

making many suggestions and recommendations, he glances at the future of the city, and seems to have correctly divined it, as can be seen from the following remarkable passage, which we copy from the minute book for the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four.

“The attention of capitalists in Eastern cities and of men connected with the several schemes for the construction of an Atlantic and Pacific Railroad is being strongly directed toward Oakland as the Pacific terminus and depot of the road, and hydrographic surveys, recently made, prove that the margin of the basin easterly from Yerba Buena Island, within the limits of the city, would be admirably adapted to that purpose. With the expenditure of a small sum in removing obstructions from its harbor, the commercial capabilities and advantages of Oakland would equal those of any town in the State. While the San Antonio Inlet, with its ever-placid waters, running through the whole extent of the city, would give anchorage to hundreds of sails of small vessels; the deep waters of the Bay of San Francisco at its north side affords a safe and commodious harbor for the largest merchantmen.

“The distance from Oakland to San Jose is less than forty miles, through a rich valley, the natural grade of which is so perfect that a railroad might be built in a straight line between the two places, with scarcely a rod of artificial grading. To Stockton, the distance by land is little over one-third of the distance by water. By a pass through the Contra Costa Mountains, a little to the southward, and by another pass in the Monte Diablo range, in the direct route, a railroad can be easily constructed between Stockton and this place, which would become the great thoroughfare for travel and the common carrier of merchandise to the rich valleys which skirt the Tulare Lake and to the Southern Mines.”

This message was published in a newspaper at that early day, issued in this city, the “Alameda Express.”

The earlier Councils of the city appeared to be inspired by the same feeling that animates the Council of the present time.