AMID RUINS OF ANCIENT ATHENS.

In the Acropolis and the Parthenon—Temple of Jupiter.

(Athens Letter.)

After leaving the Orient the American traveler is disappointed when he reaches Athens. The carriage road from Piraeus (where he lands) to Athens is usually very dusty, and the city itself is too densely modern. He sees most of the men wearing our sort of shoes, conventional trousers and coats and modern hats, and longs to catch sight of a group of Arabs dressed in red slippers, long, flowing, fancy gowns and turbans. True, he sees the pretty faces of the Greek women; yet these do not have the same occult charm for him as do the mysterious creatures who wander though the streets of Cairo all clothed in black, showing him nothing but pretty pairs of eyes, shining coquettishly above the somber veils which hide their faces. The shop windows are like those he sees at home, and ordinary street cars jog along the avenues.

Many public buildings in Athens have been erected at the personal expense of wealthy Greeks living in foreign lands. A stranger can always find the citizens of Athens roaming around the old ruins, admiring them more than tourists do, and he cannot converse with them long before they speak in praise of their ancient poets and philosophers.

Americans will be most interested in the Stadium, for here in 1895 our college athletes carried away nearly all of the laurels. The Stadium is a vast, uncovered amphitheater built in the side of a hill, and was capable of seating 60,000 people. It would resemble the three-ring part of Barnum's show if it had no cover. Lycurgus (330 B. C.) planned it, and Herodes Atticus, to finish it, almost exhausted the quarries of Mount Pentellicon. In the Dark Ages the barbarians, who overran Greece, tore from the amphitheater the marble seats which extended from the track far up the hillside and burned them into lime. Only a few years ago this classic course was little more than a brush-covered ravine, but a patriotic Greek banker of Alexandria, M. Averouf, gave 1,000,000 fracs for its restoration. It is now about one-half rebuilt, but as this generous patriot died recently, the work may never be completed.

Although the Americans gained nearly all of the contests, a Greek won the greatest event, the foot race from Marathon. Who would have wished it otherwise? Imagine 100,000 descendants of the ancient Greeks filling every seat in the vast Stadium and crowding the surrounding hilltops looking for a messenger to reannounce a victory won on the old battlefield of Marathon, where, 490 years before Christ, 10,000 brave Greeks, contending against ten times their number of Persians, defeated them and saved to the world the civilization of which our own is but the matured offspring.

Not every one agrees with me, however, for the Acropolis is called the "crowning glory of Athens." In approaching it one goes by the rock-hewn Theater of Dionysus (the cradle of the Greek drama), the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, and the Acropolis where Paul preached to the Athenians. The Acropolis is nothing but a great big limestone rock; its top is 500 feet above sea level, and all of its sides except the one where you enter the gates of approach, are almost perpendicular. A man, when on top, can stand at one side and drive a golf ball beyond the other. Pisistratus began to build temples on this rocky eminence also in the sixth century B. C., but all of his works were destroyed soon afterward by the Persians. Pericles was not long, however, in erecting structures on the Acropolis, which have since been the architectural marvels of the world.

To reach the top of the Acropolis you must first make way through the magnificent propylae or portals. In ascending the stairway of the propylae one, as he climbs each step, has revealed unto him some new beauty. Passing through the portals you see scattered about over the native rock hundreds of sad fragments of fallen statues which formerly adorned this sacred hill. A lover of art, when regarding these broken images, cannot but feel like a comrade groping over a battlefield where his friends lay slain. On the left, as you enter, is the Erectheion, the temple which formerly contained the ivory statue of Athena Polia, the guardian goddess of the city. This temple is all proportion—a symphony in stone—but the most exquisite portion of it is the "portico of the maidens" (caryatides). These six marble maids, their draperies so clinging to them as to reveal the chaste symmetry of their forms, bear lightly upon their heads the architecture of the portico. They are the most graceful daughters of the chisel in all the world. I say six marble maids, but there are only five, for in 1801 that prince of pillagers, Lord Elgin of England, carried one of them to the British museum, where it yet remains. In the place of this mute captive there now stands a terra-cotta substitute which looks like the slave girl of the five remaining sisters.

