PORTLAND'S PROSPERITY AS INDI-CATED BY POSTAL BUSINESS.

Every Month Except One in 1899 Showed an Increase Over the Corresponding Month in 1898.

The receipts from the sale of stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards, at the Portland postoffice for the year ending December 31, 1896, amounted to \$188,535 04, being an increase of \$13,586 78 over the year 1838. It will be noticed in the sub-joined table that every month in 1899 shows an increase over the corresponding month in 1898, with the one exception of September, when unfavorable weather cut into all branches of business. However, the next month more than made up for September, which was also true of trade

Postoffice figures are not stuffed nor manipulated, and constitute a fair bar-ometer of business prosperity. Here is a comparative table, showing

receipts for 1800 and 180	22	
January Pebruary March March April May June July August Beptember October November December	1898. 15,654 75 13,922 86 15,116 24 16,407 75 14,630 21 14,131 37 11,588 74 14,414 93 16,110 06	1898. \$ 16,221 22 14,172 97 17,217 66 17,182 81 15,228 22 15,224 07 16,479 54 16,565 96 15,858 53 16,108 97 20,053 55
Motel \$	70 ULD 107	\$100 535 OJ

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

They Tell the Same Story of Increased Business.

The receipts of the internal revenue of-fice in Portland for the month of December, 1898, show an increase of \$15,618 53 over the receipts of the corresponding month of 1896. The receipts for the six months of 1899, ending December 31, show an increase over the corresponding six months of 1898 of \$56,908 74. Following is a detailed statement of the receipts for December, 1899;

Beer Spirits Cigars Tobacco Special taxes Playing cards Mixed flour Adhesive stamps	2,656 69 136 85 2,846 17 4 50 1 50
Total	\$80,157 84
Increase	85 . \$655,928 96 87
Increase	\$ 56,908 74

ALIEN SOLDIERS.

Another Registration Problem Confronts Clerk Holmes.

Clerk of the County Court Holmes has been confronted with another registration problem. Some ex-soldiers of foreign birth seem to be of the opinion that their discharge papers make full citizens of them, and have for years been voting on the sirength of the discharge from the United States army, but the law is to the contrary, and they will have to take out citizens' papers, which is a very easy thing to be done

The law upon the subject is as follows:

"Any alien of the age of Il years and upwards who has enlisted, or may enlist, in the armies of the United States, either the remiser of the United States, either the regular or volunteer forces, and has been or may hereafter be honorably dis-charged, shall be admitted to become a citizen of the United States upon his peti-tion, without any previous declaration of

his intention to be become such, and he shall not be required to prove more than one year's residence in the United States previous to his application to become such citizen; and the court admitting such alien shall in addition to such proof of residence and good moral character, as now required by law, he satisfied by competent proof of such person's having been honorably discharged from the service of the United States."

Residenting to progressing guits rankle.

Registration is progressing quite rapidly, and the clerks are kept busy throughout the day. District Attorney Sewall may submit his opinion to the questions proposed to him today.

TO TAKE OREGON PRODUCTS Delegates to Editorial Convention Will Advertise the State.

The delegates recently elected by th Portland Press Club to attend the Na-tional Editorial Association convention in New Orleans next month are actively engaged in the work of preparation. Yes-terday a committee waited upon the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade and explained their plans in detail, the re-sult of which was that both organizations unanimously indorsed the proposition. The delegation proposes to take with it an abundant supply of Oregon products, care-fully prepared and appropriately inscribed, for free distribution both in New Orleans and through the Eastern states. A supply of cuts will also be taken of scenes and products in Oregon and used by visit-

ing editors.

It is not probable that any other delegation will have missionary work of this nature in hand, but the very recent visit of the association to Portland will make Oregon souvenirs peculiarly appropriate and acceptable to all delegates, who will doubtless mention the fact in reparting the trip. Under such circumstances, cuts of Oregon scenes will be in demand, and can be used to great advantage.

Aside from the National Editorial Asing editors.

Aside from the National Editorial Association, there will be a vast crowd in New Orleans attending the Mardi Gras, which exercises close the evening preceding the opening of the association. Delegates can attend this meeting without being burdened with other duties or responsibilities than those of a professional nature, but they prefer to exert them-selves in the interest of the Pacific North-west, provided the actual expenses are paid, which will be very light, as there are neither salaries nor transportation to pay. Immediately after adjournment of this association the delegations will separate, but a large number expect to visit Cuba, and it is supposed about 300 will visit California. The Portland delegates will exert themselves to get as many of the latter as possible to return by way of this city.

ANOTHER BIG HOUSE.

