

Another significant fact is frequently ignored by those who so confidently predict the speedy supremacy of Indian wheat, viz., that the *ryot* in India is so simple in his mode of living, and his wants are so few, that he is inclined to be more independent than were he pressed by urgent claims to sell his produce at any price. As a matter of fact, the *ryot*, while able and willing to sell his wheat at the nearest market place, if not more than a day's journey from his home, for 50 to 60 cents per bushel (will not accept less), and unless he can obtain this price, he will either store it in a hole under ground until a more favourable time shall come, or he and his family will consume it in lieu of other breadstuffs. The export trade of India depends, therefore, on a first price paid the producer of say 50 cents, which means, laid down in London, about \$1.18 per bushel. It will be seen by comparison later on how far Canada has to dread this figure in the London market.

The home of the *ryot* consists of a mud or bamboo hut; his property a pair of small bullocks, a few cows, calves, and goats, a wooden cart, and a few brass and earthen pots, in all worth about £10; and his implements and tools are of the rudest kind, such as his ancestors used a thousand years ago. He has little if any ambition, and occupies very much the same position as the serf lately did in Russia. He is not likely to desire an increase in the size of his small patch of land, as it would simply mean greater labour by him, and its proceeds to be shared with the *zemindar*, the priest, &c.

The total population of British India, including the Native States, was, according to the census of 1881, 252,660,550, and the area in square miles 1,472,423. Of this, as already shown, only 25,350,000 acres are under wheat cultivation, and it is estimated that there are 56,000,000 acres beyond the cultivated wheat area at present jungle, but mostly available for successful wheat growing. Thus the wheat area of India may be calculated at something over 80,000,000 acres. The best average yield is obtained in the Punjab, where it is estimated at 13½ bushels per acre, and in the North-Western Provinces at 11½ bushels. The general average is about 12 bushels per acre, though by high cultivation and use of irrigation and manure, a yield as high as 25 and even 30 bushels per acre has been obtained. Taking the average, however, of 12, and assuming that the whole wheat area was brought under cultivation, it would yield the enormous quantity of 960,000,000 bushels. But if we are to entertain such extravagant figures, and to place our calculation on this basis, it must be remembered that the Canadian North-West alone, taking a low estimate of its wheat producing land, would produce annually 7,500,000,000 bushels. In the North-West, however, as in India, people are required to cultivate the soil before crops of grain are realised, and it must not be forgotten that while railways are being pushed

NOTE.—Although wheat from Canada is little quoted in the British market as Canadian wheat, the receipts are always shown as from British North America, i.e., Canada.