Parish Church, and more related to the moral aspect of things,
while Schulze regarded co-operation as a liberal, humanitarian, business movement and as a middleway between reactionary conservatism on the one hand and revolutionary socialism on the other. Both were given neither help nor inspiration from the State. Schulze refused State aid and prescribed strict neutrality in religion and politics.

While Raiffeisen was working with ignorant and poverty-striken people organising societies for distribution of food-stuffs and for loans for the unprovided farmers, Schulze-Delitzsch was organising societies for raw material purchases for the artisans and small tradesmen, societies with the object of relief in sickness and loan societies for the small craftsmen of the towns. "Their sympathy stirred them to efforts of relief; their experience showed them the conditions under which permanent improvement was alone possible; their genius created triumphantly the conditions which contemporaries thought to be unattainable."

Schulze believed in a large mixed membership with a wider area of operation and based on unlimited liability of members for his society. Raiffeisen, on the other hand, believed in small membership, a closely restricted area and universal unlimited liability of members. Schulze favoured more share capital and entrance fees. He advocated short-term loans to members relying more on real security. Raiffeisen prescribed long-term loans for productive purposes only after a careful scrutiny and with a facility for easy re-payment instalments. Raiffeisen relied more on personal security than on the real

security. Raiffeisen wanted the absence of dividend-hunting and crediting the profits to the reserve fund. Schulze believed in the distribution of profits to the members and less provision for the reserves. Schulze put greater emphasis on the business aspect of co-operation, Raiffeisen gave special emphasis to the promotion of the moral as well as the material advancement of members. Schulze wanted paid administration to secure efficiency, Raiffeisen preferred gratuitous service on the managing committee. While Schulze assigned only a part of the profits to the reserve fund, Raiffeisen believed in a permanent and inalienable reserve fund so that it could be a working fund for the society, guaranteeing its life. A Schulze society accepted a member on the strength of his general business reputation; a Raiffeisen society admitted a member only if he is found to be virtuous and industrious.

As a whole, Schulze wanted a credit society to make money, Raiffeisen wanted the society to do good. It is realized that a happy mean of the principles of both will bring better results for the societies as a whole.

Though consumers' co-operation began as a philanthropic movement in the middle of the last century promoted by generous employers and Schulze-Delitzsch, the pioneer of industrial credit co-operation in Germany, it did not come out prominently until the last decade of the 19th Century. From the very beginning of the present century, despite the First World War, the hyper-inflation of 1923-24, and the world-depression, co-operative movement in general and consumers' co-operation in particular made rapid progress until in 1933 when almost a fourth of the population was served by co-operative societies in one or the
other way. Among the prominent forms of co-operatives mentioned may be made of consumer co-operative stores, co-operative credit societies, urban and rural, industrial co-ops and co-operative housing societies which made a total of over 50,000 co-operative organisations in the country. "The Grosseinkaufgesellschaft (G.E.G.), a wholesale, steadily increased up to 1933 in membership and business: carried on large banking and insurance business; maintained offices, warehouses and printing establishment at Hamburg and distributed goods from that port to people through its thousands of stores in various cities. Some of its factories were the best and most beautiful in the world." 1

Under the Nazis, co-operative Movement was almost suppressed, but the co-operative spirit did not die so soon. Innumerable difficulties that emerged as a consequence of the second world war such as lack of consumer goods, transport and communication facilities, technical personnel and capital, and the division of the country into impermeable zones have disrupted the economy of the country in general. The co-operative Movement is also no less affected by these events but the co-operators of Germany look forward with enthusiasm to revitalize the Movement and reconstruction is now in process.

After the second world war, co-operative housing has been a leading development in Germany. The German Union of Social Housing Enterprises includes 1792 co-operative building societies and 490 building companies. Dwellings in the hands

1. J.P. Garbasse; Co-operative Democracy, loc cit, pp. 46-47.
of the organisations of all types, affiliated to the German Union numbered 900,000 at the end of 1950, of which 353,000 belong to co-operative housing societies proper.

Holland. There is in Holland a large number of co-operative societies, whose activity is of great importance to the economic life and prosperity of the people. Co-operative societies exist in the Netherlands for farmers, manufacturers and craftsmen, tradesmen and consumers, and for credit banks and insurance societies. There are in addition a number of miscellaneous types such as dental centres, art societies, and bee-keepers' and fishermen's co-partnerships.

Out of a total of 4,170 co-operative societies in 1950, there were 3,132 or nearly 75 per cent of the total, were organized for and on behalf of farmers. Farmers' societies included 421 dairy produce marketing and processing societies, 411 farm and market garden machinery co-operatives, 1,003 purchasing and marketing societies, 73 co-operative vegetable and fruit auction organisations, 16 poultry farming societies, 806 agricultural credit banks, 43 insurance societies, covering live-stock insurance and insurance against damage by hail and fire. Among other co-operatives there were 30 societies for master-craftsmen and skilled tradesmen, 294 for middle-class business, 433 consumers' co-operative societies, 139 housing societies, 42 credit banks, 29 insurance co-ops and 31 other societies. In 1940 there were 3,371 co-ops in all.

1. A.W., "Co-operative Housing in Germany", Review of International Co-operation, loc cit, No. 4, 45th year, April 1952, p. 32.
2. Statistics regarding co-operative societies in Holland are taken from the paper supplied to me by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Bombay.
progress of the Movement during the last ten years is an increase of about 800 societies, corresponding to practically 24 per cent.