"Hoftest Coon in Dixle" Retains Its Popularity.

Another packed house, in which was Governor Geer, attended the performance of "The Hottest Coon in Dixle," at Cordray's last night, and applauded every turn from curtain to curtain. Of the many companies of colored melodists that have appeared in Portland, none have achieved such instant and lasting popularity as this aggregation of Manager Miller's. Fine voices heard in solo, duet and concert, bright specialties and clever dances follow one another in bewildering rapidity, and keep every hand in the house busy with applause. There has been a big adwith applause. There has been a big advance sale all the rest of the week, especially for the matines, which latter shows that people are going to delight their children by sending them to hear the negro melodies sung as only the ne-groes can sing them.

Chance for Perpetual Motion,

Moro Leader. Should Bryan run short of wind, send him to Sherman county. Once inflated with one of these zephyrs, perpetual motion will have been accomplished.

Persons whose occupation gives but lit-tle exercise are victims of torpid liver and constipation. Carter's Little Liver Pills will relieve you.

22d Annual

This means our entire stock of superior merchandise at greatly reduced prices.

——A FEW REMINDERS——

Clearance Sale

RICHARDSON'S LINENS

The most critical housewives appreciate their value. SEE OUR TABLE LINENS. ALL RICHARDSON'S-An elegant and complete line at CLEARANCE PRICES.

LADIES' WRAPPERS

Best percale, seasonable colors, separate lined waists; values \$1.25 and \$1.50; only 79c each......

All wool or silk and wool, beautiful effects, extra widths.

CHILDREN'S SHOES

Values to \$2.50 now 49c pair dging from past sales, they'll all be gone by night.

Best vici kid and kangaroo calf. Sizes
11 to 2.

OUR BOOKS To be Closed at **Greatly Reduced Prices**

FANCY DRESS GOODS

ROYAL WORCESTER

All prices. Fit any figure. 100 different styles to select from, and ALL REDUCED.

Values to \$2.50 at \$1.25 yard

Perfection in Corsets.

Broken Lines of

See display in Fifth-street window. BARGAINS IN OUR CROCKERY SECTION

Cannot fail to please all. Great reductions in this magnificent stock. Olds & King Olds & King

STORE NEWS OF OUR

GREAI SA

In value up to \$1.50 yard at 59c yard. And this is just one bargain. There are hundreds more to be found in sliks here.

Lively selling of lace curtains now. Portieres and Tapestries in heavy demand, too. Some odd pairs of portieres and odd pieces tapestries at one-half today

Fancy Silk-An assortment | Umbrellas of all kinds being offered now at lower prices than ever before.

> Great Inducements to hotel, restaurant and boarding. house people, and all housekeepers, at linen counter. Table and house linens at lowest prices now.

You Can Save Money on Blankets Now. Great Sale of Muslin Underwear

EVERY ARTICLE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT REDUCED



Isn't always sufficient, so we'll keep reminding you of this great money-saving opportunity that hundreds of people have taken advantage of this

15% to 35%

reduction on anything in the house is quite an attraction when given on such a stock as you'll find here-all bright and new, and strictly up to date.

	\$9 values in Men's Wool Suits at	\$6.00
	\$10 and \$12 values in Men's Wool Suits at	\$8.50
	\$12 and \$14 values in Men's Wool Suits at	10.20
	\$15 values in Men's Wool Suits at	12.75
8	\$20 values in Men's Wool Suits at	17.00

Neckwear

Those who saw the beautiful line of highclass Neckwear we showed for the holidays will appreciate these values:

All the finest \$1.50 Scarfs go in this sale at	\$1.00
\$100 Neckwear at	75c
50c Neckwear at	35c

Boys' Department

All-Wool Cheviot Knee Pants, in plain blue or black and gray mixtures, sizes 3 to 16, 50c and 60c values

All-Wool Brown and Gray Check Knee Pants, sizes 3 to 16, 75c values

Brown, Blue or Black Cheviot and Worsted Knee Pants, sizes 3 to 16, \$1.00 values

\$3.00 Reefer Suits..... \$2.15 \$3.50 Reefer Suits..... \$2.65 \$5.00 Reefer Suits..... \$3.85

Boys' Wool Capsassorted colors, bands to pull over ears, good 50c values at...



MOYER CLOTHING COMPANY

THE POPULAR-PRICE CLOTHIERS

BEN SELLING, Manager

THIRD AND OAK STREETS

Our Great Annual Clearance Sale

Is a Pronounced Success

BECAUSE

Our stock is the largest and best in the city.

BECAUSE

Our prices, always the lowest, have been reduced to such an extent that every article in our stock is an attractive bargain, and

BECAUSE

Every statement we make to the public is absolutely reliable.

