This volcano first erupted in Feb., 1943 in a corn field. Activity stopped in Feb., 1952. Volcanic ash still remains so loose that cars and trucks can be driven in the area only on those roads which have been plowed out as if from drifted snow. A person of average weight sinks 2 to 4 cms or 1 or 2 inches at a step, when walking on the ash. Lava covered an area about $3 \times 3$ km, or $2 \times 2$ miles. Ash covered not only this but also a much wider area. Erosion has stripped the ash completely away from only a relatively small area which is quite steep.

Erosion proceeds by
1) Mass wasting of ash, lapilli, and scoria, which slide under the influence of gravity, with and without the simultaneous action of water.
2) Erosion by running water. Thousands of acres of ash are shot through with gullies. Lake-like flats of water-deposited ash are building up in low places.

"In 1954 Victor Soto, a local farmer, dug a drainage ditch 20 meters long, 2 meters wide and as much as 1.3 meters deep, at the north edge of the bench-like plain. A low brush diversion dam was built across the plain to protect corn fields from flooding and to conduct flood waters to the drainage ditch. The drainage operation was so successful that in 1957 a new cut about 20 meters wide and 20 meters deep had been eroded in steeply sloping terrain for a distance of 350 meters northward from the ditch in old ash."

Much surface drainage water now flows under the lava. As a result, one of the wells has 3 times as much water in it, as of 1957, as it had just before 1943.

Before the eruption in 1943, the lowlands were cleared, leaving 75% of the area in mixed pine and broadleaf forest. New grass and pine seedlings are now coming up in a few places where erosion is not severe. Near the lava field, crops are raised only on new alluvial deposits, where old soil and vegetal debris are mixed with the volcanic ash. A dozen or so people have moved back into the little villages which were vacated because of volcanic activity. But these people must subsist on corn and other crops, because the forest was destroyed in which they carried on logging operations, and collection of pine sap for turpentine.

SOIL SCIENCE AND MODERN WORLD

By J. G. Iyer

During the last fifteen years, the political structure in a large part of the world was redesigned in a fairly close agreement with the pattern of American Constitution. However, as it has been stressed by F. D. Roosevelt, an acquisition of all freedoms, enumerated in the Bill of Rights, would remain an abstraction, if they were not amended by the "Freedom from want." The simple truth of this statement has induced radical changes in the basic concepts of democracy and exerted a profound influence on agriculture and soil science.

Under the influence of humanistic ideas, attempts have been made to eliminate difficulties arising from the discrepan-