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FAMINE IN INDIA.

Grave reports concerning the harvest prospects of Northern India are being published. Already in certain parts of the great dependency a partial failure of the crops is reported owing to the absence of the late season rains. Prices are advancing in every direction. The government is taking prompt measures to cope with the situation, and has granted an advance of \$1,500,000 to the United Provinces. That fact is an indication of how seriously the position is regarded. In spite of every precaution, humanly possible, famine in India is an ever-present menace, as it always must be in a country which depends so largely on a periodical rainfall. And the effects are far more terrible in India than in any other region in the world. Its teeming millions of inhabitants are incapable of helping themselves in the slightest degree on such occasions, while their hand-to-mouth existence in normal times precludes them from making provision against such a calamity as is now threatening. Present methods of relief and precaution render it improbable that the world will ever again witness such scenes as occurred in the great famine of 1877, when no fewer than 5,000,000 natives perished from starvation in the Provinces of Bombay, Madras and Mysore, but even so, there is bound to be widespread suffering and misery. Even now, at the eleventh hour, there is still the hope that nature may come to the aid of distressed humanity, but the latest report from the Viceroy does not, it must be confessed, show much ground for optimism. Moreover the financial crisis brought about by over-speculation, and the continual failures are having a bad effect on the general position. To govern India is a difficult problem under ordinary circumstances, but with famine threatening, and financial failures taking place the work becomes harder than ever.

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