We advise our patrons to do much of their buying during the morning hours.

MEIER & FRANK CO.

PLACE FOR WOOLEN MILLS

DREGON EQUAL TO WEST OF ENG-LAND DISTRICT.

W. A. Semple, Experienced Manufacturer of Woolens, Says Western Oregon Conditions Are Good.

"I consider Portland one of the best places, if not the best, in the United States for establishing a woolen mill," were the words yesterday of a thoroughly experienced manufacturer of woolens. This man is W. A. Semple, manager of the Albany woolen mills at the present time, and a graduate of many years' ex-perience from the finest mills of the East. Mr. Semple was connected for many years with the Broad-Brook Company, of Connecticut, that turns out the very finest goods manufactured in America, and later with the Washington mills, Lawrence, Mass., where 5000 people are employed, and every grade of men's wearing goods are turned out. His unqualified indorsement of Portland as a first-class point for a factory of woolens is one of the most encouraging features encountered by the members of the Manufacturers' Associa-tion in their work to have a mill erected

Going into details as to why Oregon is so well adapted to this manufacturing in dustry, Mr. Semple sald:

"In the first place, Portland's shipping facilities for the products of such a factory are as good as can be found on the coast. But the great feature is the un-surpassed climate and water of this section of the state for woolen manufacturers. These have no superior, and of what importance they are to fine woolen manufactures is so well established all over the world that it is needless to dilate on of electricity from the atmosphere, and freedom of the water from alkali, are very rarely so favorably united as they are here. Absence of alkali from water and electricity from the atmosphere are absolutely essential to manufacture of the finest grades. Those are the conditions that gave the West of England its super-

lative name. Softness of fabrics, even-ness of yarns and brightness of colors in perfect state demand these conditions. "We can make right here goods equal to the famous Scotch cheviots, from Valley wool, and broadcloth, kersey and fine meltons, equal to the famous West of England make, from the Eastern Oregon fleeces. This, of course, implies that we have the machinery for the work, and are operating on such scale as to secure skilled employes. Eastern Oregon wool is better than the same grade grown in Texas. It possesses more elasticity than what is called territory wool. For a long time Oregon wool was graded as territory wool, but it now has a grading of its own. That means that breeding has progressed so far, and climate is such. progressed so tar, and chimate is asked, that it is reliable as to shrinkage and working qualities. Territory wool may be all right one year for manufacturing particular grades, and the next year be too tender. Here it is reasonably the same now all the time, which is largely

due to climatic conditions, and also to care in breeding. care in breeding.

"A representative of a large wholesale clothing house doing a \$4,000,000 business, said to me the other day: 'Oregon is bound to be one of the leading textile states of the Union.' I agree with him, if conditions favoring such manufactures are any indication. In the Past there is are any indication. In the East there is too much electricity for best results. That is one of the reasons that factories of that district have not risen higher than they have. The temperature there is also quite uneven. In some places water is bad. The peculiar combination is found in Oregon west of the Cascades for manufacturing. The alkali lands of East-ern Oregon do not affect the growth of wool. Alkali in water becomes deleterious in the washing, giving the fabric a harsher touch and leaving it less clean. Its absence from the water found in the

Willamette valley is very marked.
"Woolen mills in this state are doing
a splendid business, even on the small and unpretentious scale they are operated. I know of a mill that turned off a \$300,000 I know of a mill that turned off a \$300.009 order a short time ago because it was so busy it could not fill it. That was in this state, and the order came from the East, 3000 miles and more from here. If all the mills in Oregon were put together and run to the full capacity, I would guarantee that inside of two months I could place enough orders to keep them running for a whole year. The goods are shipped back East into the very centers of manufacturing industries, made up into clothing and reshipped here again for sale. Oregon goods are in great defor sale. Oregon goods are in great de-mand now. I refused a good order this morning because our mill is working away on orders placed some time ago. We have far more than we can possibly do with our present capacity. Quite frequently I receive communications from representatives of the large institutions in leave the coarser, cheap goods alone, and devote their energies to the fine goods. the East and Eastern merchants, expressing profound surprise why we do not enlarge capacity or build more mills. They tell me the opportunity is now before us, that Oregon has a bright future in woolen manufactures, and marvel why the people are not quicker to grasp the situation.
"Some people are so absurd as to claim that goods dyed in this state will not hold brilliancy of color like those of England.
I say goods manufactured hore, if the proper process and dye are used, will hold now, but in that time has become very

EVERY ARTICLE REDUCED

CLOAKS AND SUITS

THE SILVERFIELD FUR MANUFACTURING CO.

