

At the Head Office there are to be two main divisions :—

- (i) Administrative ; and
- (ii) Accounts.

The Administrative division will have to look up to the framing of General Regulations, Staff Regulations, Provident Fund Regulations, Gratuity Regulations and their implementation.

The Accounting Wing will have to frame Expenditure Regulations. They will have to prescribe the accounting procedures and the Account Books they are actually to maintain. For the Accounts wing it will be necessary to have some experienced staff from the banks or from other Corporations. The staff at the higher level would have to deal with the work of different Sections. Therefore, desirable qualifications and experience would be :—

- (i) Degree in Agriculture ;
- (ii) Experience in Marketing Committee, Agriculture De-

partment, Marketing Directorates etc. ;

- (iii) Master's Degree in Economics ;
- (iv) Diploma of India Institute of Bankers ;
- (v) Diploma of the Corporation of Secretaries ;
- (vi) Service in the Banks, Financial Corporation, Marketing Committees. Experience of import-export, experience of sales etc; and
- (vii) Successful farmers with adequate educational qualifications.

The efficient staff are, therefore, a prerequisite if this Corporation has to play the part it is expected to.

The Food Corporation should involve a package processing-cum-marketing policy such that the farmer gets a portion of the savings of processing-cum-marketing margins and thus is encouraged to sell his food-grains direct to the Corporation.

of grains per acre as compared to 54 mds. of C.273 and 53 mds. of C.306. A dwarf sister-line of this variety, with amber coloured grains and resistance to rusts, has also been developed from the original material obtained from Mexico and its seeds are being multiplied. This line gives an indication of being even more promising than PV-18.

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It is, therefore, necessary to launch a three-pronged attack on the malady of low productivity of agriculture in India :

First ; Government should not only provide inputs like fertilisers, irrigation, better seeds etc. at low prices, but also ensure remunerative prices to the farmers so that their incomes are not depressed when their productivity increases ;

Second ; ways and means must be found to diversify agriculture as also to provide alternative employment to surplus labour engaged in agriculture, which serves as a great drag towards our objective of achieving a break-through in agriculture. Genesis of increase in agricultural production, in all the developed countries, can be traced back to the large-scale shift of population from farming to non-farming occupations.

Thirdly, within the context of resource-limitations, farmers must be trained to take best advantage of their limited resources. In short, the farmers must be fully acquainted with the farm management techniques.

The Bharat Krishak Samaj, which is the national organisation of farmers, can play a notable role in this great programme. In fact the Samaj has on its anvil a number of schemes which can take Indian agriculture out of the present quagmire of lethargy and low productivity. The Bharat Krishak Samaj will not only initiate a number of activities, but has already offered all possible help and cooperation to the National Productivity Council in its programme of increasing agricultural productivity so that these two great organisations can forge ahead to meet the greatest challenge that our agriculture faces today.

Research News

Mexican Wheat

The average yield of wheat per acre in India is very much below the world average. One of the most important factors responsible for low yields in our country is the limited use of fertilisers. However, the Indian farmers are gradually taking to the use of fertilisers in increasing quantities, but have complained of losses in yield on account of the lodging of the crop under high fertility conditions. Therefore, in fertile soils, where plenty of irrigation water is available, the choice of a variety is becoming a limiting factor in increasing wheat production. This limitation in production will be even more acute and widespread in future with the availability and application of larger quantities of fertilisers. What is, therefore, necessary is a variety which would respond well to heavy fertility and will not lodge. Accordingly wheat breeders are laying emphasis on the development of strains responsive to heavy doses of fertilisers that would not lodge.

The Punjab Agricultural University at Ludhiana have evolved a strain of wheat, called PV-18, from

the material received from Mexico through the Rockefeller Foundation, New Delhi. The yield data confirmed the high yield potential of this strain at the University Farm, Ludhiana, in April, 1965. In a demonstration plot sown with this strain, an area of about 40 sq. yards was harvested and the estimated yield of 87 mds. (1 md=82.6 lb.) per acre was obtained. It seems possible that this strain should give a yield of 80 mds. per acre without difficulty. In spite of the application of heavy doses of fertilisers, PV-18 was found to be resistant to lodging. Besides, it is highly resistant to the three rusts which constitute the most serious disease of wheat. In addition, PV-18 has also been found to be highly resistant to loose smut and has also very impressive ears. It attains a maximum height of about 3 feet as compared to 5 feet of C 306 (an improved Punjab Wheat). On account of its high tillering capacity, the yield of *bhusa* (straw) is almost equivalent to that of C306. According to the results of a replicated trial conducted at Ludhiana, PV-18 has given an average yield of 73 mds.