

not been constructed at the expense of the city, but has been paid for from the private funds of the Captain of Police, Foster B. Tarbett.

Morse instruments are used, and each police officer is able to receive and transmit messages. On several occasions, fire alarms have been communicated with promptness to the City Hall, and the firemen have been enabled to proceed to fires with the least possible delay. There is a station at Seventh street, south side, between Broadway and Washington streets, and one at Wilson's saloon, at the Oakland Point. The office of the *Daily News* is also in telegraphic communication with the City Hall. Capt. Tarbett is entitled to credit for the great efficiency of the Department. The officers under him are men of experience, and they have the respect and confidence of the people of Oakland. The avenues of approach to the city are carefully guarded. Every train that enters or departs from the city is inspected by some officer, and known thieves have often been captured while attempting to escape with their plunder, even before the officers making the arrest had heard of a robbery, or the owner of the goods had become aware of his loss. Incidents of this nature have happened so often, that of late the swarm of sneak thieves that infest the lower quarters of San Francisco have ceased to visit Oakland, because of the certainty that they would be caught should they commit depredations. The security enjoyed by the people on account of this wholesome terror among evil doers is hardly realized. Without ample police protection, Oakland would be a most inviting field for burglars and robbers, and property would be very insecure. The eleven men on the regular force are barely enough to attend to the duties that are required; a large area of territory is to be looked after, and the city should not be backward about employing a sufficient number of vigilant sentinels.

There has been a marked improvement in the general aspect and appearance of the city. House building has been confined to no particular locality. In every part of the city can be seen new buildings and houses in process of erection. On Broadway, above Eighth street, several elegant and substantial fire-proof brick buildings have been erected. We enumerate the buildings of the Union Savings Bank, Benitz' Building, Sessions' Building and Canning's Building. These are two-story brick buildings, with basements, built in the most solid and substantial manner and are ornaments to the city. The completion of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, on Jefferson street, between Seventh and Eighth streets, adds another magnificent structure to the number of which Oakland already boasts. The condition of the city is prosperous, its growth from year to year, for six years past, has been in an increasing ratio, and the most sanguine hopes have been fully realized.

LAND TITLES.

ABSTRACT OF THE ORIGIN OF THE TITLE TO THE LAND ON WHICH THE CITY OF OAKLAND IS SITUATED.

During the first few years after the settlement of the city, it was the popular belief that the "Squatter Title" was valid, and most of the