

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

City Superintendent—L. Walker.

Board of Education.—President—B. T. Martin, N. B. Hoyt, R. E. Cole, G. W. Armes, W. D. Harwood, L. Hamilton, Edw. McLean.

The Public Schools of Oakland are in a condition that is most satisfactory to the people and creditable to the city. We have five school houses, containing sixteen class-rooms. Twelve teachers are in the employ of the Department, eleven of the number being females. Lafayette Grammar School contains four class-rooms, in which studies of the Grammar School grade are taught. The eight remaining classes are of the primary grades.

In 1866, the Board of Education was first created by Act of the Legislature, and given full control of the City School Fund. Under this Act the powers of the Board were quite restricted, and in March, 1869, the Legislature passed another law, under which the present Board was elected, and is now acting. This Act provides that the Board shall consist of seven Directors; three and four to be elected each alternate year, and one Director to be chosen from each Ward of the city, whenever such Wards are established, if they do not exceed seven in number. The Board has the sole power to establish and maintain Public Schools in Oakland; employ and dismiss teachers; provide suitable rules and regulations for the government of the schools; procure supplies; build, alter, repair, and rent school buildings; purchase and sell land for school purposes, with the concurrent vote of the Council; maintain actions at law; determine the amount of school tax to be levied by the Council. The Board has exclusive control of the School Fund, and has ample power to carry into effect all the provisions of the Act.

No teacher can be employed in the School Department who does not bear a certificate issued by the City Board of Examination, and the Board of Education can determine upon what