

Britain to any extent with flour being Germany and France. It is not the purpose of this paper to compare Canadian wheat with either American or Russian wheats, although incidentally it may be desirable later on to show how Canada may be able in the near future to compete successfully with even these countries. It is with Indian wheat and its probable effect on the value of the Canadian grain that we have more especially to deal at present.

The acreage of the several principal wheat areas in India is as follows:—

Punjab...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,000,000 acres.
North-West Provinces	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,250,000 „
Central Provinces	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,000,000 „
Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,500,000 „
Behar	...	...	...	...	...	...	850,000 „
Native	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,750,000 „
							25,350,000 „

Of this area there were last year 16,330,632 acres under wheat, while in the same regions there were 15,570,524 acres under rice, and 31,575,492 acres under millets or other food crops. It is estimated that the wheat crop in British India, including some other minor wheat districts, amounts in round numbers to some 240,000,000 bushels, and of this she only exported last season 35,466,666 bushels. Moreover, the exports of wheat from India have varied greatly in amount, as the following figures will show:—

1877-78	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,175,853 bushels.
1878-79	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,170,631 „
1879-80	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,312,418 „
1880-81	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,012,291 „
1881-82	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,135,481 „
1882-83	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,466,666 „

The proportion exported to that produced, it will be observed, is very small, and by a report of a select committee of the British House of Commons, dated 18th July, 1884, on East Indian railway communication, it is apparent that, under any circumstances, the quantity of wheat at all likely to be sent out of the country will not exceed a very small portion of the total produce. This is accounted for by the large amount of grain required to feed the immense population of India itself, and by the necessity for laying in and keeping on hand a reserve stock to guard against famine. In fact the report of the select committee to which I have just referred appears to place more importance on the development of railways in India, as a means by which the centres of food production may be brought into closer contact with the centres of population and the famine tracts, than for the purpose of carrying wheat for export purposes. Some parts of India are always liable to periods of famine, and the wheat producing tracts of country are then taxed to supply the necessary food for the afflicted districts. It is impossible to ascertain the quantity of wheat held in reserve in India against famine, but it is well known to be very large and usually estimated to be sufficient, with other breadstuffs,