All the Scandinavian countries, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland are highly developed co-operative countries. They have a predominant agricultural economy with a comparatively high standard of living. Sweden is the most industrialized country among them all.

Sweden is the greatest exponent of consumers' co-operation among these countries with considerable influence abroad, especially in the United States. More than 40 per cent of the consumers' goods business is handled by co-operatives in Sweden. Kooperative Forbundet (K.F., the Swedish Co-operative Union and Wholesale Society) which was established as early as in 1899 came out victorious with many struggles and cut-throat competition from numerous private trading and manufacturing enterprises; such as those for margarine, flour production; galoshes and tires; electric lamps and cash registers, etc. At the end of 1949, 676 societies with a total membership of 9,33,000 were affiliated to K.F. Banking and insurance are carried on by these societies as is distribution. K.F. has organised "Reso", an association to satisfy the needs for recreation of people at a reasonable price, and "Filmo", another association showing films for propaganda and educational purposes. K.F. takes keen interest in the welfare of children and housewives making for them special health arrangements, arranging gymnastics, study circles and operating co-operative laundries.

---

1. Statistics and some of the material regarding Sweden taken from the information, pamphlets and booklets supplied to me by the Swedish Commercial Legation, Bombay.
It owns about 40 factories and is a partner of a number of industrial enterprises. It maintains cordial relations with its labour force.

Electric current in Sweden is mostly distributed by consumer electric supply associations. The Swedish co-operative Movement's weekly paper "Vi" (We) is Sweden's most widely circulated periodical; it has a circulation of 6,50,000. Consumers' co-operative Movement has made an important contribution both through the local societies and through K.F.by holding down prices.

Housing is a highly developed form of co-operative enterprise in Sweden. Stockholm Housing Society, Tenant's Unions, the H.S.B. and Swensa Riksbyggen are leading co-operative housing associations in Sweden. The H.S.B. movement is by far the largest co-operative housing of the total housing activity of the country. As a result of these housing schemes, rents in Stockholm which were reputed to be the highest in Europe, came down sufficiently low and today more than 15 per cent of the population of the city is accommodated in co-operatively built and owned houses.

Agricultural co-operatives handle approximately 98 per cent of all milk production; over 70 per cent of all animals for slaughter; 65 per cent of the eggs and a large percentage of timber and fire-wood. Since 1946 the Federation of Swedish Farmers' Association, the central agricultural organisation of the country, has realised a fund of 12 million kronor made up of contributions from county and national organisations to establish new enterprises by helping them in the form of short-
term loans. The Federation also helps to serve the farmers by making investigations, by service, imparting information and education. All this activity is carried on by the Federation with an eye on the future welfare of Swedish agriculture.

Denmark has given to the world a rural civilization. Co-operative Movement, there, touches the life of an average farmer in almost all his economic dealings.

"A typical Danish farm is now connected with the outside world through a network of co-operative agencies. The farmer buys his necessities at his co-operative retail store. He borrows money and places his savings in a co-operative bank; his fertilizers, fodder, seeds etc., are obtained from co-operative buying and import associations; his cement comes from a co-operative cement factory, and his electricity from a co-operative power plant. He delivers his milk to the co-operative dairy, his pigs to the co-operative slaughter house, his eggs to the Danish Co-operative Egg Export Company and his cattle to the Danish Cattle Export Co-operative. It is usual for a farmer to be a member of at least half a dozen co-operative societies covering the entire range of his economic needs."

In short, there is no branch of co-operative activity which is not developed in Denmark. There exist co-operative societies for dairying, cattle, sheep and poultry breeding, for insurance against accident, cattle diseases, hail and other

weather storms, for marketing, for credit and other agricultural requirements of farmers; for consumers and housing.

To the Folk School goes undoubtedly the greatest credit for having developed that spirit and capacity for co-operation which has made possible the development and prosperity of Denmark's agricultural and economic importance. Folk High Schools impart instruction of a humanistic character furthering the general education for those who are seeking their horizons beyond their professions and trade. They are institutions where instructions on such topics as self-education and education of children, on literature and art, on popular movements in politics and religion, and social, philosophical and psychological questions are imparted. They are described as "hotbeds of the Co-operative Movement." Many members of the Rigsdag were pupils of these Folk High Schools.

Norway Consumers' co-operation has made rapid strides in Norway in comparison to the size of her population. More than 90 per cent of the milk is handled by co-operatives in the country. The Norwegian Co-operative Wholesale operated bakeries and sausage factories in addition to margarine plants, a soap factory, a mill, a chocolate factory and a shoe factory. Co-operative education as well as education on general economics and psychology is provided through a Correspondence School in collaboration with N.K.L. (Co-operative Union and Wholesale society of Norway).

Finland Finland is also a highly co-operatively organised country in the world. Pallervo, a co-operative
organisation started by Prof. Hans Gebhard marked the beginning of co-operation in Finland. It promoted three forms of co-operation: the consumers' co-operative stores, co-operative creameries and co-operative banks. Before the second world war, nearly 40 per cent of the retail trade of the country was in the hands of consumers' co-operative societies; more than half the population belonged to one or more of these co-ops.

There are two unions of co-operative societies; the XUL (the General Union of Consumers' Co-operative Societies) which operates mainly in the rural areas and the K.K. (the Central Union of Finnish Distributive Societies) which serves the urban areas. XUL undertakes the publication of co-operative literature and the organisation of propaganda and educational meetings. Both the Unions carry on manufacturing business. Most successful among the retail societies is "Elanto" of Helsinki where almost any household necessity can be purchased in one of its stores. Some emigrants to U.S.A. have become leaders of the co-operative Movement there.

