

long-period experiments in India to illustrate this fact.

Such being the general position, it is evident that suitable and adequate manuring offers the most promising line of attack on the problem. The application of this knowledge may not be within the reach of the individual cultivator or its application in any particular area may be fraught with difficulties due to lack of availability of seed or manure. Mere advice that the land should be manured, will be of no use. The cultivator knows that his lands respond to manuring and the Agricultural Departments can advise on manuring. What is wanted is the making of manures readily available to the cultivator at his place, in time for application to crops, and at a price which will be covered by the increase in yield.

This means an organisation not only for propaganda but also for making available on the spot to the cultivator, the manures that are required. The food situation created during the last War was met by initiating a campaign in which the officers of Agricultural Departments and students of Agricultural Colleges participated. The co-

operation of manure manufacturing firms was enlisted. Oilcakes, fish, fish guano, bones, rock-phosphates were crushed and made into manure mixtures and quantities of the mixture were sent by rail to convenient centres and distributed from there to cultivators. The results were satisfactory.

The means to the desirable ends are known. What was possible twenty-five years ago should be possible now. What is wanted is immediate action in which Government departments and the public can co-operate. The season for rice is fast approaching. Quick mobility is necessary. The manurial resources available in the country should immediately be mobilised, and a programme of campaign should be drawn up and put into effect. It will not be undue optimism to expect an all-round average increase of thirty per cent. in food production as it happened in the past. The improvement to each individual cultivator will be appreciable. Even if it may not be very much it means in the aggregate a large increase in food supply. It may even mean a decent surplus.

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INDIAN LOCUST DELEGATION TO IRAN

IT was recently pointed out (*Curr. Sci.*, 10, 479) that important sources of locust swarms which invaded North-West India last summer were from countries beyond the western frontiers of India, probably Iran, South-Eastern Arabia, etc., where the locust breeds during the spring season. Information was received in last February that there were heavy concentrations of the pest in Iranian Mekran. The situation

being of potential danger to India during the next summer, the Government of India have sent a party of entomologists under the leadership of the Assistant Entomologist at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, to Iran to assist the Iranian authorities in the control of locusts in that country. The party left Quetta in March, and is expected to be at work in Iran for about 2 or 3 months.