

a cozy and comfortable place of amusement for citizens, and when meritorious entertainments are here given, the house is well filled and frequently crowded.

The Free Reading Room, on the corner of Washington and Eleventh Streets, was established in the Summer of 1877, through the thoughtful and disinterested exertions of a few influential citizens. It is proving to be a grand success, and gladdening the hearts of the benevolent founders. Liberal contributions of books, magazines, and newspapers, are constantly made by friends of the cause. The room is crowded daily and nightly by both young and old, many of whom have no homes of their own, and find this hall a very attractive place of resort. The institution is already exerting a very salutary influence in this community.

Among the many amusements indulged in during the year, may be mentioned those of yachting, target-shooting, and sports of the turf. A number of the fleetest craft in the State are moored in San Antonio Creek, and the Pearl, Minnie, Startled Fawn, and Frolic, owned by gentlemen residing in Oakland and neighborhood, have shown their rudders to more than one rival boat in tests of speed on the bay.

The Pardee Shooting Gallery, at Tubbs' Hotel, affords amateur marksmen a conspicuous place to exhibit their skill with the rifle at short range. But the favorite shooting grounds are at Melrose, where the Oakland Club very frequently meets for target practice.

A turf association, comprising representatives from San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties, was organized a few months since in Oakland, and promises to infuse new vigor into equine sports during the present season.

The Oakland Light Cavalry, organized in 1877, made their first appearance in public parade on Washington's birthday. Their uniform is brilliant, and the wearers, all young and stalwart citizens, presented quite a martial appearance. They were escorted by the Oakland Guard, an infantry company, of which this city is justly proud. Her citizen soldiery can be relied upon in trying times.

The prospects for a prosperous season in Oakland the present year were never so flattering. Despite the extraordinarily wet Winter, and consequent dullness in trade, prices of real estate have not for a moment flagged. Sales at auction, held in stormy weather, have drawn well, and fully met the expectations of the public. Confidence in the future prosperity of the city is unbounded. The rapid influx of capital seeking investment here shows that people from abroad entertain the same confidence as that felt by the residents of the city themselves.

ASSESSMENTS OF PROPERTY.—Nothing exhibits in so practical and satisfactory a manner the wonderful advance of city property as the assessment rolls. Subjoined are the figures from 1863-4 to date :

YEAR.	AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT.
1863-64.....	\$ 794,121
1864-65.....	970,125
1865-66.....	1,107,949
1866-67.....	1,434,800
1867-68.....	1,832,428
1868-69.....	3,363,478
1869-70.....	4,256,702
1870-71.....	4,563,737
1871-72.....	5,215,704
1872-73.....	6,647,039
1873-74.....	18,539,303
1874-75.....	19,867,162

O. K. FREEMAN & CO., agents for Newport Coos Bay Coal, NW cor. Eighth and Franklin sts.