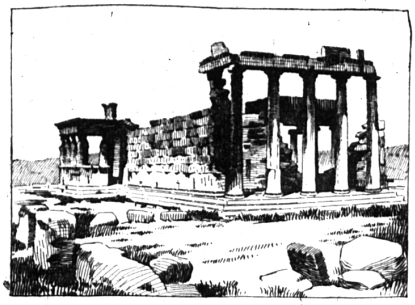
Many admire the dainty Erectheion, but the stolid Parthenon appeals the more to those who, when upon the ocean, love the storm more than a peaceful sea. Pericles conceived it when Greece was in her glory and called upon the architects, Ictinos and Callicrates, to design, and upon Phidias to adorn it. It is 228 feet long and nearly one-half as broad. Formerly it contained the greatest work of the greatest sculptor—Phidias' chryselephantine statue of the Virgin Athena.

The Parthenon has had a varied history. When first built (428 B. C.) the pan-Athenian festival, during which people assembled in Athens from all quarters of Greece, was celebrated within it every four years. The sculptured frieze around the temple is the carved representation of the sacred procession of this festival. Five hundred years after the beginning of our era the Christians used it for a church. There yet remain some of the painting with which they coated the interior walls. The Turks in 1460 built a minaret on one corner and converted it into a mosque. They in turn were ousted in 1687 by a bomb thrown from a Venetian cannon. The shell fell into the Parthenon, which was then used for a powder magazine. The explosion killed 300 Turks; it also made melancholy ruins of the magnificent temple. Just now attempts are making to partially restore the fallen columns. The whole front is obscured by scaffolding; only from the rear can you get a satisfactory view, and I must confess that when I peered through these tapering Ionic columns, reddened with the rust of twenty-three centuries—a violet Grecian sky as a background—I could not differ much from him who said: "Peerless Parthenon!"

The views from the Parthenon are superb. From the east side, looking down, you see the city of Athens, the temple of Jupiter and the Stadium in the foreground, and back of these Mount Pentellicon and Hymettos. Standing near the temple of Nyke and looking toward the west, a long, saw-like range of hills in the distance, the island and bay of Salamis, the Piraeus, and the spreading olive groves of Attica are before you. The twilight panorama from this point is enchanting:

"Slow sinks, more lovely ere his race be run,
Along Morea's hills the setting sun."

CHARLES N. CREWDSON.



ERICHEION ON TOP OF ACROPOLIS, SHOWING PORTICO OF MAIDENS

ACROPOLIS, SHOWING PARTHENON ON TOP, THESEUM IN FORE GROUND.

MUSEUM OF LEGS.

That Forms the Den of a One-Footed Old Soldier.

San Francisco Bulletin: Henry Curtin, a veteran of the civil war, living on the west side, has a room in his residence that impresses all his visitors as a veritable chamber of horrors. This is because its most conspicuous decoration and ornament is a row of human legs suspended on the walls and entirely circling the room. Mr. Curtin always laughs at the fright of strangers at the first sight of this room, and then explains that the legs are only artificial ones, and there's nothing to be afraid of. Then he tells them how the legs came to be there. "You see," says Mr. Curtin, "in '64 I was so foolish as to try and stop a cannon ball with my right leg. Of course, I wasn't one, two, three, and the next thing I knew I was in a camp hospital with only one leg left. That ended my soldiering. The government had me measured for an artificial leg as soon as I was able to be about, and I came home to Chicago. Well, I discovered that I couldn't wear the kind of leg the government gives, owing to some reasons connected with the way my leg was amputated, and the only leg I can wear is this wooden stump that straps to the thigh. It was in '65 that I got my first leg. In '66 an express package brought me another. I sat down and wrote the war department that the legs were of no use to me, and, therefore, not to send them. They didn't take a bit of notice of my letter, and in '67 another leg came. I wrote again to Washington; told them I had three of their legs now that I couldn't use, and didn't want them to go on and bankrupt the government by buying me legs. They never noticed me. In '68 I got another leg. They began to get in the way around the house, so then I started the labeling and dating of each one, and hanging them up on the walls of my den. There's thirty-five there now, and I guess I'll last long enough to see fifty or more."

Cost of a Church Carpet.

