

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION
TO THE
DEFENCE AND UNITY
OF
THE EMPIRE.

On October 19th, 1885, a notice was issued from the General Post Office calling for tenders for Mail Services, to commence in February, 1888: weekly to India, and fortnightly to the Straits Settlements and China, *via* Suez; and *also* for a fortnightly service from Vancouver, the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to Yokohama and Hong-Kong and *vice versa*. This action, which was taken by the Postmaster General without any solicitation on the part of the Dominion Government or of the Railway Company, was considered in Canada as the spontaneous recognition by England of the advantages which the new route through Canada promised for speedy conveyance of the mails to and from those countries.

Neither the form, however, in which the latter tender was to be cast, nor the manner in which the service was to be performed, was calculated, in the opinion of the Dominion Government, to secure all the advantages to the Empire or to the Colony which, under a different plan, might readily be obtained; and accordingly Sir John Macdonald, who was in England at the close of 1885, laid the Canadian view very fully before Lord Salisbury in December of that year, explaining the merits and the possibilities of the route, not only as