Insurance Companies Pay Out \$4,500,000.

#### PASSSIXUNLUCKY MONTHS

Last Year's Losses Exceeded by \$2,500,000.

#### UNDERWRITERSARECONCERNED

No Cause for Enormous Destruction of Pacific Coast Property, Except "Law of Averages"-Lines Are Reduced, Risks Scattered.

L088E8.	
January \$ Pebruary	885,721 659,854 909,777 636,367 857,644
Total	

Fire has destroyed an enormous amount of property on the Pacific Coast in the past six months. The losses to insurance ompanies are beyond \$4,000,000. They exsceed last year's losses at this time by These are only insurance \$2,500,000. losses; the property losses are much

Underwriters are very much concerned. The ratio of losses to premiums, of many companies, has reached 100 per cent or more. Several local agents said yesterday that the losses which their companies have had to pay in the past six months have exceeded the premiums of that period. One agent declared that his losses had already eaten up his premiums of the entire year. "And goodness knows," he exclaimed, throwing up his hands, "how much more of our money will go up in smoke before the year is out. Our loss ratio in Oregon already is 150 per cent; from the looks of things it will go to 250 per cent. We've got not only to carry our policy-holders for the next six months for nothing, but pay for whatever happens to them."

"Lots of us fellows," spoke up a fellow agent, "are in the same fix. It's a fright, it surely is, and if I were the company I think I'd be tempted to put up

and is still doing on this coast eral insurance men yesterday. "Care-"incendiarism" and hazard" were other reasons. But philo-sophic underwriters go back of all this. To them there is a more ultimate cause, the mystical "law of averages," which comes from sun spots, perhaps, or the man in the moon, or the nebula of Orion.

"The law of general average," remarked E. L. Thompson yesterday, of Hartman, Thompson & Powers, "regulates fire and insurance the same as other phenomena. Insurance, perhaps more than any other human institution, is afflicted by this law. The public is learning that insurance rates must be based upon the studied operations of this law."

operations of this law."
"But what application has all this to
the present occasion?" was asked.
"Just this," was the response. "These
periods of fire losses go in waves or
rhythms, now augmenting in destructiveness and then diminishing. They cannot be explained, but they are all governed by the law I have just mentioned. After a while fire losses will take the down-ward trend again and when they have pursued that course for a while, reflexive turn will follow.
"When fires are few and premiums

seem unduly high the public should re-member the law of averages, and when fires are many and premiums do not meet loases, it is for the companies to bear this in mind. In other words, insurance rates should cover the expense ratio and the conflagration hazard and be determined by the law of general average. Rates are determined in these several relations as nearly as human knowledge permits."

Prosperity Not Responsible. "Hasn't prosperity something to do with the many recent fires?" was asked. "Not at all. Did prosperity burn up Irving dock or the Western lumber mill on the water front? Did it make the fire that burned off the top of Dekum building? I think not, and my opinion is the same about all the fires on the coast."

The exponents of "averages" point out that in the past eight years insurance business on the Pacific Coast has been making money while in other parts of the United States it has been losing. The increase of losses in the East has been very great and rates have been advanced to compensate, but on this Coast the general average of rates has not been wind. raised. Wise insurance experts have been prophesying that the agencies of destruction which have been operating in the East would surely come this way to consume the profits which have been en-

joyed on the Pacific slope.

These prophecies seem to be turning true. Nearly all the companies on this Coast have had to draw on their home offices for money to meet their losses.

"It's the law of averages," said J. Harvey O'Bryan, of Clemens & O'Bryan, ithat's asserting itself. Rollo V. Watt. general manager of the Royal at San Francisco, is one of the men who have predicted all along that this would come to mass. The commanies have made money. to pass. The companies have made money on this Coast, but what they have earned is fast dwindling now. The profits of eight years may easily be consumed by two years of bad business. Competition is keen and margins are narrow and are wiped out very soon by adversity."