The Chicago Advance gives the following estimate of the direct and collateral cost of a church carpet. The price was $800, but as the women of the church raised the money by giving entertainments, the pastor's estimate was that, when all the items of cost were figured in, the carpet had cost fully $4,000. He reached this astonishing total by estimating the work, worry, nervous strain, bodily weariness and heartaches of one hundred women; the heroic efforts of men, women and children to eat the things which were to be eaten, and hear, see or buy things which had been provided to extract money from them; the colds, fevers and other ailments contracted while attending the entertainments, and the consequent doctor's bills; the money spent in other churches, for if they come to your entertainment you must go to theirs; and, worst and most costly of all, the demoralization of the church and the curtailment of the legitimate giving which follow in the train of such methods of raising money. But they got their carpet.

AT HYMEN'S ALTAR.

Chinamen, when speaking of their wives—which they do as seldom as possible—refer to them thus: "My dull thorn," "the mean one of the inner room," or "the thorn in my ribs." His children he styles "insects" and "worms," much as we say "chicks" or "kids."

In Russia when a man marries an heiress he does not obtain possession of her money. There is no marriage settlement, and she keeps the control of her property. This financial independence of the wife conduces much to matrimonial felicity.

Ugliness in an old woman is much sought after sometimes in China, it being the custom to hire the ugliest old women who can be found to act as attendants to girls on their marriage. It is said that some specially ugly old women make their living entirely as attendants at weddings. No doubt the reason that they are so much in request is that they may act as foils to the beauty of the bride.

To the crusty old bachelor or the woman who is out of the running, the marriage question is assuming some rather amusing phases in foreign countries, remarks the Bazar. The diet of Hesse has introduced a tax on unmarried men, they being compelled to pay 25 per cent more taxes than their married brethren, and it is said that the effect of this resolution by the government is being watched with great interest by the maidens of Hesse, who are anticipating an epidemic of proposals.

While in India that ever-recurring question of the remarriage of widows has again popping up, the eastern fathers suddenly realizing that by giving the widows a second chance, the opportunities of getting rid of their unmarried daughters is being considerably narrowed. English statistics show that one out of every five widows seizes the opportunity to a second time stand before the altar of Hymen. It is said that in the United States the female population is very little larger than the male, for the surplus of women of New England are balanced by the men of the mining communities of the far west.

Julian Ralph's Great Find.

Julian Ralph tells of his delight in finding green corn in Europe. In the course of many years of extensive travel on the continent he had never seen an ear. He recently stopped at a hotel in Paris and met a porter in the hall carrying a basket of genuine American green corn. "Green corn!" he shouted. "Is it possible that this is what I see?" "Yes, monsieur," said Mme. Brunel, the wife of the proprietor. "It is veritably the green corn of America. We grow it upon our farm. So many of our guests are Americans and so fond are they of this peculiar food that we have seen it to be to our advantage to make for them this singular product in our fields in the country." "I took Mme. Brunel's hand," said Mr. Ralph, "and pressed it. I raised my hand as one does who bestows a benediction. 'God bless you, madam,' said I, with such evident piety that she could not take offense. 'You are the most magnificent and the most wonderful woman in France.'"

Didn't Fill the Bill.

Alice (protesting)—But, papa, you say you want to see me married and off your hands. Fairchild (grimly)—I know it. That is why I refuse to let you marry him.—Brooklyn Life.

Don't lose sight of an honorable enemy; he'll make a good friend.

AFTER ALEXANDER'S DEATH.

A New Era Introduced by the Great Macedonian Conqueror.

When Alexander came upon the scene, writes Prof. Wheeler in closing his "Alexander the Great," in the October Century, Greece was still the old Greece, the composite of autonomous cities and cantons. In this form it was past the bloom, and was ripening to seed. All that the little communities could accomplish for history through living for themselves had been accomplished. In the miniature life of their isolated valleys, opening to the sea, they had developed a social system in which, as individual achievements directly counted, and individual responsibility was directly assessed, personality gathered to itself unwonted consciousness of power. So it was that here man first, as it were, discovered himself—first saw with clearness the power and the right of the free human soul. Man, as a base line for measuring the universe, man as a source of governing power, arose in Greece; it was Greece that shaped the law of beauty from which came the arts of form, the law of speculative truth from which by ordered observations came the sciences, the law of liberty from which came the democratic state. This was what the old Greece held in keeping for the world. Alexander was the strong wind that scattered the seed; again, he was the willing hand of the sower. When he planted seventy cities of the Greek type on Oriental soil, he acted with plan and purpose. The city was Hellenism in the concrete. As a principle of social order, Hellenism was the government of communities of men located in territory, and the source of authority was, from within; Orientalism was the government of territory in which lived men, and the source of authority was from without. The story of Alexander has become a story of death. He died himself before his time. With his life he brought the Old Greece to its end, with his death the state he had founded. But they all three—Alexander, Greece, the Grand Empire—each after its sort, set forth, as history judges men and things, the inner value of the saying, "Except a grain of wheat fall into the earth and die, it abideth alone."

