

this service across the Pacific alone, with vessels of only 11 knots speed, asked for £108,000 *per annum*; and yet, when the offer is made to do the service for £100,000, and, *in addition* to carry the mails more than 3,000 miles each way, by land, the offer is refused.

In 1888 the P. & O. Co. will perform the India and China Services for £95,000 less than they at present receive, and the total saving to the Government on this service will be £107,000 *per annum*. All payments, also, at present made to the French Government and to the Messageries Company, would, if the Canadian tender had been accepted, have been unnecessary; so that actually, while England obtained all the benefits of the Canadian offer, she would have paid for the two British services, with all their contingent advantages, considerably less than she has for ten years past been paying for the one British and one French service without such advantages.

SOME IMPERIAL ASPECTS OF THE SCHEME.—That Canada has, in building her Pacific Railway, made an important contribution to the defence and unity of the Empire at large, is now universally admitted; but comparatively few, perhaps, fully realize what the result is. In the first place the railway has opened up for cultivation the finest wheat lands in the world, upon which, when that portion of the supplies which the United Kingdom now draws from India, Russia, South America and Australia, are in time of war cut off or materially reduced, England will depend for most of her food. Secondly, the railway preserves to the British Crown the important Province of British Columbia, to appreciate the value of which it has only to be considered for a moment what the position of England would have been had the entire West Coast of North America belonged to a foreign power. It is the Dominion, of course, that will primarily benefit by the development of the enormous, but hitherto little known, resources of the Pacific Province; but England secures a new foothold of extraordinary value on the Northern Pacific. She secures for the use of her fleets and mercantile marine the extensive coal fields of Nanaimo, producing the only good coal on the Pacific coast. She secures a *place d'armes* from which she can exert influence on China and Japan, from which she can checkmate Russian designs, from which, when European complications render the Suez route unsafe or altogether useless, she can retain touch of her vast Australasian Colonies, and from which in time of need she can throw men and supplies into India. "The effect," said Lord Dufferin lately,