

## HOW

**BUILDERS ARE LEARNING TO ERECT IDEAL HOME.**—For years architects, builders and prospective home owners have been dreaming of an ideal modern home. The dreams have varied a little, naturally, but in general they have been very much alike.

The year 1930 can make those dreams come true. In many cases it has already happened. The house of the future is here.

These are some of the features home designers and home dwellers have had in their minds: Clean-cut beauty, complete fire safety, structural strength, low first cost, minimum maintenance cost, weather-tightness that means easy heating in winter and easy cooling (possibly artificial) in summer, controlled ventilation and the utmost in convenient arrangement to meet the everyday needs of modern, motor-age living.

In practically every part of the country there are new houses, finished or under construction, which embody all or many of those characteristics.

## How Slang Term "Phoney" Came Into Common Use

The following statement as to the derivation of "phoney" from H. L. Mencken's "American Language": "Phoney is applied to cheap, brumme jewelry. All of the American dictionaries list it, but none of them accounts for its origin. Webster suggests somewhat vaguely that it may be related to funny. Another etymologist believes that it is derived from telephone, and ventures upon the strained theory that 'a statement is phoney if it is like the practical jokes and false impersonations that are so frequently perpetrated over the telephone.' But I am informed by a jeweler that it really comes from Forney, the name of manufacturer of cheap jewelry. This manufacturer made a specialty of supplying brass rings, in barrels lots, to street peddlers, and such rings, among the fraternity, came to be known as Forney rings. The extension of the designation to all cheap jewelry and its modification to phoney by the law of Hobson-Jobson followed."—Pathfinder Magazine.

## How Vatican Acquired Name

The Vatican received its name from an old name of the site on which it stands, says an article in Pathfinder Magazine. In ancient times a low, level region on the right bank of the Tiber was known as Ager Vaticanus, Vatican field. This name, it is believed, was derived from Vatican, an Etruscan settlement which had vanished centuries earlier. Be that as it may, Vatican came gradually to be attached specifically to the neighboring eminence. The popes acquired possession of large portions of the old Vatican field, as well as Vatican hill, by extensive purchases during the Middle Ages. A papal residence had been built on the site already in the time of Symmachus, who was pope from 498 to 514.

## How Pecan Output Grows

Pecans have advanced several pegs until now they rank fourth in nut consumption in this country. Peanuts, of course, lead the list with seven pounds per person per year. English walnuts are second, with 1.09 pounds; almonds, .73, and pecans, about .33.

Production of pecans for the past four years averaged about 29,000,000 pounds, with a likelihood of increases in the near future, as the price lowers and the demand increases.

## How State Is Created

A territory wishing to become a state takes action among its citizens to prepare and present a memorial to congress asking for statehood. If this is passed favorably upon, a bill is introduced termed "an enabling act," which if passed permits the people of the territory to meet and formulate a constitution, which is submitted to congress for action.

## How to Transfer Pictures

Make a solution of one-half ounce soft soap and two drams pearl ash in sixteen fluid ounces of water. Moisten the picture with this solution, lay sheet of thicker paper over this and rub with bowl of a spoon to transfer. If the ink on the paper is quite fresh, pictures can usually be transferred by mere rubbing.

## How Carat Is Divided

All precious stones are weighed by what is known as the metric carat of 200 milligrams. The carat is divided into 100 parts, one part equalling 2 milligrams; thus instead of writing a carat and one-quarter it is expressed 1.25, and instead of one carat and a half it is expressed by 1.50.

## How Carnations Are Dyed

Placing the stems of white carnations in a weak solution of iron sulphate or copper sulphate will turn the blossoms green. An aniline dye which is soluble in cold water may be used instead. For different shades, try different proportions.

## STATE TAX MEN AND BANKERS IN ACCORD

**Months of Negotiation Lead to Agreement on Changes Broadening Method of State or Local Taxation of National Banks.**

NEW YORK.—Months of conference and negotiation between an American Bankers Association special committee and the Committee of the Association of States on Bank Taxation have resulted in an agreement on a form of amendment to the Federal statute dealing with state or local taxation of national banks that "maintains the integrity of the protective principles of the section and is satisfactory to the commissioners' committee," says the American Bankers Association Journal.