LEADING FURBIERS OF THE WEST.

283-285 Morrison St., Portland, Oregon

Telephone, Oregon, Oak 951.

select district of England that faded under the bright sun of this country, goods that were supposed to be dyed with indigo. It was because of fault in the work or dye, and is as likely to happen in England as here in Oregon, where conditions for

manufacturing are equally favorable.
"If a mill or mills established here make an up-to-date grade of goods, a reputation will soon be established that will be of vast benefit to the manufacturers of the state. There is already an eager demand for the grades we make. If the finest grades are made, then in times of depression the mills will get the benefit.

My experience is that in dull times there is a greater demand for good clothing material than when money is free. If times are good a man will purchase some-times are good a man will purchase some-times are good a man will purchase some-times are good as a second time. thing of a mediocre quality, with the purpose of wearing it while new, and casting it aside for another suit as soon as it shows wear. If times are more pinching, he knows he will not be able to buy often, and he endeavors to get something good and serviceable.
"Things are high now, but that is the

yery time the mills make the most money. The Eastern manufacturers have always made more money when wool was high than when it was low, that is, all except the shoddy manufacturers. I see no rea-son why the heavy demand for Oregon son why the heavy demand for Oregon goods should not continue. I do not understand exactly how it comes about that great manufacturers in the distant East come out here to seek little one-horse mills and compete for their products so industriously, unless because they know which is not perfect, the astronomer bemills and compete for their products so industriously, unless because they know our goods are all wool, and of peculiar excellence. It is so, nevertheless, and I see no reason why it should change, unless the manufacturers of clothing become discouraged from the limited output and consequent uncertainty of getting anything when business is pressing, and seek other mills. If we had mills to meet the demand, and put forth the best goods, such as we are capable of producing, Oregon's fame among the manufacturers of clothing would quickly leap to the very front, and then, after reputation was established, we could set prices for Oregon goods.

"I cannot see any objection to mills would assist him. To employ an analogy which is not perfect, the astronomer begins the reckoning of his day at noon, for it best suits his purpose so. Yet it is more natural to begin the counting of the day at midnight, as we do for civil purposes; as long, at least, as we affect to the word "day" any of the sarly significance which attaches chiefly to the daylight portion of the 24 hours.

The initial unit of any series is naturally called "first," or rather it is such by accepted definition of terms. By established usage, and therefore by definition, the Arabic numeral 1 or the Roman numeral 1 are applied to the one of any agrees that we call "first." In accordance with this established meaning, the

gon goods.

"I cannot see any objection to mills here on the labor question. We have the whole United States to pick from, and it mills are erected here of sufficient capactity to employ skilled laborers, they can easily be secured. It is only a matter of creating a demand for the laborers we want. Then, too, people of this community will be able to do much of the work from the very start. After the mills are all running, year after year, manufacture of woil be necessary to go beyond the state to be necessary to go beyond the state to find masters in the business, or perhaps better, other states will seek Oregon for skilled men in the manufacture of woolskilled men in the manufacture of wool-

throwing themselves away by devoting not try to compete with the East in this respect now. I say that they should leave the coarser, cheap goods alone, and

the door of the factory, in his estimation are sure to bring to the state large in-dustries in this line. In the Washington mills, of Massachusetts, where he worked for a long time, 5000 people were em-ployed, 1200 broad looms were used in the factory, and 160 sets of cards.

INITIAL UNIT IS "FIRST."

Nineteen Hundred Years Required to Complete Nineteenth Century.

suspicion; when he does so a second time, a humble apology is in order. Please, therefore, accept mine.

I beg to ask if The Oregonian, in com-

ment appended to a recent communica-tion of mine, did not still fail exactly to meet the point in question. The year that we usually write as the year I B. C. may be written by the astronomer as the year 0 B. C. Yet is it not true that the usual way is the natural way? Likewise, is it not entirely arbitrary for the astronomer to write it as he does? He is entirely justifiable, of course; for

ed to close the 19th century day before yesterday, might think that it was not their own perversity of thought that was bitrary' law of the Medes and Persians L. L. BUSH.

Self-Help in Town-Bullding.

The Dailes Times-Mountaineer The year 1900 must not pass by without leave the coarser, cheap goods alone, and devote their energies to the fine goods, such as fancy-weave mixtures, piece-dye diagonals, overcoatings, tweeds, and all grades of wool, fancy suitings and trousers. These can be manufactured here, and the profit is larger. Why should a mill devote its time to coarse material, when it can do much better, if only the men to produce batter cloth are secured?"

Mr. Semple has been in charge of the Albany mill for something over a year now, but in that time has become very