Scandinavian co-operative Movement has, by eliminating the middlemen in business enterprise, enabled consumers to make substantial savings, promoted thrift, educated their members in intelligent buying, succeeded in controlling cartels, helped to create high labour standards and better wages and created a more stable economic system in each country. War has adversely affected the co-operative Movement in these countries but rehabilitation of the Movement is progressing rapidly.
Switzerland is an outstanding practitioner of consumers' co-operation in Southern Europe. The Union of Swiss Consumers' Co-operative Societies operates a printing plant, a shoe factory, flour mills, meat-packing plant, furniture making and banking enterprises. The Central Co-operative Bank of Switzerland accepts deposits of consumer co-operatives and trade unions, promotes co-operative housing and education, publishes millions of copies of co-operative papers every year. Farmers' Federation in the country combines the sale of food and household goods with agricultural supplies and marketing of agricultural produce. People's Banks on the Italian model are well-developed. There are co-operative societies for consolidation of holdings. Co-operative education is promoted through vocational training, study circles, youth work and advanced university education on co-operative problems. The Movement is neutral in politics and has friendly relations with the Government. The co-operative garden village of Freidorf, just outside Basle is almost a co-operative community; most people there are members of one or the other co-op.

Hungary In Hungary, the principal co-operative organisations are agricultural co-ops, credit societies, and societies for industrial workers and civil servants. It had a large national co-operative Wholesale "Hangya" and a co-operative banking movement which was the leading credit institution of the country. The Movement is being rehabilitated at present as it suffered heavily during the second world war.
Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia has highly developed agricultural co-operatives. There are State marketing agencies known as "Prizad". Health societies are among the most outstanding co-operative successes with their health education and information drug stores and travelling clinics. Health co-operatives were started to tackle the problem of health in rural areas which were deficient in health facilities and conditions of living such as food, housing, lighting and sanitation. Co-operatives provide for free and public vaccination, organise health co-ops for infants, children and mothers. Schoolchildren are treated free of charge and the poor are given medical grants. Health co-ops have launched campaign against diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and venereal diseases and provide for preventive, curative and social medicines. A Union of health co-operatives established in 1922 provides necessary help and guidance to co-ops in their operations, publishes scientific magazines, manages Juveniles' and Women's sections, advises co-ops in the employment of personnel and submits a report to the Government regarding its work and that of the health societies.

Czecho-Slovakia

Agricultural co-operation is a leading development of Czecho-Slovakia. There exist co-operative dairies, making butter and cheese and marketing societies for the sale of meat and fat-stock, for field crops and fruits, milk and other dairy products. Among other co-operatives, there are co-operative societies for supplying

credit to artisans, for building purposes and for distributing electric supply. Movement suffered heavily by Nazi invasion but is now under reconstruction.

Italy. Important co-operatives in Italy are those for the supply of credit to urban areas, for consumers and the industrial workers. The idea of urban credit or "People's banks" was developed with outstanding success by Luzzatti, a liberal statesman, in Northern Italy and thence it spread to other European countries. For his banks, Luzzatti introduced limited liability, smaller initial share-holding, stressed need for unpaid officials and advocated democratic management; but on the whole, the purpose and method of his banks was the same as those of Schulze Delitzsch. 1

Before the Fascist regime, the Co-operative League of Italy had 4000 consumer societies with a collective membership of over half a million families. Under the Fascists, co-ops functioned as Fascist organs waiting to have their democracy restored. By 1947 there were 17000 co-ops in all with a total membership of 2 million persons.

Russia. Before the assumption of power by the Bolsheviks, Russia had 50,000 consumer co-operative societies with 60 million members, embracing both industrial workers and farmers. By 1920, the vast network of co-operatives in Russia—consumer, banking and agricultural—the greatest co-operative Movement in the world was absorbed by the State. In 1921, the Soviet Government retained general supervision and control in regard to questions such as hours of work, sanitary conditions, 1

1. Margaret Digby: The World Co-operative Movement, loc cit, p. 77
prices and weights of goods. In other matters co-ops were allowed to have their own way. In 1935 urban consumers' co-ops were turned into State Stores intended to serve the needs of city consumers. In 1946 consumer-producer co-ops have been brought under State control to satisfy the needs of the consumers in the cities. There are thousands of rural co-ops with millions of members with greater autonomy in their management. Rural co-ops have organisations for processing and preservation of food, bakeries and rural restaurants. Rural handicraft coops are principal producing organisations and include the leather and textile industry, the confectionery and ready-made clothing trades, toy-making and embroidery, rug-making wood-carving, and such other peasant arts. These co-ops work mainly on Government contracts with State credits and have the same problems of management, labour, adjustment etc., as have the societies of Western Europe. There are at present in Soviet Russia thousands of consumer co-ops, rural co-ops, industrial producers' co-ops, co-operative stores and collective farms. The Soviet co-operative Movement fostered by the State has become the largest and most powerful in the world claiming more than 75 million members. Soviet Co-operative is voluntary and democratic in the sense that all the cooperative principles, open membership, one vote for each member irrespective of share-holding, limited interest on capital and distribution of surplus to the extent of purchases by the members are observed.