Will Rates Be Increased? Will rates be increased? This question is trying the souls of a good many people. In Portland the cost of insurance on some classes of property has been raised in the past year, but on others it has been reduced. Underwriters say that the general level of rates here is the same as it has been.

"Three weeks ago," remarked a local

agent yesterday, "I called upon the man-ager of a company which writes a big business on this Coast. With him were the managers of three other leading com-panies. They were very much concerned by their great losses. Their loss ratios for the past six months were aleady couble the normal, and still fire was detouring property and they were telling out the money. No, they did not contemplate an advance in rates as a recourse. But their minds would undoubtedly turn that way should losses keep up their present

pace into next year." Companies Grow Cautious. Meanwhile companies are canceling bad risks and writing new ones with extreme caution. They are scattering their risks as best they can and reducing their lines. For about a year they have pursued these tactics in Portland, beginning even before the present run of losses had become general over the Coast. They have been chary of Portland's waterfront, but they have sustained heavy losses at other cities where "unprotected losses at other cities where "unprotected water-front" was not a hazard.

But there are some insurance men who, recognizing the mystical "averages," look for more palpable causes of fire. Prosperity is to them the reason of the increased losses. "Property-owners," said W. J. Clemens, of Clemens & O'Bryan, "don't guard against fire as in hard times. They rush around all day at their busi-ness and neglect to take precautions about which they are very careful when business lags. In such prosperous times as these a man may burn out and yet start up his business again almost on nothing. But when times are hard a man is bent on saving all he's got; he doesn't dare to let

fire get at him." May Have to Change System. Mr. Clemens believes that companies soon or late, will have to resort to a new system of proportionate insurance to prosystem of proportionate insurance to protect themselves. "The way to reduce losses," he remarked, "is to fix the basis rate at, say 80 or 50 per cent of the value of property insured, and to grade up the rates as the percentage of insurance diminishes. This system would be just opposite to the one now in use. It wild increase premium receipts and at the fame time give policy-holders more protection and would distribute losses among the arm the system would be given to the one now in use. It wild increase premium receipts and at the fame time give policy-holders more protection and would distribute losses among the arm the law allows me only six deputies, and they cannot receive more than \$250. and would distribute losses among the companies more than at present. The Dekum building was insured at \$100,000 the individual companies as it has done. A property insured up close to its value is a better risk than if it were insured to a property would be insured to only 75 per cent of its value, the theory being that the owner should carry the other 25 per cent. But we see now that this theory is not the best practice."

Prosperity Causes Fires.

J. D. Coleman thinks that the hurry and rush and overcrowding of business following prosperity are to be taken into account in the quest for causes. "We have refused to write insurance on certain places of business," said he, "which are overworked or overrushed. The fact is that property-owners and business men under such circumstances forget or neglect to guard against fire with that vigi-lance which they exercise when business is slack. Then, too, hazards are constantly increasing, and, though under-writers endeavor to surround them with writers endeavor to surround them with safeguards, results show that they miss their purpose pretty often. Underwriters generally think that they understand how to deal with the hazards that are arising with improvements and inventions, but if the men who do the illegal shooting to deal with the hazards that are arising with improvements and inventions, but the truth is that their true nature is hard to learn and understand. The growing use of electricity and gasoline and acetyline is hedged about with all manner of safeguards, yet it keeps making losses. Son. Thave learned of a number of cases are known.

and is still doing on this coast.

"Prosperity." was the reason of several insurance men yesterday. "Carelessness." "incendiarism" and "moral of greatest losses are yet to come."

"United States is written have got into trouble with the height on this Coast. The losses in Oregon in the past six months already exceed the premiums of that period, and the months of greatest losses are yet to come."

"Wil your principal office be in Cottage Grove, Mr. Baker." of greatest losses are yet to come."

"The May losses in Oregon," went on Mr. Coleman, "amounted to 60 per cent of premiums. The losses in March were over six times as great. Under normal weeks."

Grove, Mr. Baker. "

"Yes, for the present at least. I am going out to McMinnville this afternoon, and will return to Portland in about two weeks." conditions we should regard May as a very bad month."

