

Portland's progress the past year, as shown by the statistics of its various industries and features, has been remarkable and far greater than ever before in the history of the second largest city on the Pacific coast. In round figures it manufactured goods to the value of \$20,000,000, giving employment to 8,000 hands, an increase in value of nearly fifty per cent. over the manufactures of the previous year. There has been built, but not yet ready for operation, a smelting plant that will have a capacity of 150 tons per day, which may be easily doubled. The wholesale and retail trade of the city increased its invested capital \$7,000,000, to a total of \$63,000,000, and transacted a business fully fifty per cent. greater than the year before. Bank clearings, for the period of less than six months since the clearing house was established, were nearly \$50,000,000, and by the end of the full year of its existence will reach thrice that sum. Real estate transfers reached \$14,140,352 on recorded deeds and \$10,000,000 on unrecorded bonds, and building improvements were made to the value of \$5,000,000. At the same time the loss from fire, due largely to a most efficient fire department, was but \$20,000, the lowest in its history and less than any city of equal size in the country. The daily consumption of water increased forty per cent. to a total of 7,600,000 gallons. The system has sixty miles of pipe and is worth fully \$2,000,000. A total of \$750,000 was expended in the construction of new lines of street railway, including one cable line and four electric lines. The grain, flour and salmon fleet for the year dispatched from the Columbia river numbered 79 vessels. Domestic exports were \$8,330,043 and foreign \$5,416,338. Post office statistics show an increase of 26 per cent. in receipts, the total being \$126,057. Money order business amounted to \$2,989,308, an increase of \$750,000. These statistics show but the rough outline of the business of the year, but it is a most gratifying exhibit for the metropolis of the northwest, and is an index of what may be expected the coming year. No other city in the union with 65,000 inhabitants can make such a showing in all departments, though real estate booms may lend to some a fictitious air of great progress, but from which many of the substantial upon which true prosperity rests are lacking.

The democratic bosses in Maryland lift up their voices in opposition to the adoption of the Australian election system. They say it lost Montana to the democrats and would break their hold upon Maryland. If a system guaranteeing a fair election will break the hold of any political party it is high time that party's grip were loosened, be it democratic or republican. The question ought to be, How to secure an honest election? Not how to hold our party grip.



THE LATE LUTHER B. ISON.

IN the death of Luther B. Ison Oregon loses one of her best judges on the bench. Judge Ison was born in Missouri about 1840, and came to Oregon in 1862, settling in Baker county. He began his career in Oregon as a school teacher, but soon entered politics and was elected county clerk of Baker county for three successive terms. Meanwhile he studied law and was admitted to the bar, and was subsequently twice elected district attorney. He then entered the general practice of law and made for himself a wide reputation for ability and integrity in his profession. He was subsequently elected to the bench of the sixth judicial district, and discharged the duties of that high office with fidelity and marked ability until his death. Judge Ison was a democrat in politics and was one of the most able men of his party in Oregon, and a leader in the eastern portion of the state. Personally he was a man of a kindly disposition and of great decision of character, one who made and held many warm friends. He enjoyed the respect of all who knew him, and his death is regretted throughout the entire state. Judge Ison died about six o'clock p. m. on Saturday, December 28, 1889. He was a member of the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Workmen fraternities and was buried under the auspices of those societies.

A Portland minister has had a "call" to a San Francisco pulpit, and as it presents a "larger field of usefulness"—which is a synonym of a "larger salary"—he will undoubtedly accept. Many an over-worked editor would like such a chance as that to work over his old editorials at an increased compensation.