STORYETTES.

A pugilist in Chicago was giving an interview to a reporter recently. The pugilist is from Australia, and has traveled in South Africa, so the reporter asked him if he had met Cecil Rhodes. "Rhodes," replied the Australian; "what's his weight?"

A British tourist wandered into the Rustlers' Retreat in an Arizona town recently, and languidly asked for a fish ball. "Jake," called the accommodating barkeeper to his assistant, "the gent wants a eye-ball; I dunno wat fer, but he wants it. Go out and ketch a Chinaman."

Friends of the two remember the quarrels that used to go on between the late Sir Rowland Hill and Anthony Trollope when they both were connected with the postoffice. A discussion arose one day as to the meaning of "official" language and "private" language. "In official life," said Sir Rowland, glaring at Trollope, "I am accustomed to ascribe myself as your obedient servant, whereas in real life you know very well that I am nothing of the sort!"

Jerry Simpson tells a story of a traveler who, just as he was writing his name on the register of a Leavenworth hotel, saw a cimex lecticularius which took its way across the page. The man paused and remarked: "I've been bled by St. Joseph fleas, bitten by Kansas City spiders, and interviewed by Fort Scott graybacks, but I'll be darned if I was ever in a place before where the bugs looked over the hotel register to find out where your room was."

To Make a New Map of the World.

The most important project to be discussed by the International Geographical congress, which recently opened at Berne, is the making of a map of the world on a scale of 1 to 1,000,000. This means a good-sized map, as gathered from the fact that the United States would be given sixteen feet of space in width, while the largest map of this country now in use, that prepared by the geological survey, is only six feet five inches in width, and the largest American map made abroad is three feet ten inches wide. Since the last geographical congress, held in 1891, the experiment has been tried and more than twenty maps have been published on the proposed scale. The progress in map making during recent years has been enormous, explorers having added greatly to geographical knowledge. The earliest known map of the world was drawn on clay and baked into a brick about 800 years before Christ by the Babylonians. It shows the Babylonian idea of the world as surrounded by oceans, with Babylon in the center of the world.

Buried with Her Dog.

Syracuse Special New York World: Miss Elizabeth Webster, who lived at 113 Seymour street, was deeply attached to her dog. She took the same fond care of it that a mother takes of her child. When Miss Webster became ill recently she asked constantly for her dog and grieved when her pet was not there. When it became known that Miss Webster's illness would be fatal she asked that after her death the dog be killed in the most scientific and painless manner and be placed in her arms in the coffin. Her request was fulfilled and when the dead woman was borne to her grave she was not separated from her pet.

It May Be Better So.

Miss Walsingham—We can trace our ancestry back to the Norman conquest, can't we, mother? Mrs. Walsingham (sadly)—Yes; but we don't know where your father was last night.—Somerville Journal.

About Roses.

The old monthly (China) roses flower the longest, then the "teas." The first to begin and the last to remain in flower is the Gloire de Dijon, but all the strong growing tea roses will flower late in the season.

THE TRANSVAAL DISPUTE.

A Brief Summary of Events From the Time the Boer Government Sent a Petition to Great Britain Up to and Including the Date of the First Battle.

Below we submit a brief summary of the different stages of the Transvaal dispute from the time the Boers presented the British government with a petition signed by 21,863 outlanders, praying for redress of grievances and the restoration of the right guaranteed them under the conventions of 1881-84, together with the date of each important conference up to and including the final ultimatum that lead to war:

March 28—Presentation to the British government of a petition signed by 21,863 outlanders of the Transvaal, praying for redress of grievances and a restoration of the political rights guaranted to them under the conventions of 1881 and 1884.

May 5—Sir Alfred Milner indorses the petition of the outlanders.

May 15—Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Alfred Milner request a friendly conference with the Transvaal government.