Thomas B. Paton, the organization's General Counsel, in making the announcement says that previously proposed amendments to the statute, which is known as Section 5219, have been opposed when it was felt their terms would enable any state to place banks in a tax class by themselves.

"The law as it stands today," Mr. Paton says, "permits state or local taxation of national banks or their shareholders in one or the other of the four following forms: the shareholders upon their shares, a property tax; the shareholders upon their dividends, a personal income tax; the bank upon its net income; the bank according to or measured by its net income. Only one form of tax can be imposed, except that the dividend tax may be combined with the third or fourth form if other corporations and shareholders are likewise taxed."

"The conditions permitted are: the tax on shares must be at no greater rate than on other competing moneyed capital; the income tax on shareholders must be at no greater rate than on net income from other moneyed capital; the tax on bank net income must be at no higher rate than on other financial corporations nor the highest rates on mercantile and manufacturing corporations doing business within the state; the tax measured by net bank income is subject to the same limitations as the tax on net income of the bank but may include entire net income from all sources."

**States Seek Broader Law**  
National banks and their shareholders are taxed in different states under a diversity of systems, he says. The U. S. Supreme Court has held that the low millage rate on intangible personal property is in violation of the present law where it results in national bank shares being taxed at a rate greater than that assessed upon competing moneyed capital. A number of states, unwilling to use the income methods permitted, had the alternative of either repealing the intangible tax laws or limiting taxation of national bank shares at the intangible rate. Therefore they sought a broadening of the permissive provisions.

Also, Mr. Paton points out, a Supreme Court decision held a state's excise tax on corporations invalid where it included income from Federal and local government bonds in the excise measure. This created doubt as to some state bank excise taxes.

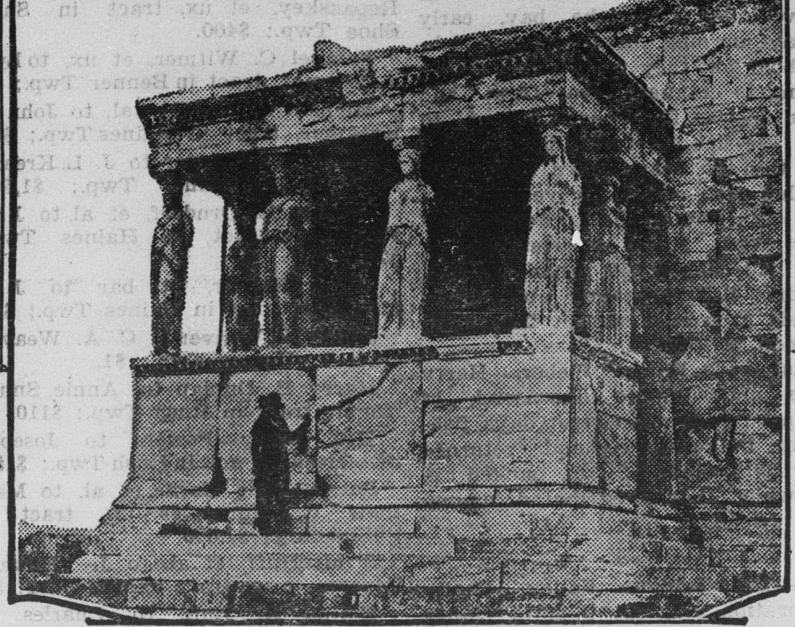
"Conferences have been held to reach some agreement which would protect the banks, satisfy the tax commissioners and avoid a contest in Congress," Mr. Paton says. "From the standpoint of the tax authorities, the main objectives have been an amendment which would permit certain states to retain their low rate tax upon intangibles and at the same time derive an adequate, but not excessive, revenue from national bank shares, and an amendment which would permit certain states to tax corporations on their net income, excluding income from tax-exempts, and at the same time derive the same revenue from the banks as heretofore. From the standpoint of the banks, it has been deemed imperative to maintain the protective principles of Section 5219."

