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*Cooperatives of War Invalids in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia*

*Summary*

With the end of World War I and their return to the newly united state, war invalids from all fronts hoped the state would create conditions for their social and economic integration into society. This did not occur, and the pensions were insufficient for most of the invalids and their families to survive. Attempts to create cooperatives were made intended to provide economic assistance and support to its members. There were different types of cooperatives, from agricultural to trade ones. Their functions also varied: some offered credits, others provisions, and there also existed mixed cooperatives. Each cooperative had its management and control institutions, from management and supervising boards to secretaries-cashiers. Although the first cooperatives for invalids were formed during 1923, 12 months after the legislative formation of the cooperative system of the state, a small number of them managed to survive for more than several years. Frequent amendments of the Law on War made no positive effects because they omitted cooperatives and the very concept of cooperatives from the final versions of the draft law. Many smaller cooperatives took loans from the Association of War Invalids of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and most of the cooperatives found themselves in very difficult economic positions and ceased to exist due to embezzlements made by their own employees, as well as to the fact that the members themselves were not prone to pay back their debts to the cooperatives. The ones that remained to exist were obliged to seek financial support from the Court of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.