

covers an area of one hundred and twenty acres, and is fed by numerous perennial springs, and from a water shed of two thousand five hundred square acres. The company own a tract surrounding the lake of four thousand acres. No animals are allowed to graze on these lands, so that the waters are kept free from all impure and deleterious substances.

The present capacity of Lake Chabot will supply about one hundred and fifty thousand persons, but, when required, an abundance of water can be obtained for the wants of a city of five hundred thousand inhabitants. The company already has one hundred miles of pipe laid, from twenty-four inches down to three inches in diameter. The water rates are regulated by a commission appointed according to law.

The company is constantly laying pipe and extending the works in all directions. The average number of men employed in the city, in 1877, was fifty, and about the same number at the San Leandro and Temescal lakes, making an average of one hundred men per day for the year.

OAKLAND GAS LIGHT COMPANY.—This company was incorporated in 1866. Street lamps were first lighted in Oakland, New Year's night, 1867. The present officers are: H. H. Haight, President; J. West Martin, Vice-President; Joseph G. Eastland, Secretary; Van Leer Eastland, Superintendent.

The works of the company were first located on the block bounded by First, Washington, and Second streets, on which they have a single left holder of one hundred and twenty-five thousand cubic feet capacity; also retort house, engine room and storage, etc.

During the past year the company has shown its faith in the future growth of Oakland by making addition to its works (on property acquired for that purpose) situated on block bounded by First, Second, Grove, and Jefferson streets, consisting of a double left holder of five hundred thousand cubic feet capacity; also purifying house, one hundred and fifty-four feet long by thirty-six feet wide, and a meter house of proportionate size; also a tower, scribber, and independent water works. All of these are on the most modern and approved plan known, and comprise all the latest improvements in the science of gas making.

The price of gas at first was \$7.50 per thousand feet, since which time it has been gradually reduced as follows: January, 1870, to \$6.75; January, 1871, to \$6.00; January, 1872, to \$5.00; January, 1874, to \$4.57; March, 1875, to \$4.25; January, 1876, to \$4.00; and in October, 1877, to San Francisco rates, i. e., \$3.75 per thousand cubic feet.

The fact of the City of Oakland covering such an extent of territory, requires a very large outlay in the way of street mains in proportion to the amount of gas consumed.

This company uses in its manufacture only the best English and Australian coals, no first-class gas coal having up to the present been discovered on this coast.

STREET RAILWAY SYSTEM.

The city of Oakland is a grand railway center, owing to its geographical location, its proximity to the commercial metropolis, and its accessibility from all portions of the State. The two grand trunk roads, i. e., Central Pacific and Southern Pacific, have their common terminus at Oakland Wharf. Then again, the railroads extending southward towards San José, Newark, etc., virtually terminate in this city. The Bay Shore road connects Martinez with Oakland at the extreme end of Long Bridge, while the Berkeley Branch road also terminates at West Oakland. What is generally termed the Oakland local railroad runs from the extreme end

O. K. FREEMAN & CO., wholesale and retail dealers in wood and coal.