

Scandinavian Alliance. Switzerland and Austria have well-organized co-operative movements. In no country, probably, had co-operation developed to so great an extent as in Russia before the World War, where co-operatives played a large part in the political as well as the economic life of the nation. In spite of the disorganization caused by Bolshevik trade, Russia had 80,000 co-operative societies in 1919, with a membership of 20,000,000 householders. The co-operative movement is strong also among the peasants of Bulgaria, Serbia, and other Balkan countries.

In the United States the co-operative store took root slowly. One of the most important of the early organizations for co-operative distribution was the Patrons of Husbandry, founded in 1867, which encouraged the establishing of co-operative stores by the members of its 13,000 local lodges.

How the Members Benefit

The plan of organization for these co-operative stores varies in details but not in principle. Usually the operating capital is obtained by selling shares of stock to members, who in return receive either interest on their money, a special discount on their purchases, or some other advantage. Goods are bought for cash and sold at a price barely sufficient to cover operating expenses, with a slight margin of gain for safety. Outsiders usually may buy at the stores, but only members share in the gains, and this ordinarily in proportion to the amount of their own purchases. An executive committee of the members in most cases appoints the manager and oversees the management of the business.

This so-called "consumers' co-operation" is only one form of the co-operative movement, though it is perhaps the most important one. Producers' co-operation is much older. In England it dates from the time of Robert Owen at the end of the 18th century. About the same time Fourier in France was advocating similar doctrines. But both of these men went farther than mere co-operation and advocated socialistic communities such as Owen later established at New Harmony, Indiana, U.S.A. In England there are over a hundred co-operative manufacturing enterprises, with products worth over £1,200,000 a year.

The Danish Farmer and Co-operation

The co-operative marketing of products has helped to solve many problems of the small producer. In Denmark this form of co-operation has spread rapidly, until it is hard to find a farmer who is not a member of at least one co-operative selling society. More than 40 per cent. of the people of Denmark are members of these societies.

Co-operative banks, too, have proved successful in Germany, and have spread to many other lands. These are of two kinds—one for the benefit of the lenders, which are popular with the middle classes, and one for the benefit of the borrowers, which find their greatest support among the poor.

COOT. This bird is found in reedy ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and sluggish rivers. It makes its nest among the reeds and rushes at the edge of the water. The female lays about ten eggs, which are buff speckled with brown. The common coot is a water bird about 18 inches long. It is black with a white bar across the wings, and a peculiar white bald spot on the forehead, which has given it the name "bald coot." Coots differ from rails chiefly in having the toes edged with a scalloped membrane. Scientific name, *Fulica atra*.

THE NEST OF THE COOT



The Coot finds a place for its nest close to the water-side among the reeds, where its eggs are securely hidden.

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK. This city (Danish *Kjöbenhavn*, "Merchants' Haven") is the capital and commercial metropolis of the little northern kingdom of Denmark. As we approach by boat the narrow Sound which separates the island on which it is situated from Sweden, we behold the beautiful grey towers of Kronborg Castle at Elsinore, famous as Hamlet's home. Long before the buildings of the city itself become distinguishable we see the gilded dome of the Marble Church glittering in the sun. This splendid edifice was begun in 1749, but for lack of funds was not completed until 1894.

At the north end of the city we pass the great "free port," with its 11-story grain elevator and its numerous warehouses, where goods for re-exportation may be landed free of customs duties. A pleasant park-like promenade, the Lange Linie ("Long Line"), extends from the