

COOPERATIVE STORES IN PEKING

New Movement Among Christian Organizations

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Peking, May 25.

Plans for consumers' cooperative stores in Peking were discussed at a meeting last week of about 50 representatives of Chinese Christian organizations of the city. The gathering was addressed by Professor J. B. Tayler, of the Economics Department of Yenching University, who has recently made a study of cooperative projects in India and elsewhere. A committee of six was appointed to take up details of the proposed organization here.

Professor Tayler said, in part: "Cooperative credit organizations among farmers have proved a great success in the Orient, especially in India and Japan. The International Famine Relief Commission has recently organized ten farmers' cooperative credit associations, eight of which are in the country near Peking. All of these are operating successfully, and it is hoped that the movement will extend.

More Successful With Farmers

"Consumers' cooperative stores have not met with the same success in Asia, however, as the farm credit associations. Such stores require, in the first place, experienced and capable management; otherwise they are the easiest way to lose money. In the second place, the members of the cooperative association must be composed of a reasonably large community of people having needs of a similar nature which can be supplied by a cooperatively-owned store.

"Thus successful cooperative stores are those which meet the needs of a professional class, such as the army and navy or the civil service stores in England, or those which serve an industrial population."

Professor Tayler also referred to the hopes for a cooperative store at the new site of Yenching University west of Peking. Such a store, he explained, would serve as a sort of laboratory for practice in cooperative organization, and also as a self-help opportunity for a few students.