

and the Grand Trunk seem to be thriving on rate cutting, but, even assuming the increases in traffic shown to be genuine, they only demonstrate the rich harvest which is being lost owing to the demoralisation in rates. We can quite understand that the half-rates induce people to 'go West,' but many of them would do so in any case. Another conference is spoken of, and this time the invitation comes from the Canadian Pacific, which looks healthy."

**Rule Britannia.** We have, upon reflection, decided to avoid using the word English when referring in the CHRONICLE to affairs connected with the Empire of Great Britain. Custom and a lurking love for merry England has, of late, led to some thoughtless allusions by us to England and the English, when we intended to refer to Great Britain and her people. However, even the fact that all recent deeds of valour have been attributed by English (British) newspapers to Scottish regiments, and that we have often left a North British Society meeting fully believing that Englishmen were an inferior race to their Scottish brethren (who never mentioned England when singing the praises of bonny Scotland), not even these somewhat irritating circumstances shall induce us to reconsider our decision. Henceforth, we shall stick to Britain and the British. We cannot afford to be so narrow-minded as the minister who asked the Lord for a blessing upon "this isle of Mull and the adjoining countries of Great Britain and Ireland." Men almost universally prefer their native country before every other. But there *are* others.

**A Possible Nice New Republic.** Now that the bellicose members of the United States Congress have virtually succeeded in forcing their country into recognition of the Cuban insurgents as possible fellow-soldiers in a fight for the creation of a new republic, the newspapers of New York are beginning to ask for information about the followers of Gomez. The reports are not encouraging, and the papers feel compelled to question the desirability of having a Cuban Government composed of "guerillas," "marauders," "incendiaries," and "railway wreckers."

Before the United States papers began to express want of confidence in a government made up of these 'patriots,' the CHRONICLE called attention to the situation in the following paragraph:—

"Let those now engaged in shouting for the freedom of Cuba ask any new England or Nova Scotian skipper engaged in trading with Cuban outposts what manner of men the followers of General Gomez are, and they will be likely to hesitate before rendering assistance to place Cuba under the dominion of men as much to be dreaded as Spanish soldiery. The only thing wrong with Cuba and Puerto Rico is the almost universal corruption of public officials which nearly kills all business."

**THE COST OF MODERN WARFARE;**

(AN OBJECT LESSON.)

War will never cease while the field of battle is the field of glory. But calculation of the cost of fighting may act as a deterrent, and an admirable object lesson was recently published, without comment thereon, in the N. Y. *Commercial Bulletin*. A certain minister has been misusing Rudyard Kipling's "Lest we forget," for the purpose of stirring up revengeful feeling over the sad loss of an American battleship. The same quotation could be used, with equal force and reason, in emphasizing the lesson taught by the following reminiscences of the Civil War in the United States.

"The ordinary expenses of the Government during the four years of the Civil War amounted to close to \$3,180,000,000. But the peace expenditures of the Government would have amounted to about \$260,000,000, leaving \$2,920,000,000 for war. About \$730,000,000 was raised by taxation; if we assume that \$260,000,000 would have been required to carry on the Government in peace the war taxation was \$470,000,000, and \$2,450,000,000 was raised by borrowing on interest-bearing bonds and non-interest-bearing notes. It will be observed that the people who fought the war provided at the time for rather less than one-fifth of the expense of it, leaving the rest of it to be defrayed after the war by themselves and very largely by posterity.

The cost of the war while it was going on was . . . . .	\$2,920,000,000
Interest during and since the war to July 1, 1897, was . . . . .	2,664,000,000
Pensions since the war—those paid during the war are included above . . . . .	2,127,000,000

Cost of the war to the end of the last fiscal year . . . \$7,711,000,000

We are now paying in pensions and in interest on the war debt, in distinction from the debt more recently incurred to maintain the value of the war paper money which has never been retired, about \$3,500,000 every week. For pensions alone we are paying between twice and two and a half times as much annually as the entire expenses of the Government before the Civil War. As the payments of interest and pensions will go on for many years, it is probable that the cost to the Government, exclusive of vast individual losses, of the Civil War will ultimately be twelve thousand million dollars. This is equal to the entire assessed or to three-fourths of the estimated true valuation of all property in the United States in 1860.

The internal revenue law of June 30, 1864, is interesting reading for the present generation. It covers 82 pages of the statute book. It begins with charges for licenses on occupations. Bankers were assessed from \$100 upwards according to capital; wholesalers, \$50 and upwards; retailers, \$10; brokers, \$50; pawn-brokers, \$50 and upwards; land warrant brokers, \$25; commercial brokers, \$20; theatres and circuses, \$100; jugglers, \$20; builders and contractors, \$25 and upwards; and the following occupations among others were to pay \$10; horse dealers, livery stable keepers, cattle, produce and custom house brokers, hotels, inns and taverns renting for not over \$200, and rising with the rental, eating houses, confectioners, claim, real estate and insurance agents, auctioneers, apothecaries, photographers, bowling alleys, stallions, lawyers, physicians, architects and civil engineers and plumbers."