Incendiarism Is Frequent.

A prominent writer of insurance, who desired to have his identity withheld, insisted that incendiarism was to blame, "I may say," he remarked, "that 90 per cent of the losses are from incendiary fires. I don't mean that 90 per cent of the num-ber of risks turn out that way; you see it is the big risks which are profitable to burn. I call it negative incendiarism when a man doesn't actually set a fire himself, but allows his building to catch fire in ways that can't be ascertained by the underwriters. When a congregation of plous persons needs a new church because the old church is small and dingy and is insured and would make a good blaze; when some good brother makes a roaring fire in the church stove and isn't careful to remove waste paper from around the stove; when he goes off and the fire gets out of the stove and burns up the church—that's negative incendiar-

in this town, but I wouldn't insure themnot I. I don't trust the owners of the
property. They may not wish to burn
things up, but if they could they would.
That's where the moral huzard comes in.
No, there isn't any premium that will offest the moral huzard except 160 per cent set the moral hazard except 100 per cent or over. A man came to me the other day for a policy. Would I insure him? Certainly. For what premium? One hundred and five per cent. That's what I told him, but he didn't want the policy."

Expensive Fires of 1903, pensive fires that have occurred on this Coast in the first five months of 1903, as

Januar	
4 Honolulu stock dry g 19 Dayton, Wash. 22 Boise, building and st	Insurance Loss. oods\$ 65,000
31 Sacramento, departme	ent store 399,404
4 Cottonwood, Cal., ge- chandise 5 Oakland, stock, mercl 5 San Francisco, retail contents 5 San Francisco, merch 11 Sait Lake, general fire 12 San Mateo, hotel	nandise 11,06 1 store and 54,180 andise 11,78 212,46 18,180
2 Portland, general fire 6 Fairhaven, sawmill . 10 Tacoma, warehouse as 10 Portland, general fire 12 San Francisco	176,45 20,82 nd contents, 14,41 266,09

tents 47,788
23 Cheyenne, lodging-house 10,490
25 Canyon City, Colo., mining plant 25,250 Dunsmuir, general fire 61,887
Pleasanton, Cal., warehouse 21,776
Los Angeles, furniture factory 12,000
Tacoma, packing-house 77,246
Butte, brick block and contents 11,474
Portland, warehouse 12,697
Helena, brick building and con-

1 Centralia
1 Portland, sawmill
2 Sacramento, building and hardware
7 San Francisco, flour mill
8 Slockton, general fire
16 Harrison, Idaho, planting-mill...
20 Burke, Idaho, mining plant......

Insurance Losses Paid.

paid, as compiled by the Coast Review: Wash-ington. \$ 60,805 48,551, 163,464 186,568 47,310 Idaho. \$ 24,294 2,853 7,138 35,604 \$ 37,768 18,587 487,128 60,408 75,660 British Colorado, Columbia

TO PROTECT THE GAME.

New Warden J. W. Baker Announces

That the violators of the game laws may be caught red-handed and off their guard, the Deputy Game Wardens throughout the state will not be an-

throughout the state will not be announced by the new protector of Oregon's game, J. W. Baker, of Cottage Grove, who assumed the office yestefday.

"I have selected my deputies and will announce the name of the Portland representative before long," said Mr. Baker yesterday. "As to the men out in the country, I am going to try a new dodge on the people who break the laws. If they don't know the Deputy Wardens, or where they are situated, they will not be so cautious, and can the more easily be

and they cannot receive more than \$250 a year, so you see we have to plan how and the companies had to pay the full insurance. But if it had been insured at the individual companies as it has done. A property insured up close to its value must be in Portland much of the time to A property insured up case.

It was a better risk than if it were insured to only a small fraction of its value. The contingence of the waste and the killing of the base.