Most important phase of Russian co-operation is collective farming. Collective farms cultivate more than 90 per cent of...

1 Some of the information on Co-operative Collective Farming in Russia is taken from the Reserve Bank's "Co-operative Farming" (Agricultural Credit Department, Bombay, 1949), pp. 17-20.
the total acreage under crops. This form of co-operation includes every aspect of the member's life, - his life as a worker, consumer and as a saver of money. A collective farm is generally the old Estate collectively owned by the village which receives title deeds from the State and is managed by a committee of those working on it. All means of production such as working cattle, agricultural implements, supplies of fodder for cattle, farm buildings required for the proper functioning of the Kolchoz or the collective farm are socialized. The farmer is allowed private property rights in a small plot of land attached to his house together with animals, poultry and small agricultural implements. The authorities lay down cropping plan fixing production targets for each agricultural commodity. The work is organised and managed by a committee and the farm director. The management runs on democratic lines. Payment to labour is made in cash and partly in kind, as determined by the board of management. The State has organised Machine Tractor Stations for proper service and repair and has appointed a trained staff of drivers. These stations work for a group of collective farms and are paid in kind. After meeting all the expenses of the means of production and allowing for depreciation and other charges the entire net income in cash and in kind is distributed among the members of the collective farms in accordance with the number of work-days credited to each member. Produce not sold or delivered to the State or the M.T.S. may be sold either to the consumer or co-ops at the market price or to the individual consumer at pitch markets.
Collectivisation of farms has brought many advantages to the Russian peasants. It has made possible the use of heavy machinery on a large scale, maximum utilisation of all local fertilisers, adoption of measures against insects, pests, and scientific methods of feeding and breeding the cattle. All these have resulted in a tremendous increase of agricultural production. Other than economic advantages have followed in the sense that education is increased from 8 per cent to above 80 per cent on the farms and technicians have been trained. By pooling of resources, collective farms have availed the destitute peasants the advantages of large-scale farming, increased production, raised their standards of living socially, economically and culturally and fostered in them a sense of economic and social security. Collective farms have become an integral part of the Soviet economic system.

United States Co-operative Movement in the United States was initiated by the Finnish and Swedish immigrants in the Middle-West modelled on what they had left behind in their countries, that is, rural stores selling both household and agricultural supplies. After the first World War and especially during the thirties, the middle-western Farmers' Purchasing Associations developed a "Consumer Philosophy". Since then the growth of co-operatives has been notable until in 1947 there were 27,000 consumer co-ops with a membership of more than six million persons. The co-operative League of the United States is the National Federation of Consumer co-operatives of the country and is a member of the International Co-operative Alliance. To it are affiliated most of
the local and regional federations and wholesale of co-operative organisations. National Cooperatives, Inc., is the U.S. wholesale dealing in both agricultural and domestic goods and is a member of the International Cooperative Wholesale. Co-operatives in U.S.A. conduct petroleum service stations, and distribute farm supplies and other household needs.

There exist co-operative societies for the supply of such services as housing, insurance, electricity and telephone services, credit and banking, medical protection, burial and college campus needs. Consumers' co-ops own factories and plants for producing flour, bread, cereals, milk products, feed, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, tractors, farm appliances and numerous other commodities.

On the agricultural side of co-operation, there exist thousands of co-operative associations for the supply of credit and banking facilities and for marketing purposes. The Farm Credit Administration (F.C.A.) of U.S.A. provides credit of all types needed for agriculture through the (i) Federal Land Bank; (ii) Central Bank for co-operatives and District Bank for co-operatives; (iii) Federal intermediate Credit Banks; (iv) Production Credit Corporations and Production Credit Associations. Apart from its financial assistance, service has been given to farmers' non-credit coops in the form of stimulation, criticism and advice. U.S.A. has been pioneer in the provision of co-operative credit to the industrial wage-earner so much so that credit unions have spread rapidly among the employees of Post Office, railways, the telephone services and the big departmental stores. These unions have stimulated thrift and provide loans at reasonable rates of interest for the legitimate expenditure of the urban, industrial and service employees.
Farmers' Marketing Co-ops occupy a very predominant position in the U.S. agricultural economy and ship to Europe and other countries large quantities of wheat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, cotton and seeds. The co-operative communities known as "Hutterites" have been successful in tilling the land collectively. Co-operative farming is also practiced by other Co-operative Community Projects and by F.C.A.

Co-operative Housing Projects are not highly advanced in the United States as in the Scandinavian countries and they vary in degree and extent. However by mid-1950, there were nearly 22,000 dwelling units of some 35,000 planned were either completed or under construction by 160 co-operative housing associations. Service co-ops and co-ops for college students are other popular movements in the co-operative field.

Co-operative education is imparted through the three great agencies, namely, the Co-operative League of America, the American Institute of Co-operation and the F.C.A. Co-operative education and information is also provided in public educational institutions, through co-operative press and radio and through group agencies such as discussion groups or study circles, co-operative recreational schools, the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives, and State Councils of Farmer Co-operatives.

In Canada, the origin of co-operation dates back to the establishment of the Co-operative Union of Canada in 1909. The Co-operative Union has played a prominent role in the promotion of education, standardization and protection of cooperatives in the country. The Union functions as a central.

clearing house of co-operative information and educational work; organizes National Congresses and Regional Conferences, sponsors national publicity drives and assists the organisational and educational work in the provinces. St. Francis Xavier's University has been responsible for the promotion of higher co-operative education.