**The Changes Agreed On**  
"In the proposed amendment the existing provision permitting taxation of bank shares no higher than the rate upon competing moneyed capital has been modified with respect to certain intangible tax states only by a provision under which, instead of the moneyed capital limitation, the rate shall not be greater than the rate upon the shares of other financial corporations, nor upon the net assets of individuals, partnerships or associations employed in the banking, loan or investment business, nor higher than the rate assessed upon mercantile, manufacturing and business corporations with head office in the state."

"Also an added fifth alternative permissive method, designated as a specific tax, permits a state, in place of an ad valorem tax on bank shares, to add together total dividends paid the preceding year and the increase in capital, surplus and undivided profits, less additions to capital or surplus paid in by stockholders, and to divide this total by the number of shares. The state may tax the shares based upon this amount, but not to exceed the rate on other corporations in proportion to their net profits."

"This method is designed for states which have heretofore taxed national banks upon their entire net income from all sources at a proportionate rate to that assessed upon business corporations. The amount which is the basis of the tax is the equivalent of the entire net income from all sources, but being assessed against the shareholder upon his property in the shares and not a tax upon the bank, it is not open to the objection as an indirect tax on exempt income."

## Glories of Athens



"Porch of Maidens," the Acropolis.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)  
**R**ECALLING its century of modern independence and its thousands of years of glorious memories, Greece is celebrating its centennial. The republic of today has an area of approximately 49,000 square miles and a population of some 6,000,000. But the memories of past glories cling chiefly to the Plain of Attica, surrounded by its hills, with "Athens, the eye of Greece," as its center.

To every one sensitive to historical suggestion, to every one to whom beauty makes the supreme appeal, the first sight of this immortal city becomes the moment of a lifetime. To the right rises Hymettus, famed now, as in ancient days, for the honey which the bees rifle from its flowers; to the left, and nearer, the island of Salamis, with its deathless memories; a bowshot away, Payttalia, where Aristides and his band cut down the flower of Persian chivalry, after the naval battle of Salamis; still farther to the left, the ranges of Parnes, extending in a full, voluptuous curve toward the east.

As one looks closer, the city reveals itself more clearly and, out-topping all, the Acropolis, with the Parthenon as its diadem. In its still beauty, its majesty and its tenderness, the scene has a vague unreality.

It is a tiny country, this heart of Greece. The Attic plain stretches from the sea in an irregular oval from south to north; the entire province contains a bare 700 square miles.

Yet Attica "balances in the universe the glory of Imperial Rome." "Remember well, Quintus," writes Cicero to his friend, "that you have command over the Greeks, who have civilized all peoples, in teaching them gentleness and humanity, and to whom Rome owes the light she possesses." Cicero, of course, meant Attica, for it was in this little country that what we call the Greek genius was most effectively at work in the Fifth century B. C.

**Moments of the Past.**  
When the visitor fares forth in Athens the past beckons to him. One of the first classic monuments his eyes are likely to rest upon is the Arch of Hadrian. This emperor, it will be recalled, was one of the principal benefactors of Athens in the value and character of his gifts. These embraced a water supply, a reservoir which is in use today, a library, and perhaps the Temple to Olympian Zeus. He also built the new city beyond the old one, and the arch marked the dividing line between the Greek and Roman towns.

Passing through the arch and turning to the right, one enters the precincts of the Temple of Zeus. The temple, like the buildings on the Acropolis, is of Pentelic marble, to which time has given an exquisite golden brown color, especially on the side which faces the sea. Two of the columns stand detached like sentinels and by a happy accident close the three-mile tangent formed by the Syngros avenue, which links up modern Athens with its little seaside resort, Phaleron.

One can trace his steps through the Arch of Hadrian by a narrow street known as the Street of Lysistrates, which is probably the site of the ancient Street of the Tripods.

In the age of Pericles, apart from the athletic contests which took place at the Olympic and other games, there were contests in oratory, in poetry, and in music. At Athens the victor in one of these games was given a brass tripod, with the privilege of erecting a pedestal on which to place it, somewhere in the city.