Year the killing of the base are found in the markets during the close season, the man who sells them can be punished, but the killing will go on just the same. Therefore, it will be consistent of the continue of the conti

ce receiving my appointment April I have gone over that part of the state in which most of the violations occur. The deputies have been selected, and when the shooting of upland birds begins in August, we will start out to capture the lawbreakers and bring them to

justice."
"In what part of the state does the most violation exist?"
"In Southern Oregon, particularly in Jackson and Josephine Counties. I know of parties who have hired men to hunt deer, paying them 40 cents each for the hides. These men are provided with ammunition, and have the venison for them-selves. I know of one man who hunts for himself. He has killed as many as 23 deer

A normal loss ratio is between 40 and 50 per cent. The expense ratio of various companies, that is, the cost of doing husiness, paying taxes, commissions, etc., ranges from 40 to 60 per cent of premiums. When a loss ratio gets up to 50 per cent the company is on the ragged edge between making and losing money. Therefore, when a loss ratio reaches 100 or 150 per cent it means a loss indeed.

Causes of Heavy Losses.

Varying causes are ascribed for the great destruction which fire has done and is still doing on this coast.

Iline is hedged about with all manner of a number of cases aliready, and the offenders are known. Besides Southern Oregon, a great deal of the shooting during the closed season is done in the Williamette Valley. Many of the 60 leading companies in this country as to shooting Chinese pheasants are received from the Valley country as to shooting Chinese pheasants are to be profit per year in writing insurance."

"And the 60 companies," spoke up an underwriter, "taken all together, have earned only ½ per cent profit per annum in the pest 10 years. Pacific Coast who complaints are to be protected, and the coffenders are known. Besides Southern Oregon, a great deal of the shooting during the closed season is done in the Williamette Valley. Many complaints are received from the Valley country as to shooting Chinese pheasants are to be protected, and the complaints will be the shooting during the shooting the shooting during the sh

POSTAL BUSINESS GROWS Increase of Twenty-Five Per Cent

The receipts of the Portland Postoffice from the sales of stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, etc., continue to sho an increase from month to month and quarter to quarter, which is gratifying to Postmaster Bancroft and the public generally, as showing that the city is thriving. The receipts for June amounted to \$25,852.73, as compared with \$29,444.14 for the corresponding month of last year, an increase of \$5400.59. The receipts and increase for the quarter ending June 30, 1902 and 1903, were as follows:

935, were as follows: 1902. 1903. Increase. \$22,715.07 \$27,323.26 \$ 4,696.98 21,708.97 \$0,553.73 5,409.59 20,444.14 25,553.73 5,409.59 Totals ......\$64,867.28 \$79,532.04 \$14,664.76

From the rush with which business for the new quarter started yesterday, the probability is that the receipts of the office for this month will be larger than ever before. There is always a large mail on the lat of the month, but yesterday it was larger than usual, both local and from the East.

In anticipation of this, Postmaster Ban-croft had ordered all hands to be on deck at 6:30 A. M. Five new carriers and four new clerks were added to the force yes-terday, and Superintendent Barrat and Assistant Superintendent Lee both pulled off their coats and joined in helping to dis-tribute the mail. When Postmaster Bancroft arrived at 7:30 A. M., all hands were literally up to their eyes in business, every alley being piled with mail. A case was placed on the porch at the rear of the office, where one man was running an outaide department. By noon they had the morning mail pretty well distributed and sent out, and were ready to attack the later arrivals, which had accumulated in a huge pile on the porch. The new employes got a good start in business, and were able to see that there was plenty of work for them. Postmaster Bancroft was convinced that he must not cease making applications for more cierks and carriers, and hopes to be allowed a lot more by the beginning of next quarter.

