

"upon the native mind of English troops reaching India from the East as well as from the West would be enormous." To enable her to begin at once to realise these advantages and to occupy the position on the Pacific which she is henceforth able to hold was the meaning of the proposal which Sir John Macdonald laid before the Cabinet, and which Lord Salisbury seems to have recognised as affording a feeling of security for British interests on the Pacific. Imagine, for a moment, that there is not only another "war scare," but that war has actually and suddenly been declared; that the Suez Canal is blocked; that telegraphic connection with China and Australia—possibly with India—is suspended. What would be the value, at such a moment, of two or three 18-knot cruisers, ready to take in their guns at Vancouver or Hong Kong, and to keep up communication with the Pacific, China, and Australian squadrons, or to carry reinforcements to Hong Kong or India? That England realizes the need of additional naval strength on the Pacific is proved by the fact that, during the last "war scare" there were expended, during six months, on hired vessels in these waters £333,000, irrespective of whatever sum was expended at San Francisco in securing the refusal of vessels that were never taken up. Of all the vessels so engaged not more than one possessed the speed which would qualify it for employment under the recent regulations for armed cruisers, and many of them would have been, in the words of a naval officer recently on one of those stations, "worse than useless." This shows not only the necessity for cruisers, but the absence, also, of suitable vessels in those waters.

Has not Canada, in putting before Her Majesty's Government her own scheme as preferable to that proposed by the Post Office, some claim for a generous consideration of her wishes? She, the oldest and largest British Colony, is also the only one to and from which the carriage of the Mails has never cost the British Government anything. In the belief that the latter's spontaneous offer of a subsidy for this Pacific Service would be carried out, Canada has herself advertised for tenders for an Atlantic Service at a much higher speed than exists at present. But more than this. The costly policy which she has so long and so steadily pursued of improving the means of communication between the various parts of the Dominion is one in which she has been from time to time encouraged by the British Government, who recognised that in doing so she was really contributing to the defensiveness of the Empire. In constructing, first, the Inter-Colonial Railway,