May 16—Arrest of a number of outlanders on a charge of high treason. This alleged conspiracy proved to be a transparent fraud.

May 31—Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger meet at Bloemfontein.

June 1 to June 6—The Bloemfontein conference. At it Sir Alfred Milner proposed a five years' (retrospective) franchise, a naturalization oath similar to that in the Orange Free State, full right to vote immediately upon naturalization and a fair representation of the new voters in the legislature. This President Kruger declares would be "tantamount to handing the country over to foreigners," and he makes a counter perposal of a seven years' franchise, not fully retrospective, under which every man would have to abandon his old citizenship and be a "man without a country" for several years before getting the rights of new citizenship, and even then his admission to Transvaal citizenship would be only partial and would be granted not as a matter of right, but on sufferance, at the will of a series of Boer officials. Conference ends in failure.

June 15—Publication of Sir Alfred Milner's dispatch, with his assertion of a sentiment that the Dutch enjoy some superior right in South Africa.

June 15—President Kruger requests the raad to consider proposals which he makes for increased representation of the goldfields.

July 12—Transvaal adopts a franchise law granting the franchise, not as a right, but at the pleasure of Boer officials, in seven years, reckoned retrospectively. Although the law possesses many imperfections, the British government intimates that it is inclined to accept it and is willing to waive the difference between five years and seven years, provided it is assured that the law really means what it purports to mean and would be administered in good faith.

July 31—With this in view the British government proposes another conference, to examine the text of the law and to consider its probable effect.

Aug. 19—After three weeks' delay, during which great quantities of ammunition are imported, the Transvaal replies, practically declining the British offer and making a substitute offer of a five years' retrospective franchise and increased representation, provided Great Britain pledge itself never again to intervene in Transvaal affairs, no longer to insist upon assertion of its suzerainty and to concede arbitration, from which foreign elements other than that of the Orange Free State should be excluded.

Aug. 28—The British government replies that, while it hopes no further intervention will be necessary, it cannot pledge itself not to protect its subjects in the Transvaal if they should need protection; that it must stand by its previous assertions of suzerainty; that it is willing to consider the scheme of arbitration proposed, but that there are some matters not proper for arbitration, to which end it renews its proposal for a conference.

Sept. 2—The Transvaal offers conditionally to enter a conference, but at the same time withdraws the whole franchise offer and insists upon absolute abrogation of the British suzerainty and the erection of the Transvaal into "a sovereign international state."

Sept. 12—The British government practically renews the Transvaal's own proposals of Aug. 19 of a five years' franchise and increased representation, with non-foreign arbitration, but leaving the suzerainty question in statu quo, and suggesting that the new representatives of the outlanders in the Transvaal legislature should be permitted to speak English, just as Dutchmen in the Cape legislature are permitted to speak Dutch.

Sept. 17—The Transvaal government replies, accusing the British government of bad faith, and declaring that all former offers are now withdrawn, but guardedly agreeing to a conference, or joint commission of inquiry, which shall, presumably begin consideration of the whole case over again from the beginning.

Sept. 21—President Steyn virtually avows the alliance of the Free State and the Transvaal.

Sept. 22—Mr. Chamberlain replies, stating that the British object was to obtain such substantial and immediate representation for the outlanders as will enable them to secure for themselves that fair and just treatment which was formerly promised them in 1881, and which her majesty intended to secure for them when she granted privileges of self-government in the Transvaal. * * * The refusal of the South African republic's government to entertain the offer thus made * * * makes it useless to further pursue the discussions on the lines hitherto followed, and the imperial government are now compelled to consider the situation afresh and formulate new proposals for a final settlement.

Sept. 22—Mr. Chamberlain simultaneously sends a dispatch, energetically repelling the insinuation of bad faith against Conyngham Greene, the British agent at Pretoria.

Oct. 10—The Transvaal government issues an ultimatum demanding the recall of British troops from the border and ultimately from South Africa.

Oct. 13—First battle occurred and armored train was destroyed by the Boers.

CASUALTIES.

Riverside, N. J.—Frederick George and his three little daughters, aged 6, 4 and 2 years, respectively, were instantly killed by a Pennsylvania express train. They were driving across the track.

Thomas, W. Va.—A powder and dynamite explosion in the office of the Davis Coal and Coke company killed Ira Nycum, the timekeeper, and injured five other employes. Loss, $20,000.

