

tender, showing effects of the severe drought. In general, great scarcity of shafty clips for warp, large proportion of mushy and tender wools.

REPORTS FROM AUSTRALASIA FROM 1ST JULY, 1896, TO 30TH JUNE, 1897

New South Wales	691,000 bales
Victoria	444,000 "
South Australia	152,000 "
Queensland	146,000 "
Tasmania	17,000 "
West Australia	14,000 "
Australia	1,464,000 "
New Zealand	370,000 "
Australasia	1,834,000 "

APPROXIMATE ESTIMATION OF DECREASE AND INCREASE 1897 TO 1898.

New South Wales	125,000 bales.
Victoria	20,000 "
South Australia	30,000 "
Queensland	10,000 "
Tasmania	3,000 "
West Australia	"
Australia	188,000 "
New Zealand	Increase 38,000 bales
Australasia	Probable total decrease 150,000 "

CUT v. FASHIONED UNDERWEAR.

During the past few months, considerable attention has been brought to bear on the advantages and disadvantages of cut or fashioned underwear. Certainly this has been of particular interest to those who study the varying principles of the trade. In the earlier period of the hand and rotary stocking frame, and before the advent of circular machinery, fabrics were usually made in straight pieces, or in certain cases, shaped as required by the process of hand narrowing or widening. Certain of the straight fabrics of those days were cut into shape to make certain garments that difficulty attended in making on the fashioned principle. With the introduction of circular machinery, cut goods became a strong department, though in the early period of its introduction, there was a difficulty in making a good reliable joining. This has now become a matter of little importance, the advance made in sewing machines has done away with many of the former prejudices. It is not our intention to give an opinion on the advantages of the one system over the other, but rather to deal with each, says a writer in the *Knitter's Circular*, showing those points that have come before our notice as being of interest.

In the cut underwear department, the first point of attention is that of the cost of machinery in relation to its production. Roll fabrics are made on both the English loop wheel frames and the French circular frames with bearded needles, and also on the English latch needle frames. Each of these machines are specially adapted for different fabrics, each machine having some peculiarity in its mechanism which tends to favor its use in special cases. There is no doubt as regards the production of low grade fabrics, that the English latch needle frame on the feeder principle, is the largest producer, but as regards its use for finer gauges, where the fabric is required to have a good face, other machines are far more satisfactory. A deal may be said as regards the different system of bearded needle circular frames, and though both have been used very largely, at the present time, the opinion of many is in favor of one, rather than the other. The particular merits of each of these machines, would, no doubt, be an interesting subject, but this we prefer to leave to our readers; however, we should be pleased to know the opinions of those closely connected with each system. Having produced the fabric, it becomes necessary to cut up same into garments. Another point of interest is the advantage or disadvantage of cutting same in the rough as it leaves the machine, putting together the garment, and then to dress and finish, and board to shape afterwards; or, on the other hand, to finish the web in the piece, pressing same before cutting out the garment, such garment being cut to the exact size and shape required. It is not intended here to treat on these details, but rather to confine ourselves to cut underwear in general. The great difficulty of making satisfactory and bulkless joinings having been most suc-

cessfully overcome by the "overlock" system of sewing machines, together with the point linking machines for joining the links together, the only apparent question at issue is that of "waste." It is well known that in cutting out certain garments, to get the required shape, a deal of the fabric is cut away, and in such a form as to be useless for other purposes. This being so, the question of fashioned vs cut underwear seems to rest more on this point than any other. Some special garments can only be produced satisfactorily from the fabric by the cutting process, it is not of these that we speak, but more especially the more general garments, as shirts, pants, vests, and combinations.

These articles, produced upon the rotary frame, are shaped as required, and then no waste occurs by cutting. Here, the point of interest rests on the cost of production and working plant. This, in wrought or fashioning machinery, of the latest type, is well known to be expensive, but the class of garments made on these machines bears a fair proportion of trade. Each class of garments being salable, both should be made on their own merits, and left to depend on same, and not be set up as the enemy of the other, but rather for each to run side by side for the benefit of producers and consumers. The great competition of both cut and wrought goods in the hose and half-hose branch of our industry, has been that of producing goods entirely seamless. This, as yet, has not been introduced to any extent in the underwear department, though it must be understood that steady progress is being made in this direction. At present, only latch needle machines have been used with any amount of success, but with the introduction of bearded needle flat frames, capable of producing circular fashioned web, then we may expect circular underwear to compete with both cut and fashioned makes.

—The January *Century* has the opening part of Dr. Weir Mitchell's new novel, "The Adventures of Francois: Foundling, Thief, Juggler and Fencing Master during the French Revolution," which is illustrated by Castaigne and is expected to be a worthy successor of "Hugh Wynne." The beautiful Gainsborough portrait of Mrs. Graham, engraved by Cole as the frontispiece of the December *Century*, is replaced by another beautiful Gainsborough, engraved by Muller, the "Portrait of General James Wolf," one of several pictures of this hero given in an article on that topic by Paul Leicester Ford. Other contributions on English topics are "Scenes from Huxley's Home Life," by his son, Leonard Huxley, with a new portrait engraved by Johnson, and a graphic account of the curious features of "The Lord Mayor's Show" by Mr. and Mrs. Pennell. Among the French subjects are an article on "French Wives and Mothers" by Miss Anna L. Hicknell, author of the books on the Tuilleries and Marie-Antoinette, with illustrations in his picturesque style by Boutet de Monvel, well known to *Century* readers by his recent illustrations of the career of Joanne d'Arc, etc.; a short paper on Jean-Charles Cazin, a French artist of a different type, with illustrations of his work, by William A. Coffin; and an historical study by Archibald Forbes, the distinguished war correspondent, entitled "A Myth of Waterloo." The American material includes "Recollections of Washington and his Friends" as preserved in the family of Nathaniel Greene, contributed by Martha L. Phillips and daintily illustrated by Malcolm Fraser, "Every Day Heroism," a paper in the "Heroes of Peace" group, by Gustav Koubek, the continuation of Mrs. Stevenson's Reminiscences of Mexico during the French Intervention, with illustrations—the first popular account printed in America of this period; and last, but not least, "The Mysterious City of Honduras," the recent discoveries in Copan, here described by the explorer, George Byron Gordon, with a rich array of pictures by Henry Sandham. Other fiction in addition to Dr. Mitchell's story, is the third part of Mrs. Burton Harrison's "Good Americans," and three short stories "The Courtship of Mr Philip Johns," by Elizabeth Carroll Shipman, "Miss Stacy's Buryin' Money," by Alice M. Ewell, and "Madame Butterfly," a story of unusual interest and pathos, with an attractive Japanese heroine, by John Luther Long, illustrated by Weidon. The "Topics of the Time" deal with current popular subjects, including "straight" voting, lynching, etc., and in a relation to the amusing miscellany in the department of "Lighter Vein" there is an "Open Letter" by Jonas Stadling with a fac-simile of the message from Andree, with its envelope, sent by the carrier pigeon which was shot on July 15th.