Co-Operatives in Nebraska See **Good Trade Year**

Survey by State Shows Favorable Outlook Is Generally Taken - Few Are Negative.

Lincoln, May 9.-(Special.)-A favorable outlook for co-operative enterprises in Nebraska is reported by 189 such institutions, while 41 take an unfavorable view. This is according to the survey of co-opera-tives just completed by the state board of agriculture and the bureau of business research of the University of Nebraska.

A business of \$39,000,000 was done by 221 representative concerns in 1921. The total sales of 115 elevators was \$24,206,271, and of 41 com-binations of elevators with other lines was \$10,807,503. This indicates that the elevators alone transacted more than 60 per cent of the total volume of business.

The total sales of 58 co-operative stores amounted to \$4,122,781, or onetenth of the total business of the 221 companies examined. The average sales of co-operative lumber yards were the smallest, \$46,634, while stores averaged \$71,082 and the elevators \$210,489. A warning note calls attention to the fact that in 56 stores the ratio of goods on hand to capital was too high, 101 per cent. Forty-three per cent of the com panies have surpluses despite the bad season. The number reporting higher prices to producers through co-operation is 178; lower prices to consumers through co-operation, 137.

Many Dissolve.

Of 230 reporting companies none started an entirely new business in 1921, but five began by purchasing the business of old stock companies and reincorporated as co-operatives. Forty companies have been in exist-tence since before 1913 and 190 companies have established themselves in the period 1913-1921, inclusive, showing a steady increase in numbers.

More than 20 companies of a co-operative nature filed articles of dis-solution in 1921. Inasmuch as many companies often do not file dissolution articles until some months after quitting business, it is not possible to determine just how many co-oper-atives actually did cease business from failure and other causes in 1921.

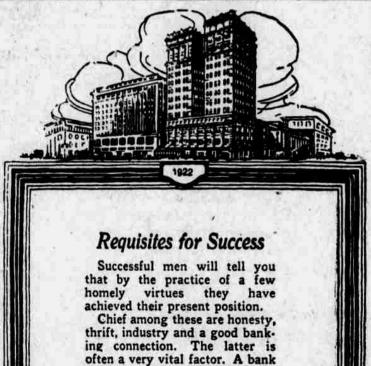
The companies are engaged in bustness' as elevators, stores, creameries and lumber yards; 58.7 per cent of the principal lines carried on by 230 companies being elevator business, 26.3 per cent being stores, and the remainder creameries, lumber yards and miscellaneous lines. It is to be noted that these proportions refer to type of business and not to volume of sales.

Some Limit Control.

One hundred and thirty-nine, or 60.4 per cent of the companies, report themselves as practicing all four of the principles denoting true co-operation; while 173 or 75.2 per cent pay a fixed rate of interest on capital investment, declare patronage divi-dends and limit the power of control



tition states that Sommers. Ak-Sar-Ben Sues Grocer contracted to buy eight shares of Louis Sommers, Omaha grocer, stock in the Ak-Sar-Ben enterprise was sued for \$800 by the Ak-Sar- at \$100 a share, refuses to pay or Ben Exposition company, The pe- live up to the contract.



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of individual members in the company either by restricting the amount of stock owned or its voting power, or both.

This larger group of companies therefore carry into effect the three principles usually spoken of as es-sential to co-operation. Sixty-three

sential to co-operation. Sixty-three companies, or 27.4 per cent, paid dividends on capital stock in 1921; and 29 companies, or 12.6 per cent declared patronage dividends. It is also noted that 221 of the 230 companies reporting a paid-up capital of \$4,025,911 had a volume or business amounting to \$39,882,512 in 1921. The volume of business for 485 companies in 1919 amounted to \$112,369,069 and in 1920 to \$83,014,-109. The average volume of busi-109. The average volume of busi-ness per company for these 485 com-panies in 1919 was \$314,038 and in 1920, \$216,766, and for 221 companies reporting in 1921 the average is \$180.-463, showing a slight decline in busi-ness, as would be expected in a time of industrial depression. 80 Had Notes Outstanding.

According to the returns only 180 of the companies had notes out-standing January 1, 1921, and only 157 had outstanding notes for bor-rowed money January 1, 1922. The total amount outstanding at the be-ginning of the year was \$2,567,429, as against \$2,333,300 at the end. Ninety-three companies borrowed \$683,270 during the year, while 138 companies paid off notes during 1921 amounting to \$917,399. It will be scen that there was a decrease in the amount of money borrowed of \$234,-129 from the beginning to the end of 1921. A significant fact is that only 93 companies borrowed funds during the year and 138 companies made payments on previous borrow-ings. According to the returns only 180

ings. One hundred companies report a surplus in 1921, amounting as a total to \$522,777, or an average of \$5,227, while 21 others report a deficit. It was not determined whether the sur-plus accrued in 1921 or represented merely the accumulations of more merely the accumulations of more generally prosperous preceding years. It is noteworthy in either case that 43 per cent of these compauies were still able to report a surplus for the year during which business was de-pressed throughout the country.

Parole From Prison Asked

by Sarpy County Burglar Lincoln, May 9 .- (Special.)-William Hutter, serving one to 10 years in state prison for burglary from Sarpy county, appeared before the state board of pardons and paroles

to seek parole. His brother, Fred Hutter, former sheriff of Sarpy county, was present and offered to assume responsibility for him in case he should be paroled.

Man Who Twice Abused Wife in One Night Is Fined \$10 "Rude" Benish, 1415 Chicago, who attacked his wife Monday night and was twice arrested, was fined \$10 in Central police court yesterday morn-ing and ordered to keep away from

"When oil and water do not mix." Judge Wappich said, "one is foolish to keep trying,"



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