

\$59,454 36; the income for the same time, \$64,042 02; leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$4,587 66.

Report of Board of Engineers.

Since the "form" went to press containing the article under the head of "Street Improvements," the Commission of Civil Engineers appointed by the Council have made their report, which has been adopted by the Council, with slight alteration. The report says: "The grades recommended for the macadamized streets coincide in most cases with the present, or 'Boardman Grade,' deviating therefrom in but a few isolated cases, where a change was deemed indispensable in order to conform to the general system proposed. The changes are, however, so slight, that those streets may be left in their present condition without inconvenience to travel; whenever the paving requires renewal, no material hardship will ensue by bringing them to the proper grade." The grade now being definitely established, we hope street improvements will be rapidly made, and that in another year we can chronicle the "march of improvements" by the mile. In our next volume we intend to give the number of streets, their lengths in feet, improvements made during the year, etc., etc.

GAS COMPANY.—The Oakland Gas Company, like all useful and prosperous institutions, is extending its pipes in every direction. Pipes have now reached the extreme end of the Point, and that thriving portion of Oakland is enjoying the luxury of gas lights. Before reaching the Point, however, we learn that the Company were obliged to purchase the right of way through several unopened streets, which are now claimed as private property. This street question, like many others afflicting our city, has retarded its growth, and been very expensive to both public and private enterprises.

CHANGE OF HOURS.—Since the advertisement of the Oakland Library was inserted, the Librarian, Mr. Charles H. Phelps, has received instructions to keep the institution open from ten A. M. to five P. M., and from six and a half to nine and a half P. M. This will accommodate the reading public, and add to the usefulness of the institution.

Botanical and Horticultural.

The climate in Oakland and vicinity appears better adapted to the propagation and growth of trees, shrubs and bulbous roots, than any other known portion of the California coast. Trees and shrubs of all kinds are raised from the seeds or cuttings without irrigation, and we are informed that all that is necessary to insure a good and thrifty growth, is to keep the earth loose during the dry season. The frosts, too, seldom injure the trees in this region. The acacias and other tropical trees in Oakland and vicinity, are now blooming in all the luxuriance of their original homes, while at San Jose and other localities, we learn that they have been badly injured by the frost. We think this region of country must ultimately supply the entire State with fruit trees, flowering trees, shade trees, shrubbery, bulbous roots, etc., for all these articles are raised in the open air and without irrigation. From the increase in these gardens in this vicinity, we judge that it is a profitable business. We mention but a few of the men engaged in this trade: James Hutchison, Stephen Nolan, John Carey, A. D. Pryal and W. F. Kelsey.

BOTANICAL GARDENS.—Oakland not only takes precedence as the seat of learning, but she also has the largest Botanical collection of native and foreign trees, shrubs, plants and bulbous roots on the Pacific Coast, which the enterprise of one of our nurserymen could get together during the last ten years. Here may be seen the conifera of our State, and the many beautiful and curious plants indigenous to California; also, an extensive collection of Australian and New Zealand trees and shrubs, which flower during our winter, and almost make us forget the season. Mexico, Chili and Peru, the West Indies and the world in general has contributed to give us such a collection of plants as is seldom seen growing together outside of California. Visitors from other States will here have an opportunity to see our trees and plants without going all over the State. Belle View Nursery is situated on Telegraph road, and is open to the public free of charge, and where Mr. Nolan, the proprietor, will always be pleased to give any information he may possess on the subject.