In an agricultural country like Canada farmers' co-operatives naturally predominate. There are co-operatives for the supply of agricultural requirements, for fishing and marketing of livestock. A start is made in the development of forest co-operatives, credit co-ops and co-operative farming. Canadian Farm Loan Board grants loans only to those farmers whose principal occupation is farming. Co-operative insurance in agriculture is well-developed. There is a single national co-operative insurance organisation handling fire and wind insurance. Co-operative societies for consumers are gradually developing. Consumer co-ops have wholesale and manufacturing plants, including gasoline refineries. There are also telephone service co-ops. In Nova Scotia and Newfoundland co-ops have educated the people and have correlated the functions of consumers, producers, marketing and credit phases of the Movement, thereby improving the economic and social conditions of the people.

Co-operation in Saskatchewan, a predominantly rural province in the Prairies, has during the last thirty years entered all the fields of co-operative activity through the active assistance and encouragement of the State. Greater part of the population of the province is served by one or other form of co-operative enterprises. Special care has been taken
given in the application of co-operative principles to agricultural production. Provision of finance through co-operation is encouraged. Remarkable progress has been achieved in the fields of co-operative marketing, wholesaling, manufacturing and purchasing. Special stress has been laid on the importance of social, cultural and recreational activities for the rural areas and consequently, co-operative community services such as co-operative parks, playgrounds and theatres have been developed. Thus the Movement has permeated all the aspects of the life of the people.

**Mexico**

In Mexico, Ejido or collective farms are a leading co-operative development. As the majority of the people are destitute and illiterate, Government supervision is strict and comprehensive. Co-operative activities in the field of housing, sanitation and education are notable. All the lands are owned and worked in common though the life in the Ejido is still individualistic to a considerable extent in the sense that consumption and other aspects of life remain largely individual. Management is, in general, democratic. There are two main agencies, the National Agrarian Commission which supervises through State Commissions in the establishment of the colony and the National Bank of Ejido, the credit institution for financing the Ejido settlements. The National Bank of Ejido is a banker, an agricultural expert and a personal adviser to the Ejido in general.

School co-ops are a popular co-operative development in Mexico.
South America There are co-operative societies for consumers, for production, electricity, banking and insurance in Argentina. Agricultural credit societies are multiplying in recent years. Co-operative housing is gradually gaining ground, the most important being the Workers' Household Society in Buenos Aires. National Wholesale is developing. Credit supply co-ops are being organised in Peru and Brazil. Consumers' co-operation is also making a headway in both these countries. Chile has co-ops for dried fruits and dairy products. Ecuador, Uruguay and other less conspicuous countries are developing co-ops of promise. In Venezuela, agricultural and credit societies are increasing in number. Co-operative education is given special emphasis and there exists co-ops in schools among the pupils. In the West Indies, co-operative producers' organisations, credit organisations and consumers' co-ops are progressing. In Jamaica, credit unions and farmers' marketing co-operatives predominate.

Asia Rural credit co-operatives represent the most ancient and widespread form of co-operation in Asia. They occupy even at present the predominant position in most of the countries despite the fact that in recent years, and especially since the second World War consumers' and other forms of co-operatives have appreciably increased in number. During the war, co-operatives in Asian countries carried on the distribution of seeds, fertilisers, yarn, woven goods, rationed and other essential consumer goods, grains and a number of other essential goods on behalf of their respective Governments. Government help to the co-operatives in Asia has always been liberal and active. This
may be due to the general illiteracy, low standard of living, lack of trained co-operative personnel and sufficient funds. Governments have directly or indirectly helped the co-operative Movement through the medium of loans, subsidies and loans for an initial period, including loans for propaganda, education and development. An improvement is noticeable in the building up of federal co-operative organisations in many countries of Asia consisting of local and regional co-operative associations. There is also visible a gradual change towards "co-ordination" of various official and non-official co-operative associations in Asian countries which will lead to the general efficiency of the Movement.

Palestine. Jews introduced co-operation in Palestine. Consumers' co-operation is well-advanced in the country. The Hamashehir Society at Tel Aviv has a number of distributive stores. Neverath Ovdium is a federation of hundreds of retail distributive consumer societies. There are co-ops for insurance, credit, housing, transport, land settlements, schools, and restaurants. There are also agricultural producers' and marketing co-ops. Co-operative factories manufacture farm implements, agricultural machinery, boots and shoes, rubber goods, woollen yarns, flour and other food-stuffs. Marketing co-ops exist for citrus fruits, vegetables and wines. Arabs have also been following the Jews in organising co-ops.

Co-operative land settlement societies, otherwise known as Kvutza, with their emphasis on mutual aid, are of unique social importance. The origin and success of the co-operative land settlement societies lie in the desire of
the Zionist organization to establish all enterprises in the Jewish area on the basis of a sound agricultural industry. The Kvutza, the co-operative farming society touches almost every field of the co-operative activity. Private property does not exist, nor does the group property in the final analysis, because when the Kvutza disbands, the property reverts to the State.

Farming is diversified to meet the manifold requirements of the members and to minimize the price-fluctuations and unemployment. Large-scale farming and the full utilization of the modern technique of agriculture is made possible by consolidation of lands into big parcels. Each receives according to his needs irrespective of skill or efficiency in return for his work. The Kvutza maintains rich intellectual activities, has provided for recreational opportunities, medical facilities and for the education of children. Besides the Kvutza, there exists "small-holders' settlements" which represent co-operative as well as individualistic elements. The Kvutza has brought medical care, improvement in diet, and more decent and sanitary housing to people who formerly lived in dirt and squalor, suffering from malnutrition and other diseases of poverty. It has fostered in the people a sense of social and economic security and has developed higher value in life such as social responsibility, self-control, self-discipline and a sense of solidarity.

