

Number of letters mailed, 812,568; number of newspapers and packages mailed, 486,519; number of postal cards mailed, 55,987; number of letters delivered from boxes and general delivery, 859,641; number of newspapers delivered, 547,500; number of postal cards delivered, 115,546; number of letters sent to Dead Letter Office, 11,273; amount of money orders received, \$111,793.09; amount of money orders paid, \$76,113.38.

STOCK YARD STATION.—The Stock Yard Station, on the Berkeley branch of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, is located about one mile from Oakland, and approached by the San Pablo Avenue. At this Station, some three years ago, Mr. H. M. Ames built two slaughterhouses, one for the killing of sheep and the other for cattle. Since then this business has rapidly increased, and there are now seven slaughterhouses, in which are killed daily one hundred cattle and three hundred sheep, besides hogs, lambs, calves, etc., in all, doing a business of about \$6,000 per day. Besides these, there are two establishments for the rendering of tallow; two good hotels—one just completed by Mr. Ames, to be known as the Golden Gate Hotel—and a substantial wharf, also lately built. The future of this place is looking very bright, and men who should know predict that it will be the great cattle market and *abbatoir* of the Pacific Coast.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.—In 1877 there were erected in Oakland more imposing blocks of brick buildings than in any previous year. The aggregate cost of these was \$1,000,000. Among the more conspicuous may be mentioned the new City Hall, built on the site of the old structure, which was destroyed by fire August 25th of last year; also, Kohler & Chase's, A. C. Henry's, Merritt's, and others.

Two new blocks are noticeable at the junction of Market with Seventh streets, showing that business buildings of a permanent character are needed in this quarter. The same remark applies to West Oakland, where C. B. Rutherford is putting up a substantial brick block.

The Independent Presbyterian Church has undergone radical improvements at a cost of \$15,000, and St. Paul's Church been almost entirely rebuilt at a cost of \$8,500. Dietz Opera House has received material alterations.

The contract has been given out for the building of a new edifice for the First Congregational Church, which will cost \$55,000.

The number of private dwellings, lodging houses, etc., has kept pace with that of the more pretentious mercantile blocks. Some of the mansions are very costly, among which are those of Messrs. Requa, Ralston, and David Houghton—the former at Piedmont, valued at \$100,000.

Bredhoff & Cordes, proprietors of the Washington Brewery, have nearly completed, at a cost of \$40,000, an extensive and substantial building for brewing purposes, situated on the corner of Fifth and Kirkham streets. The area of the building is eighty-three by one hundred and twenty-five feet, with a capacity of sixty barrels per day.

The value of buildings erected in East Oakland, including the convent school and new engine house, is \$242,000. A convent school has likewise been built on Grove Street, in the rear of St. Mary's Church.

Accurate statistics obtained from owners, contractors, etc., place the entire cost of dwellings in Oakland, exclusive of Brooklyn mentioned above, at \$771,000.

One of the most valuable public improvements constructed during the year was the substantial bridge which spans San Antonio Creek on the line of Eighth Street.

O. K. FREEMAN & CO., coal and wood dealers, NW cor. Eighth and Franklin sts.