New Iberia, La.—Fire destroyed a large section of the business portion of the town, extending from Iberia street to Julia street, along Main street, and from Main street to St. Peter street. The loss is estimated at $200,000.

Wauatoma, Wis.—The 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Fry, living three miles southwest of this village, fell into a box of slaked lime and may lose his eyesight.

CRIME.

Vienna—Telegrams from Linz, capital of Upper Austria, on the Danube, report that the inhabitants of that district are in a state of terror owing to a series of "Jack the Ripper" murders.

Denver, Colo.—James K. Stratton, the noted mail-box robber and forger, has escaped from the penitentiary at Canon City, where he was serving a sentence of twenty-one years.

Easton, Ill.—An attempt was made to blow open the safe of the Easton bank. The robbers were frightened away before they finished their job. Two men have been arrested at Mason City on suspicion.

Pana, Ill.—Four mines are now working under union rules.

Detroit—John Dean was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for wife murder.

Fort Thomas, Ky.—The forty-eighth United States infantry (colored) is filled to its maximum.

Halifax, N. S.—Confirmation has been received of the rumor that the steamer Scotsman has gone to pieces. She broke up during a storm.

Washington—Capt. Ike T. Jobe, late of the Sixth United States volunteer infantry, has been arrested on the charge of using war department penalty envelopes for private letters.

Boston, Mass.—Word has been received that Fred T. Moore, the defaulting assistant teller of the National Bank of Commerce of this city charged with the embezzlement of $53,000, has been arrested at Valparaiso, Chile. He cannot be extradited.

Pittsville, Wis.—John Davis, an Indian, was shot and killed by the daughter of Chief Pius Neekoon while endeavoring to effect an entrance to Neekoon's tepee at an Indian settlement six miles from here.

Louisville, Ky.—Fire destroyed the sawmill of W. H. Hoskins. Loss, $75,000; insurance, $50,000.

New York—Samuel Jacoby, a well-known banker and flour merchant, died at his home in this city. He was formerly a resident of St. Louis.

Everett, Mass.—William R. Smith, well known as the man who first refined petroleum, died at his home here, aged 72 years.

London—Joseph H. Choate, the United States ambassador to Great Britain, having concluded his vacation, returned to the city.

Washington—The navy department has assigned Capt. William Whiting to the post of captain of the Norfolk navy yard, in place of Capt. Rockwell.

Washington—Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith returned from the west, where he has been with the presidential party.

Baltimore, Md.—The Traders' National bank has decided to go into voluntary liquidation and practically closed its doors.

Chicago.—Philip D. Armour has returned after his six months spent abroad in search of health. He appears to be in good physical condition.

Montreal, Que.—J. E. Smith of this city shot his wife, mortally wounding her, and then putting the revolver to his head killed himself.

New York—Charles Heinz, 18 years old, stabbed and fatally wounded Thomas Kinzella, 17 years old, in a quarrel over a young woman.

Lowell, Mass.—The body of a young woman was found in a lonely place in Pawtucket street. She had been strangled to death.

Concord, N. H.—Harry Hough, the former assistant cashier of the Cocheco National bank of Dover, was sentenced to five years in jail for embezzlement.

Kansas City, Mo.—The C. J. Baker Tent and Awning company's establishment burned. Loss, $60,000, with $40,000 insurance. The building, owned by J. A. A. Bullen of Chicago, and valued at $22,000, was totally destroyed; fully covered by insurance.

Wilmington, Del.—Judge Bradford, in the United States District court, granted permission to enter a nolle prosequi in the case of United States Senator Richard R. Kenney, indicted for conspiring to aid William N. Boggs, defaulting paying teller of the First National bank of Dover, who robbed that institution of $107,000.

Thomasville, Ga.—Fred M. Shattuck, the only child of Congressman Shattuck of Ohio, died of heart failure.

Bloomington, Ill.—The buildings and machinery of the Rankin brickyards were burned. The actual value of the property destroyed is estimated at $20,000, probably covered by insurance.

Milwaukee, Wis.—The state board of equalization has decided that Milwaukee must pay nearly 23 per cent of the entire state tax, about 2 per cent more than last year.

Albany, N. Y.—A knit underwear trust is being formed. About forty-five manufactories will join the combine.