

those of the corresponding period of last year of nearly six million dollars.

The post office receipts show an increase of 19½ per cent.

The building record furnishes no comfort for the opponents of prohibition. Building operations amounted to \$1,609,098, as against \$1,251,181 for the corresponding seven months' period of last year, which is an increase over the highest record in the history of the city of nearly \$360,000.

The building record for the month of July, 1909, showed a larger percentage of increase than that of any city in the South, and was exceeded by that of only three cities in the United States.

The building inspector is being flooded with applications for permits. Many large industrial concerns in other parts of the country, with branch offices here, are making extensive improvements, and preparations are being made for the establishment of no less than half a dozen large new plants here.

Figures compiled from the office of the city treasurer show that property valuations have increased ten million dollars during the year.

#### Building Records Exceed all Previous Records in History of Birmingham

The building records for the last eight months show by far the largest building operations in the history of the city.

The building record of 1908 broke all previous records; that of eight months of 1909 was \$379,506, larger than for the corresponding period of the previous year.

For eight months of 1908 the figures, as furnished by the building inspector, were \$1,394,988; and for 1909 the record was \$1,774,504.

#### Internal Revenue Drops Under Prohibition

In the month of August, 1909, during half of which the new and sweeping prohibition laws were in force, the internal revenue collections were \$9,044.89, as against \$14,198.76 for the corresponding period of 1908.

#### Increase in Bank Clearings Exceeds \$6,000,000 in Eight-month Period

The first eight months of 1909 show a marked increase in bank clearings over a similar period of 1908, the gain being \$6,365,839.

It is seen from this and many other things that could be mentioned in this connection that the absence of saloons has not retarded industrial progress or interfered with the quantity or quality of labor, but, on the contrary, that both of these conditions have improved since the saloons were abolished.

#### Crime and Drunkenness Show Startling Drop Under Prohibition

The criminal record of Birmingham and all the rest of the State has shown a steady improvement.

Records of the county jail end of the court dockets show a decrease of crime in the last six months of some 20 per cent., as compared with the records of the same period a year ago under local prohibition, and about 70 per cent. lower than for the same period when saloons were in operation.

On September 2nd, 1907, when the saloons were doing business in Birmingham, there were 43 cases tried in the police court. On the same date in 1909 there were only eight cases, and in the afternoon of the latter date there was not a case for trial, which was never before known since Birmingham became a city.

An interesting comparison is found