Shikun claims to have done marvels in the field of building co-operatives. More than 6,000 dwellings have been built since 1928. Shikun has built also five beautiful workers' Garden cities near Haifa and Tel Aviv.

Pakistan The co-operative Movement in Pakistan was seriously affected due to the partition of the Indian sub-continent; for, the staff of co-operative societies belonged to the non-muslim class. Partition also meant the drying up of most of the sources of credit because of the departure of moneylenders and staff of joint-stock banks also were either Hindus or the Sikhs. But the co-operative Movement hurriedly made arrangements for the training of necessary staff and advanced commercial loans, undertook large-scale business in agricultural produce, sometimes with official support and on Government account. They also took over the oil-mills, cotton-ginning factories etc., left over by the evacuees and by the end of 1948 the co-ops contributed largely in rehabilitating the economy of N.W.F.P. and the Punjab (P.).

At present there are 49,000 societies with a membership of 3,327 millions and a working capital of Rs. 424.8 million. The share-capital and reserve funds amount to Rs. 46.3 and Rs 49.47 millions respectively. The majority of them fall into the group of credit societies, and central banks, but the Movement also comprises of multipurpose societies, sale and purchase societies, commission shops, consolidation of holdings societies, handicrafts and cottage industries co-ops, housing, health and consumers' co-ops. Federal institutions in the form of Provincial Co-operative Banks, Marketing Federations, Industrial Societies, Unions, etc., have also been organised.

The Punjab has a well-developed Provincial Co-operative Union (established in 1919) providing for the training of supervisory and audit staff, managers, secretaries, inspectors, sub-inspectors and even sub-inspectresses; and undertakes the audit of the co-operatives in the province. Elsewhere the auditing is carried on by the staff of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Fundamental problem is the lack of adequate funds for agricultural credit as in India. Ways have been devised in both countries for attracting the savings of the people and mobilizing their surplus purchasing power both in the rural and urban areas and to popularize the multi-purpose idea in the primary society. In both countries there is an increasing tendency to invite the co-operative organisations, often at their own request, to take part in the cost of supervision and audit. Efforts are made to secure as strict as possible a division of duties and co-ordination between the various services.

Ceylon Progress of the co-operative Movement in Ceylon since the beginning of the second World War has been remarkable both in the increase in number and membership of co-operative societies. Number of co-operative societies in 1938 was 1,288 with a membership of 55,729 members, while in 1949 it rose as high as 6,567 co-ops with more than a million members serving a large number of the family population of the country. Consumers' co-operation has developed to such a magnitude, that a Movement which was primarily a credit one before the second World War turned into a non-credit Movement after the war. Consumer co-operatives supply the food and clothing requirements of almost two-thirds of the
population of the country. Each Province has a co-operative union which includes the primary societies of all kinds, as well as specialized provincial unions of agricultural marketing co-ops, consumer co-ops and credit co-ops respectively. It is decided to federate the consumer co-operative societies into unions and unions into a single wholesale national federation, 'Ceylon Producers' Co-operative Union directly ships coconut products to various countries of the world. There are co-operative societies for the produce and sale of coconuts, fruits and vegetables. There are immense possibilities for the development of tea, rubber, weavers; housing and irrigation co-ops in the country. Credit co-ops are also a leading development. The agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation of Ceylon grants loans to individuals and co-operative societies against mortgage of movable and immovable property for all industrial and agricultural purposes. The State Land Mortgage Bank of Ceylon has been functioning since 1931 to serve the purpose of long-term credit for agricultural purposes. Experiments at co-operative farming to increase food-production are growing in number. Women play an important part in the development of the co-operative Movement.

There has been created an Education and Propaganda branch of the Co-operative Department in 1943. The department imparts training and general information regarding co-operation to people. Co-operative magazines, "Colombo Co-operator", "Co-operative Wholesale News" and other vernacular magazines are published for co-operative information and propaganda. The co-operative spirit has permeated every village and each
member is aware of his duties and responsibilities to the society. Greater autonomy in the management and the success of the movement is largely due to higher literacy and standard of living of the people. Gradual de-officialisation of the Movement is contemplated by the Government as the people are capable of taking over the responsibility. Process of devolution has advanced considerably as regards certain duties normally allotted to the Department of Co-operation, in particular the general supervision and even auditing of co-operative societies. Though the Government neither grants subsidies (except in certain cases of supervision and credit fund) nor loans without interest, it always lends moral support to the Movement in the shape of guidance, advice and special privileges.

Burma During recent years the progress of co-operative societies in Burma has been unprecedented. The number of co-operative societies and membership increased to 10,006 and 3.5 millions in 1948 as compared to 2047 societies with a membership of nearly 81,804 persons. Consumers' co-operatives have been of recent origin supplying the needs of about 3 million consumers and their families. Since the second World War consumers' co-ops are distributing essential goods on behalf of the Government. Progress of co-operatives in the country has been more on the quantitative side than in the educational value. Almost ten per cent of the population was served by co-operatives by the end of 1948 in Burma.

