

	Number of Owners (in millions)	Holdings (in million dessiatins)*	Average Holdings, (in dessiatins)*
1. Ruined peasantry, oppressed by semi- feudal exploitation	10.5	75.0	7.0
2. Middle peasantry.....	1.0	15.0	15.0
3. Upper strata, or wealthy peasantry	1.5	70.0	46.7
4. Semi-feudal estates	0.03	70.0	2333.0
Total .....	13.03	230.0	17.6

\*1 dessiatin equals 1.1 hectares.

The great bulk of peasants during this period, the group classified as the ruined peasantry, were oppressed by the exploitation of the wealthy landlords and did not even possess means sufficient for the maintenance of the physical conditions of existence. The chronically miserable conditions prevailing among the mass of poor peasants in Russia is illustrated by the progressively increasing proportion of rejections from military service on account of physical unfitness. For instance, according to official data for 50 provinces of European Russia, the percentage of those rejected or reprieved from military service for physical unfitness showed the following growth:

1874-78.....	11.2 per cent
1879-83.....	14.9 " "
1884-88.....	16.9 " "
1889-93.....	17.9 " "
1894-98.....	17.6 " "
1899-1902.....	22.1 " "

Thus, the transition of the agriculture of pre-revolutionary Russia from primitive economy to capitalism was a process accompanied by the impoverishment of the great mass of the peasantry, by their pauperiza-