

ing to deal direct with farmers' organizations, believing that the co-operative movement would prove to be only a temporary fad and that it would not be good business policy to supply the farmers except thru the middlemen who were their regular agents. Today the co-operative movement has become so firmly established and has assumed such proportions, that manufacturers recognize the farmers' organizations as among their largest and best customers, and instead of paying tribute to unnecessary middlemen the farmers are receiving supplies direct from the factory and the mine and saving considerable sums of money by so doing.

Farmers who are taking advantage of co-operation are thus receiving a larger return for their labor than their neighbors who are sticking to the old individualism. When the Grain Growers get in a carload of coal at \$7 a ton, while the private coal yard is charging \$9, it means that a given quantity of grain can be exchanged by the co-operative farmer for nine tons of coal while the farmer who does not believe in co-operation gets only seven tons for the price of the same amount and quality of grain. Wherever this form of co-operation has been practiced in the west there is a desire to extend co-operative activity into other commodities and into new directions. After co-operative buying will come co-operative selling, co-operative production, co-operative financing co-operative mortgage loans and co-operative banking co-operative insurance and so on all along the line. But while co-operation is making rapid strides in the West a great deal remains to be done before the principle will have been applied to all these activities. Co-operative marketing of

grain crops has been firmly established, and livestock are being sold co-operatively in some localities, especially in Alberta. Those forms of co-operation which have not yet been developed in the West, however, can be seen in successful operation in Eastern Canada, United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, and in other European countries. In order to determine the best method of extending co-operative activity in Canada, it is necessary that we should learn from the experience of the older countries, and this is one of the purposes of the lesson in co-operation which is included in the course of study now being undertaken by members of the farmers' organizations thruout the West. Farmers who desire to see co-operation more fully developed and its benefits more widely spread, should take up the Course of Study.

INCREASING WHEAT PRODUCTION

It is true that, at this time of need, special efforts should be made to cope with the grave situation which has developed in relation to the food supply by sowing as large a crop as possible, but there is a danger of overdoing this. In the first place, it would be unwise to make any radical change in the present system of farming. Where livestock is being raised in addition to grain crops, the object should be to continue along these lines, aiming towards increased production. According to present indications there is just as much certainty of a shortage in all classes of horses and meat animals as there is of a greatly increased demand for wheat. Then again, the lessons learned from last season's crop should bring home

the point that large yields per acre, not large acreage, is the object sought for. It is not a question of putting in so many extra million acres of crop in the spring, but rather the proper preparation of the land already under cultivation so that it will produce maximum yields. This is not all. Good land cannot produce maximum crops if poor seed is sown. Millions of dollars are lost every year to farmers merely thru lack of attention to detail in the conduct of their business. Smut in grain is responsible for the loss of from two to ten per cent. of the total crop of grain and yet, as is pointed out on another page in this issue, it can be very easily controlled. Many other factors might be mentioned, for example, clean seed grain of high vitality, careful seeding, thorough threshing, all of which, if paid attention to, would materially assist in increasing the total grain crop. What is required today on the farms is greater attention to detail with consequent higher efficiency. This being attained, greatly increased crop yields are bound to result.