China Chinese history of cooperation dates back to the close of the first World War when Prof. S.Y. Haueh
sown the seeds of the Movement. The planned co-operative economy of China of to-day is based on the idea of Dr. Sun-Yat-Sen. Co-operative societies increased considerably both in number and membership during Chino-Japanese war and the second World War. The number of co-operative societies increased from 46,983 in 1937 to 167,040 in 1948 and the membership rose from 2.1 million in 1937 to 23.7 millions in 1948. Credit co-operative which overwhelmingly predominated in 1937 constituting 73.6 per cent of the total co-ops, formed only 31.7 per cent of total co-ops in 1947. Industrial co-ops of China which enjoy to-day the world-wide fame in the field of co-operation make machinery, chemicals, paper, textiles, and cotton thread; produce woollen and silk goods and tan leather. These industrial co-operatives have played a leading role in the rehabilitation of the refugees and reabsorption of demobilized soldiers by establishing co-operative colonies and labour co-operatives.

It is the acknowledged policy of the Government in China to help the Chinese co-operative enterprises in the establishment of village co-operatives, producers', consumers' and credit co-operatives. Government never intervenes in the affairs of the co-operative organisations which enjoy a high degree of autonomy. There also exist federal co-operative agencies such as the Co-operative League of China, the Central Co-operative Bank, the National Co-operative Wholesaling and Marketing Agency. Co-operative League of China was established in 1940 to promote co-operative education in the country. Chinese Co-operative institutions and other educational institutions give courses in co-operation. Chinese Co-operative
Economic Research Association publishes periodicals and a collection entitled "Co-operative Economic Series." The Co-operators' Union has set up a co-operative library and issues effective co-operative literature. The tendency is now towards the establishment of multipurpose rural co-operatives and to organise co-operatives for the collective and co-operative exploitation of land with the use of modern machinery and methods in selected areas to increase food production.

Japan Co-operative Movement in Japan originated among the farmers and small producers in the middle of the last century. Credit Societies even predominate to-day. By the end of July 1951 there were 1230 consumers' co-operative societies with an approximate membership of 2.5 million people and if their families were included, the total would be about 6.5 million persons, the Movement thus comprised about 10 per cent of the entire population. The Japanese consumers' co-operative Movement suffers from lack of adequate funds, aggravated by heavy taxation. Agricultural co-operation in Japan today is a Movement of 34,000 local societies grouped in 22 national federations. The modern co-operative Movement grew up on the basis of credit organisation, branching out after the first World War into marketing, purchasing and joint utilization of farm requisites. Consumer societies with stores, are developing in the towns among the salaried workers and wage-earners. There are highly developed health co-operatives. There are highly specialized national co-operative organisations for marketing, purchasing, cultivation, sericulture, livestock, health, transport, insurance, press, information and for other special objects. Over and above the all-embracing Central
Confederation, the Zenkotu Shido NogIyo Kyodokumiai Fangokai (National Guidance Federation, the Central Co-operative Bank, an apex-financial institution and a central publishing association issuing co-operative journals entitled "Ieno Hikeri" (Home Light) and "Chijoj" (Earth) respectively. The Japanese Co-operative Union established in 1951 looks forward to a vigorous development of consumers' co-operation. Japanese Government does not help the Movement at present in any way, though under the Re-organisation and Reconstruction Law administrative authorities are now empowered to assist agricultural or fishery co-operative societies to surmount their difficulties by providing technical guidance of financial accommodation. There are several hundred collective farms in Japan, existing since 1938. Controls placed over the co-ops by the Government during the war are being gradually removed.

Malaya There were about 900 societies with more than 100,000 members in 1949. Among the important co-operative societies are consumer co-ops, marketing co-ops, credit and thrift co-ops. Rural credit co-ops which predominate are based on the Rafffeisen model. There are also seasonal co-ops, fishermen's Indian Labourers', credit societies and co-operatives for urban salary earners, Government civil servants and police. In 1949, there were seven co-operative societies for women a few animal breeding societies and a school society. Co-operative education is given special attention. The Department of Co-operation undertakes the responsibility of inspection, supervision and auditing of co-operative societies.
Siam has over 5,000 co-operatives, mostly co-operative credit societies. Indonesian Government intends to build up its national economy on the co-operative principle. There are great possibilities of successful development of village banks to provide credit to the agriculturists who are in great need. Out of a total of 1,065 co-operative societies with 1/3 of a million as members, 878 were consumers' co-ops in Philippines in 1946. These societies are affiliated to the National Co-operative League of Philippines.

Australia From well-developed and extensive agricultural marketing associations consumers' co-operation is growing in Australia. These associations handle almost all the export trade of the country and produce 90 per cent of butter and cheese in co-operative factories. The British consumers' co-operative Movement is the direct buyer of these producing associations. Consumers' co-operation is growing in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Co-operative housing has been a leading development in Victoria and co-operative insurance is also expanding. There is a co-operative bank in Melbourne. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia, a State institution, advances long and short-term credit to agriculturists through its Land Mortgage Bank Department and Rural Credit Department respectively. Fruit co-ops are well-established and there is a well-equipped laboratory for food-processing research at Cannery. Recently experiments have been made at co-operative farming Growing co-operative Movement is united into the Australian Co-operative Union.

