

not completed at this date, but it will speedily be made available. The structure is to cost twenty thousand dollars. It is built upon the water front reservation, and is an unusually solid and firm structure. Piers extend from the extremities of Webster and Franklin streets, and are connected on the line of deep water in the creek. At low tide there will be a depth of nine feet of water. At the end of the wharf and at high tide the water is sixteen feet deep. It will afford ample accommodations for a steamboat landing, and for the numerous small vessels engaged in freighting lumber, wood, coal and other coarse commodities to Oakland.

The contract for constructing this wharf had been let to Boobar & Co. for \$17,250, but there having been additions and alterations, the Council has set apart \$20,000 as a wharffund. On the line of deep water, there is a frontage of 320 feet. The pier extending from Franklin street is forty feet wide, and that from Webster street is twenty-five feet wide. There is a slip forty-five feet wide on the eastern side of the wharf.

The city has been enlarged by extending her limits, so as to embrace a thickly settled portion of the Oakland Valley, the map at the commencement of this volume showing the exact lines. This enlargement was the act of the people interested, who, by an affirmative vote of two to one, decided to bring their property under the jurisdiction of the city. They were prompted to do so on account of the educational facilities at the public schools, the benefits to be derived from the protection afforded by the Police and Fire Departments, and the readiness with which streets can be laid out and improved under the laws relative to the City of Oakland.

The exemption from the payment of an unjust and odious road tax, which did not benefit the city, is another subject for congratulation. For more than ten years a tax averaging forty-six cents on each one hundred dollars had been levied on property in Oakland, and expended for the improvement of roads through the ranches in the rear of Oakland, and in other parts of the county. The Legislature of 1871-2 abolished the tax, and the burdens imposed upon the people are to that extent lightened.

The city's title to the water front reservation on the creek has been perfected by a decision of the Supreme Court, defeating the adverse claim asserted by the San Francisco and Oakland Railroad Company.

A new engine house has been erected on the City Hall grounds, and an order has been sent East for another powerful steam fire engine, which is expected to arrive in Oakland in September. The Police Department has received special attention, is splendidly organized and is in the highest degree efficient. During the year 1871, 1,055 arrests were made. The latest improvement is the establishment of a line of telegraph connecting the City Hall with various remote parts of the city, which facilitates the work of the policemen, often leads to the capture of escaping criminals or suspected persons, and will be invaluable in enabling an alarm of fire to be given promptly. The telegraph line has