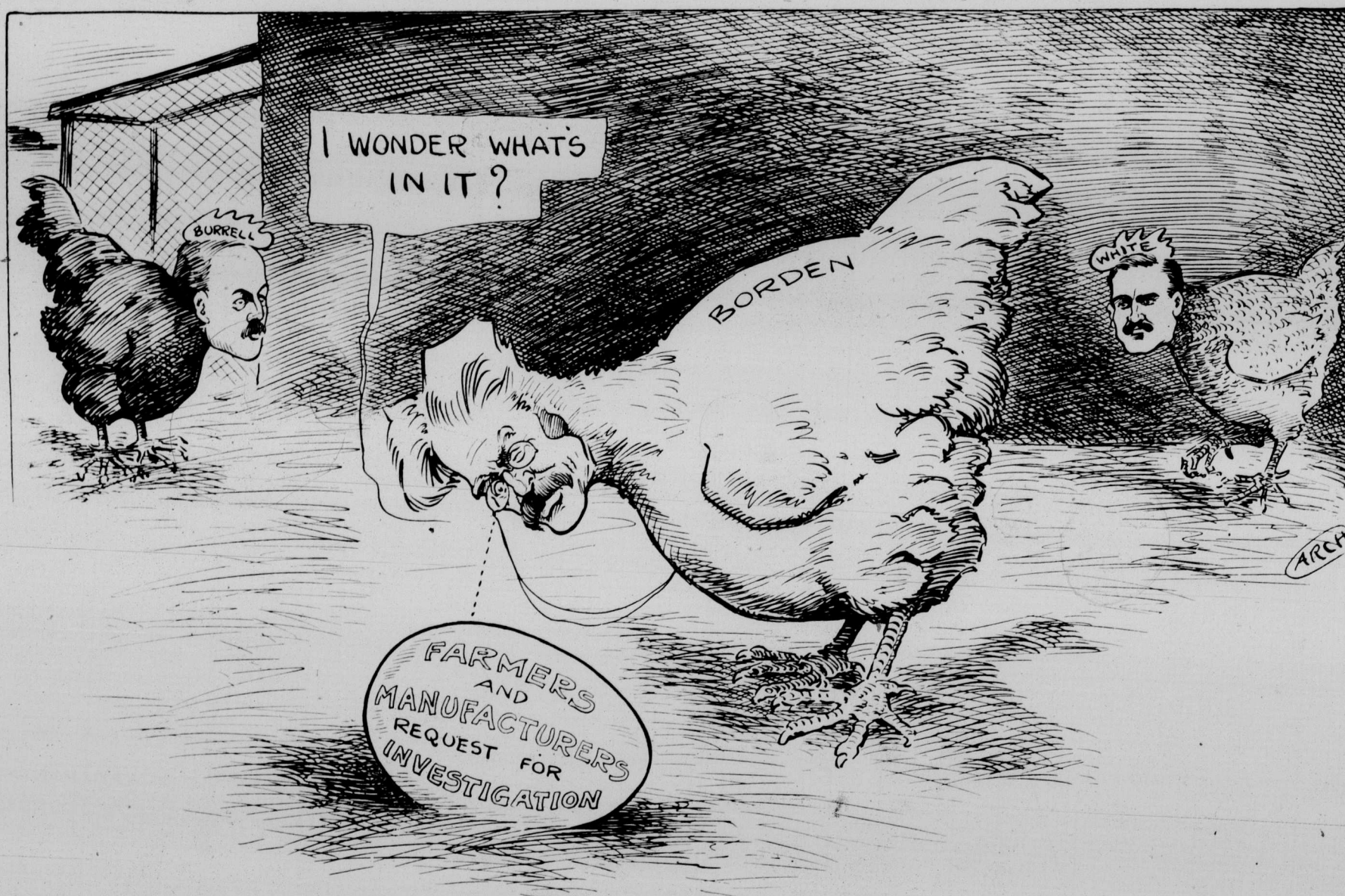
A contemporary says that a man who has money in the bank but allows his wife to haul water and scrub worn-out floors may have riches in Heaven, but he'll never connect with them.

There are too many men between the man with the hoe and the man with the mouth. Co-operation will reduce their number.

The man who works on Sunday usually loaf's enough during the week to make up for it.

Every little weed seed in the seed grain has a big field before it.

WILL IT HATCH?



A month has now elapsed since the request of the joint committee of farmers and manufacturers for the appointment of a commission of enquiry into agricultural conditions was presented to the government, but so far nothing has been announced. There is a feeling in some quarters that the government hesitates to appoint the proposed commission for fear the finding may not be in accord with their policy.