New Zealand Co-operative developments in New Zealand are very much on the same lines as in Australia.
Producers' Associations have direct selling contacts with the British Consumer Co-operative Movement, and this is an instance of a harmonious collaboration between Producers' Associations of New Zealand (which strictly speaking are not co-operative) and the Consumers' Associations of Britain. Cheese, butter, fruits, etc., are produced in co-operative factories and exported to other countries. There are pig and meat marketing associations prominent in the country. The Co-operative Union and Wholesale is an efficient federation and publishes the New Zealand "Co-operator". The New Zealand Fruit Growers' Federation (1916) issues a monthly magazine, the "Orchardist." State Advances Corporation provides loans for agricultural and industrial development.

Egypt: Save in Egypt, the co-operative Movement in Africa is yet in its infancy. The Movement originated in Egypt in 1923. In 1946, there were 2000 co-ops with more than a million members. Agricultural societies predominate, though consumers' Movement is also the next important co-operative development. The Movement has made a considerable progress during the last thirty years in membership, turnover and capital. Credit Agricole d'Egypte (established in 1930) has been converted into the Agricultural and Co-operative Credit Bank to help small farmers and agricultural societies by providing credit at concessional rates of interest. Societies are preferred to individuals and are granted credit at lower rates.

Africa: The Natives of East Africa conduct co-ops successfully. French efforts have been successful in establishing co-operative enterprises in Algeria, Tunisia.
and Morocco. Algeria has a large retail grocery, while Tunisia has to its credit the development of handicraft co-ops. South Africa has a growing co-operative Movement, with successful societies in many towns. There has been established a Union and a Wholesale. The Land and Agricultural Bank of South Africa besides advancing loans to individual farmers, assists co-operative organisations with funds.

Although there does not exist a single organisation which can claim to represent the co-operative Movement of the world, there are some organisations which have crossed national frontiers and claim to have affiliated a number of associations of various countries of the world. Most important among the international co-operative associations are the International Co-operative Alliance, the Horace Plunkett Foundation and the International Labour Office. There are also the International Co-operative Wholesale Society, the International Trading Agency and the International Co-operative Petroleum Association as international co-operatives.

"The International Co-operative Alliance, founded in London in 1895, is an association formed mainly for national unions of co-operative societies, which seek to promote a non-profit system of production and trade, organised in the interests of the whole community and based upon voluntary and mutual self-help. Its purpose is to propagate co-operative principles and methods throughout the world, and to promote friendly and economic relations between co-operative organisations of all types, nationally and internationally. To this end it convenes periodical international..."
congresses, further the teaching and study of co-operation: issues publications, promotes the creation of auxiliary organisations for trading and production, and collaborates to the fullest extent with the United Nations, and with voluntary and non-governmental international organisations which pursue aims of importance to co-operation. The International Co-operative Alliance comprises 54 organisations in 30 different countries in all five continents and the total affiliated membership of the Alliance through its national organisations is 99,500,000. The Consumers' Movement accounts for a majority in the Alliance, but the agricultural, credit, workers', productive and artisanal co-operatives are also well represented. Through the "Review of International Co-operation" and other publications, attention is regularly drawn to the aims and the work of the international co-operative Movement. The "Review" aims to promote the practical and ideological work of international co-operation, to serve the interchange of experience and to discuss the present day problems of the co-operative Movement. The ideological work of the Alliance also finds expression in the annual celebration on the second Sunday in September, of International Co-operative Day, instituted in 1923 as a manifestation of international co-operative solidarity".

International Co-operative Wholesaling is already far advanced. The English and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesales are the largest producers and importers of tea in the world.

1. Extracts taken from the Review of International Co-operation.
The Scandinavian Wholesales jointly conduct the most successful electric lamp factory in their respective countries; they have in Java coffee plantations and other enterprises. Besides international co-operation in commodities, the development of international co-operative banking and finance, insurance, travel for recreational and educational purposes and international co-operative education are contemplated by the International Co-operative Alliance. The U.N. Political and Security Committee has admitted the International Co-operative Alliance to consultative affiliation with the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

The Horace Plunkett Foundation is one of those international organisations connected with co-operative education and information. It was created in 1919 "to promote the systematic study of the principles and methods of agricultural and industrial co-operation." It is a centre of information on all matters concerning the co-operative Movement, particularly on the agricultural side. It publishes a number of co-operative books, the most important being the "Year Book of Agricultural Co-operation."

The International Labour Office established in 1920 a service to centralize information on co-operation and to maintain relations with co-operative organisations and official institutions connected with the Movement throughout the world. It is also in close contact with International co-operative organisations such as the International Co-operative Alliance and the Horace Plunkett Foundation. The International Labour Office has gathered valuable data on co-operatives throughout the world. These data are helpful in the preparation of
numerous useful studies on co-operation. The International Labour Office service issues periodical publications such as the "International Directory of Co-operative Organisations", a bulletin entitled "Co-operative Information" and certain special studies such as "Co-operative societies throughout the world", "Numerical Data", and the "Co-operative Movement and its Present day Problems."

Furtherance of co-operative ideals through propaganda, publications and so forth has come to be considered as one of the most important functions of some international organisations because co-operation is international in appeal and does not know the barriers of nationalism. Free movement of co-operative workers and students from one country to the other will lead to the "cross-fertilisation of ideas" and contribute to the better understanding of the problems and their solutions of the co-operative Movement on an international plane. "In the final analysis, the growth of the co-operative Movement into a united and powerful world force, no less than the development of those forms of international collaboration which are the special concern of the United Nations, depends upon the spread of knowledge, the propagation of ideas and cultivation amongst the common peoples as well as their leaders, of the international mind and outlook."