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## EDITORIAL

**Agricultural Research and the War.** In our last issue we made a plea that the war should not in any way hamper the activities of agricultural research organisations in this country. We urged that rather than curtailing research activities, they should be strengthened in such a manner as to augment the economic prosperity of the country and the Empire. It is heartening to agricultural research workers in this country and to the millions who stand to benefit by their activities that two of India's foremost administrators who are best qualified to speak on the subject, have expressed themselves convincingly on the importance of agricultural research in wartime. Addressing the advisory board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Mr. P. M. Khareghat, Vice Chairman and chief administrative officer of the council has expressed the view that "research designed to develop agricultural and live stock resources of the country must continue." Sir Jagadish Prasad, member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and member in charge of Education, Health and Lands, addressing the crop and soil wing of the Board of agriculture and animal husbandry, went a step further when he laid bare a fallacious belief held in certain quarters that in times of emergency research is the first item which comes up for retrenchment. Sir Jagadish deplored this attitude and quoted the example of Great Britain where the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research came into being in 1917 at a critical period during the Great war when a sum of £ 1,000,000 was made available to this purely research organisation. Later events amply justified the wisdom of this investment at a period of crisis and competent critics have expressed the view that no expenditure was laid to better use than the money spent on pure research. He declared that it is up to those who are responsible for guiding and fostering agricultural research in India to take advantage of the increased demand on commodities of which India is the prime producer "by using the opportunity for new drives towards greater efficiency in crop production, interpreting old knowledge in the light of the new crisis, and adding as quickly as may be, new knowledge to meet old difficulties." It is a matter of satisfaction to us that representatives of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Government of India share the view that instead of being an obstacle to progress, the war situation may, if rightly used, be an opportunity to accelerate scientific progress in India, a need which all well wishers of the country rightly realise.