At the end of the little street stands, in almost pristine loveliness, perhaps the only surviving monument of this character. It is the exquisite little structure—the oldest extant—erected by an Athenian, Lysistrates, on which to place the tripod awarded him as the organizer of a choir of young men which won a prize in vocal music in one of the games in the Fourth century B. C.

**Theater of Dionysus.**  
This little structure was built into a convent in medieval times and was thus preserved from destruction. The convent was standing in Byron's day, and he was a guest there in 1811; it was not until some years later that the monument was restored to the expense of the French government.

It is but a stone's throw from the Monument of Lysistrates to the Theater of Dionysus—of Bacchus, to give it its Roman name.

Like most Greek theaters, the tiers of seats are built into the hillside, while its arrangement is such that the spectators viewing the actors had in the distance the sea; so that as tragedy, "in specter'd pall, came sweeping by," there was ever present to the eye an expanse of land and water to heighten the effect produced by the action of the play.

And what names this place calls up,—Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes—the long roll of the great ones of Greece! Leaving the theater, one walks to the inevitable goal, passing on the right the precincts of Aesculapius and various remains, including the charming Odeon built by Herod of Attica, another Roman benefactor, of the Second century, A. D., and on to the iron gates which mark the lower precincts of the Acropolis. Passing through these and walking up the long incline, one comes to a turning on the right and sees ahead the gates, or Propylaea, of the Acropolis.

High up on the right is the little Temple of the Wingless Victory, while a corner of the Parthenon can be described over the retaining wall. A steep stairway which leads from the outer gate of the Propylaea to the upper level must be climbed before one reaches the platform on which is the Victory temple.

**Perfection of the Victory Temple.**  
The view outward from this platform is marvelous, but the shrine compels attention. Nothing can exceed in delicacy and charm this exquisite little structure. Four Ionic columns, each some 13 feet in height, support the architrave, but so perfect are their proportions that it is only when standing beside them that one realizes that they are twice the height of a tall man.

This diminutive, yet perfect edifice, was demolished by the Turks in order to build a bastion, and was later reconstructed with the fragments of the original building.

Nearby is the spot from which the aged King Aegeus took his stand to catch the first beam glittering on the sail of the returning ship in which his son Theseus had sailed to Crete to kill the Minotaur.

Inside the temple are spots to which traditions cling. In the Treasury house, at the west end, it is said was stored the booty taken at Salamis, which included Xerxes' great golden throne.

The portico commands a superb view of the Saronic gulf; at every turn names familiar as household words came to the observer's lips—Salamis, the Bay of Eleusis, the dome-like rock of Acrocorinth, Aegina, and in the distance the soft line of hills marking the Peloponnesus.

## Porch of the Maidens.

Turn again and you will face the Porch of Maidens—the Caryatids. These are too familiar to everyone to require any description and elaboration, but, as with other Greek sculptures, are admired wholeheartedly. The perfection of the draperies, the radiant youth animating the figures, the dressing of the hair, massed to give added strength to the neck, are a few of the elements of loveliness. Despite the latter device, however, in later times it has been found necessary to make a sort of iron frame on which to support the weight of the roof.

A dozen paces from the Erechtheum, whose portico stands today in almost untarnished beauty, are the walls built by Themistocles after the destruction of the first temple by the Persians in 480 B. C. In it were used a number of the drums of the ancient columns. Immediately below these walls lies a little hill which is pointed out as the Areopagus, or Hill of Mars. Physically, the place is of little interest. There is a short flight of steps cut in the rock, and at the top are the sites of ancient altars.

The ancient Court of the Areopagus, consisting of venerable and eminent Athenian citizens, held its sittings on this hill, and it is usually assumed that it was from here that St. Paul, the future captive of Imperial Rome, in A. D. 54 spoke to Athenian skeptics with a reference to an altar "To the Unknown God."

## LOVE OF TREES IN FRANCE.

O. O. McIntyre, spending his vacation in France, writes to the New York American:

Every Frenchman was reared to love his native trees. Desecrate them and they slap you in jail and forget where you are. Such sentimentality as circling knifed initials in a heart would likely result in the guillotine. Indeed a gendarme will eye you coldly if you lean against one.

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