Lodell's License Revoked. The Council committee on liquor licenses held a special rapid-fire meeting yesterday at 1 o'clock and revoked the saloon license of A. C. Lodell, of Union avenue and Morris street. At the regular meeting on Friday last a protest against Lodell's place first came up, but

as he was not on hand to give his side of the matter it was decided to hold a spe-cial meeting. He put in an appearance yesterday, but there seemed to be no good reason why he should continue to se liquor, and his license was re SHAKE INTO YOUR SHOES, SHAKE INTO YOUR SHOES,
Allen's Foot-Ease, a poweet. It cures painful, smarting, nervous feet and ingrowing
nails and instantly takes the stink out of
corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort
discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes
tight or new shoes feet easy. It is a certain,
cure for sweating, callous and hot, thred, ach
ing feet. Try it today. Sold by all druggiest
and shoe stores. By mail for 25c in stamps.
Trial package FREE, Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Boy, N. Y. .Meier @ Frank Company... Largest and Best Line of Hammocks in the City.

.. Meier & Frank Company .. Outing Goods of Every Description at the Lowest Prices.

Refrigerators, Fruit Jars, Lawn Mowers, Garden Hose, Water Coolers, Ice Cream Freezers, Etc.—Basement. Artistic Picture Framing to your order-Largest and Best Line of Moldings-Lowest Prices-Second Floor. "Vudor Porch Shades, 4, 6, 8, 10-ft. sizes-Better, cheaper than Bamboo-Complete, ready for hanging-3d Floor.

Store closed all day, Saturday July 4th

# Vacation Trunk Sale



Particularly pre-eminent is this store in its showing of traveling necessities-A glimpse at the Fifth-street window display or a visit to the department will give you an inkling of the amplitude of resources-The following values demand the attention of every buyer.

#### \$8.50 Suit Cases \$6.98

Full stock Leather Suit Cases, sewed edge, finest lock, leather lined, best brass trimmings, regular \$8.50 value, choice at \$6.98

full stock Leather Suit Case, fine brass trimmings, regular \$7.25 Suit Case, your \$5.89 choice for.....

25 Canvas-covered Trunks, iron bound, heavy steel corners, two heavy leather straps, brass lock, just the right style of trunk for coast use. Five sizes, all at special low prices.

30-inch—Regular 32-inch—Regular	price	\$6.75, sale \$7.10, sale	sale	price. \$5.29 price. \$5.55 price. \$5.93 price. \$6.27
34-inch—Regular 36-inch—Regular	price	\$7.45, \$7.80,	sale	price\$6.27 price\$6.57

If you're going on a long Eastern trip here's a trunk that will stand all the rough handling the baggage smasher can give it. Heavily constructed, all the best and latest improvements, four sizes, all greatly reduced.

30-in-Regular \$10.50, sale price \$8.77. 32-in-Regular \$11.25, sale price \$9.35 34-in-Regular \$12.00, sale price \$9.87. 36-in-Regular \$12.75, sale price 10.53

20 handsome Steamer Trunks, steel bound, leather straps, all canvas lined, three sizes, at special low prices-30-inch, 32-inch, 34-inch. \$7.75 value for ... \$6.35. \$8.25 value for ... \$6.90. \$8.75 value for ... \$7.67

Store closed all day Saturday, July 4,

#### SHOE Bargains

\$3 Shoes \$2.37 Pair-Ladies' Dress Shoes, patent colt and patent calf, very best style toe, all sizes, the regular \$3 values at the special price of, pair \$2.37

\$5, \$6 Shoes \$3.85 pair-Men's French, Shriner & Urner Shoes in patent kid, patent calf, black Russia, velour calf, Shoes or Oxfords, all sizes, regular \$5 \$3.85 and \$6 values, pair.

Little gents' vici kid and satin calf Shoes, spring heel, sizes 10 to 13½, \$1.27 your choice at the low price, pr

#### Hosiery Offerings



ladies' and children's Hose for today and tomorrow— All sizes—Very best styles, tempting values-

Ladies' fine black cotton Hose, three-quarter l'gth, extra wide tops, all sizes, the regular 50c values at ..... 33c Pr 500 pairs of Ladies' \$1 all-

over Lace Hose in black, fine quality, many styles, all sizes, regu-lar \$1.00 value 49c Pr

Children's fine ribbed Hose, extra quality, 

#### Ladies' Neckwear

Crepe Silk Stock Ties in all colors, larly at 75c ea., sale price....57c superb styles, selling regu-

Ladies' Collar and Cuff Sets in white and colors, regular 50c and 65c values, while they last ... 43c

Ladies' 4-inch Hand Ties with embroidered ends, regular 50c 35c values, your choice, each

#### Veilings

Nose Veils, beautiful tuxedo meshes, in large variety, black, white and 50c value, at, veil ...... 27c

300 Chiffon Veils for hat drapes, fancy borders, many styles and combinations-Regular \$1.00 value, at .....

A great lot of Tuxedo-Mesh Veils in the dots and plain styles, 12c at ......



