

the reservoir is two hundred million gallons. The daily consumption of water varies from half a million to a million gallons per day, according to the extent to which people may irrigate their gardens. The company has also appropriated the water of the Fruit Vale Creek and built a reservoir there, with a capacity of one million gallons. In case the mountain streams run low, use is made of artesian wells in Brooklyn, the water from which is forced by steam power into the mains. The water used in the city comes from the distributing reservoir on Academy Hill, one mile from Oakland and one hundred feet above tide water.

There can be obtained almost unlimited supplies of water from the creeks in the Coast Range, and whenever additional quantities are necessary they will be made available. The supply of water to Oakland is embraced in the plans of the San Francisco and Lake Tahoe Water Company.

The purity of the water supplied by the Contra Costa Water Company has lately been tested by the State Assayer, who certifies as follows: "I consider the water analyzed to be of excellent quality, and well adapted to domestic use."

The city is furnished illuminating gas by the Oakland Gas Light Company, which commenced operations January 1st, 1867. The city entered into a ten-year contract, in 1868, to light the streets; the company to receive $22\frac{1}{2}$ cents per night for each lamp until the number should exceed two hundred and fifty lamps, when the price was to be reduced to twenty cents per lamp. The annual amount of the bills for lighting the streets in the city, is \$15,000. The company has laid about sixteen miles of mains, and now supplies with gas the Town of Brooklyn. The works are located on the corner of Washington and First streets, and have a capacity of one hundred thousand cubic feet per day. The price charged to consumers is five dollars per thousand cubic feet.

The Home Gas Light Company has a franchise to lay mains through the streets and supply the city with pneumatic gas, but has not yet commenced the erection of works.

THE RAILROAD SYSTEM.

It is broadly asserted that Oakland is the center of the railroad system of the Pacific Coast, and a mere glance at any railroad map shows that such is the case. The several lines of railroad in operation in California are either owned or controlled by the Central Pacific Railroad Company, and they all concentrate in this city. Words cannot convey this idea as forcibly as any railroad map and an accompanying table of distances. Not only the railroads now in existence, but those projected and likely to be completed within the next few years, converge to the same point. As San Francisco now is and ever must be the metropolis of the Pacific Coast, the managers of railroads are compelled to locate their terminal improvements in Oakland, because they further their own interests by so doing. The Central Pacific Railroad Company own seventy acres of land at the Oakland Point, used as a site for round-houses