

article has almost doubled since 1900. During the last few years some attempts have been made to export refrigerated mutton. The annual wool export amounts to some 800 000 kg., and constitutes the greater part of the annual yield. The principal markets for Icelandic wool are the U.S.A. and Denmark. The number of green-salted sheep skins (with the wool on) annually exported from the country has now increased to some 400 000, that is, it has more than quadrupled since the beginning of the present century.

### AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND ENTERPRISES

Shortly after 1880 cooperative purchase and sale societies began to spring up in Iceland. This movement was initiated by the farming population, among whom it has gained its greatest number of adherents. The majority of these associations have therefore had their attention directed not only towards purchasing in the foreign market such articles as the farmers most require, but also towards the export and sale of farming produce. It was not, however, till about the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth that cooperative societies for sale of produce began to be formed among the farmers. In 1900 the first cooperative dairy was established. The dairies increased in number so rapidly that by 1905 there were no less than 33 in the country. From 1905 to 1912 there was little change either way, and that year the total output of butter reached its maximum, 184 000 kg. Then a decline set in, especially during and just after the Great War, partly owing to the rise in the prices of meat and the consequent increase in the production of that commodity, and partly because the exportation of butter was forbidden in 1917 for fear of scarcity of fat goods, as the importation of these articles was greatly restricted. In 1919 and 1920 all but six dairies had to stop working, and have not since, except in a few cases, resumed activities. In these years (1929 to 1930), however, two large and up-to-date dairies are being established in the southern lowlands; and as they will be able to treat large quantities of milk, most of the small dairies will probably have to be closed. At first (1900—1911) the dairies received a government premium on every pound of butter exported. But Icelandic butter soon earned a high reputation on the British market and fetched good prices.

The cooperative *slaughter houses* are another form of these societies. The largest of these associations, the *Sláturfélag Suðurlands*, was established in 1907, and originally comprised all southern and part of