# Friday Surprise

\$10.00 Etamine Dress Skirts, \$5.85

A remarkable offering of high-class Dress Skirts from the best manufacturer in the land comprises the grand bargain for the 715th Friday Surprise Sale. Exactly 145 skirts in the lot-three shades of blue and black—etamines, wire cloths and granite cloths, just the fabrics that find favor with the best dressers nowadays. All are the latest style dress skirt, tucked, silk band trimmed or plain-skirts that we have sold hundreds of at \$10.00 each, for tomorrow

only at the wonderfully low price of .....

See Fifth-Street window display.

Vacation sale fine stationery. Prices greatly reduced. Special values in Lace Curtains, Rugs and Curtain Materials. Third floor.

Great values in Muslin Underwear, Ribbons, Neckwear and Leather Goods.

# Cloak Department



Decided reductions in the Cloak Department on all seasonable wearing apparel. Suits, Waists, Walking Skirts, high-class Costumes and Novelty Wraps are all included.

\$14.00 and \$16.00 Suits . \$ 8.85 \$18.00 and \$20.00 Suits 13.85 \$22.00 and \$22.50 Suits 15.85 \$27.00 and \$32.00 Suits 19.85 All suits up to \$100.00 reduced

in same proportion. Our entire stock of Silk Waists at special low prices.

\$6.50 Waists ...... \$4.55 \$7.50 Waists ..... \$5.95 \$8.50 Waists ..... \$6.55 Waists up to \$30.00 reduced in

same proportion. \$6.50, \$7.00 and \$7.50 Walking Skirts ... \$4.85

Entire stock of Silk and Cashmere Tea Gowns greatly reduced. Second floor.

# Men's Furnishings

Bargains in Men's wear. Every item something you need or will need. The saving urges prompt Men's colored-bosom Shirts, the terns and all sizes at ..... 69c

Men's Golf Shirts, new stripes and colorings, all sizes, great 43c values at, each ......

Men's Half-Hose, broken lines, neat stripes and patterns, 17c all sizes, at, pair.....

Men's Silk Bat-Wing Ties, the best patterns and colororings, 25c values, each .....

Men's 25c Suspenders, good quality, at the low price, per pair.....

Men's Mercerized Striped Summer Underwear, shirts 39c or drawers, at

# Underwear

Ladies' low-neck sleeveless ribbed Vests, plain or dropstitch bodies, all sizes, very special at

### 12c each

Ladies' low-neck sleeveless ribbed Vests, lace trimmed, white, all sizes, great bargain

# 27c each

Children's Summer Underwear -All sizes and styles at the lowest prices.

Special values in all lines Boys' Clothing - Second Floor.

Meier & Frank Company

Meier & Frank Company

\$10.00 values at .....

Men's Clothing Values The best Clothing for men in town at the most reasonable prices-These values must interest every man who has Clothing to supply.

Men's all-wool Trousers in striped Flannels, belt straps, and turnup bottom, all sizes-The correct style summer or outing pants, pair .....

Men's Outing Suits in all-wool flannels, neat stripes, Trousers made with belt straps and turn-up bottom, regular

Men's fine all-wool blue serge suits in single or double breasted styles, regular \$15.00 suits......

Men's extra fine quality blue serge Suits in single or double breasted styles, finely tailored, perfect fitting, regular \$18.95 \$22.50 values at ...

Meier & Frank Company

Meier & Frank Company