

seen that there are other considerations to be taken into account. Allowing to the farmer of the Canadian Northwest 100 acres under cultivation (not at all unusual), this would produce, taking say 24 bushels to the acre, if all under wheat, 2,400 bushels at the lowest calculation. To produce the same quantity of wheat in India, giving to each *ryot* an average of 10 acres with a yield of 12 bushels per acre, it would take just 20 *ryots* in India to produce what one farmer can do with ease in the Canadian Northwest. Or, in other words, it is possible for 100,000 farmers in the Canadian Northwest to produce annually as much wheat as the total production of India amounts to at the present time. It is only necessary to double the number of Canadian Northwestern farmers mentioned, and to consider what it means in the way of wheat production, to see the utter fallacy of supposing that India will ever be in a position to eclipse a country like Canada in production and export of grain.

The extent of valuable agricultural land in the Canadian Northwest proper is estimated at 600,000 square miles, or 384,000,000 acres; and of this, nearly 240,000,000 acres comprise the wheat area. This vast extent of land, however, does not constitute the whole wheat area of the Canadian territories, the district beyond the Saskatchewan, in the valley of the Athabaska, and along the Peace River westward to the Rocky Mountains, being said to contain about 300,000,000 acres suitable for wheat culture. It is, in fact, difficult to state with any certainty the extent of the wheat area in the Northwest, as it is being discovered from time to time that districts supposed to be unfit for wheat culture are well adapted to the growth of that cereal. Take, however, a general estimate of 300,000,000 acres (certainly not above the mark), and suppose that vast area under wheat, it would give over 7,000,000,000 bushels. There is the same absurdity in a supposition of this kind as in that put forward on behalf of India, that the extent of the wheat area in that country is so vast and its capabilities of production so great, that it is destined to eclipse all other lands in the wheat markets. The density of the population in India, with its famine tracts, will always cause a heavy drain on its wheat supply for home consumption. There will never be this drawback in the Canadian Northwest, simply because the area capable of sustaining population is so vast that settlers will never be content with small holdings, and this feature indicates that, as population increases, so will the surplus supply of wheat for export purposes increase in proportion.

To give some idea of the extent to which the population of the Canadian Northwest may reach, it has been computed, according to Mr. W. J. Patterson, of the Montreal Board of Trade, that there would be plenty of room in the 600,000 square miles first mentioned for 120,000,000 inhabitants, or about the combined populations of Germany, France, Italy, and Spain in the year 1871.

The object of this paper is not, however, to advance improbable calculations, but to deal with practical facts. It is not an improbable