

present very small in proportion to population, and it is not unlikely that increased production will bring about increased home consumption, the supply in this case creating the demand, so that the amount available for export will necessarily be curtailed, and recent investigations have thrown so much more light on the matter, that there appears now to be no probability that the predictions will ever be realized of those who have said that the time will come when not a bushel of wheat will cross the Atlantic, and the European markets will be supplied entirely from the East. The total yield in 1878 was estimated at 280 million bushels, and in 1886-7, at 238,585,947 bushels, an actual decrease of 42 million bushels, while the exports increased from 11,896,580 bushels to 41,558,250 bushels. Sir James Laird, one of the Indian Famine Commissioners, said that "there had been no material increase either in acreage or product, but the surplus that had been pitted and preserved for famine years had been exported, owing to increased facilities for transportation." Supposing this to be really the case, and Sir James Laird's authority is of the very highest, it seems that if a famine should occur in India, and famines do occur in that country periodically, there will be no reserves of wheat to fall back on as in former years, and even if the home production is sufficient for the home consumption at such a time, the withdrawal of supplies from the European markets must have a disturbing effect, and a tendency to considerably increase prices. Under these circumstances it would appear as if the increase in the supply of Indian wheat had been largely overestimated, and the *London Times*, in a recent article on a report on the extent of wheat cultivation in India by Hon. J. R. Dodge, Statistician to the United States Department of Agriculture, in which he shows very conclusively, that the American farmer has no reason to be very seriously afraid of Indian competition, said that the report entirely demonstrated "that the popu-