

THE CITY OF OAKLAND.

This, the second city in population west of the Rocky Mountains, is located on the Bay of San Francisco, northwardly from the mouth of San Antonio creek. Its area extends on the eastward to the foot-hills of the San Pablo range of mountains. On the north, Temescal and Berkeley lie as immediately contiguous suburbs, soon to be absorbed within the limits of the rapidly expanding city. Piedmont and Fruit Vale eastwardly, and Alameda on the south, are parts of the future great city which shall cover the entire space from the bay to the hills, and which, in population and wealth, shall rank among the first on the continent.

The town of Oakland was incorporated in 1852, and so rapid was its growth that it became a city in 1854, with a population variously estimated at from one thousand to fifteen hundred. Latterly the growth of the city has been very rapid. The many natural advantages which she possesses, her charming scenery and delightful climate, her excellent educational facilities, her easy and rapid communication with the present commercial metropolis, and above all, her almost certain prospect, in the near future, of becoming a great commercial and manufacturing mart, all have combined to give an impetus to her growth which is simply unparalleled. On other pages will be found references to the varied institutions of the city, and details of interest concerning real estate and building transactions for the year.

Oakland justly claims to be the natural railroad center of California. This claim is not disputed, and its admittal brings with it the correlative one that she is the natural commercial center. With the necessary improvements in her harbor, which the judicious expenditure of a moderate sum will perfect, the commerce of the coast can find as commodious and less exposed anchorage at her wharves than at the opposite side. If the tardy appropriation of a few thousand dollars annually by the national government, for the improvement of the harbor, were to be supplemented by a generous one of say a million dollars by the large real estate owners on this side, the work could be speedily completed, and a return of tenfold the investment be made to the donors by the vast rise in real estate which the transfer of the commerce of the Pacific to her wharves would immediately cause.