

The assessed valuation of the city for 1876-7 was.....	\$24,000,718 00
For 1877-8.....	25,845,028 00
For 1878-9.....	27,730,109 00
Tax levy for 1878-9.....	277,301 09
Library tax to be added.....	13,879 05

Street Improvements.

The natural conformation of the surface throughout the city is such that heavy grades are not required, hence the expense of preparing streets ready for macadamizing is comparatively small. Street work was done to a considerable extent in various sections during the year. The number of lineal feet of macadam laid was 38,015, equal to seven and one-fifth miles, at a cost of \$154,728.99. The number of feet of grading and curbing additional to that upon those streets which were macadamized was 14,306, and the cost \$56,765.99. There were 34,378 lineal feet, or about seven miles of sewers laid at a cost of \$34,378. Over two and one-half miles of sidewalks, or 13,436 feet were constructed, costing \$3,396.53. The total cost of street improvements upon unaccepted streets was \$252,319.46. These figures are for the year ending April 1st, 1879. To this sum is to be added the work done by the city upon accepted streets, amounting to \$35,449.94, and we have an aggregate of \$287,769.40 as the amount expended upon the streets of Oakland in one year. The reader will observe that the sum paid for this class of public improvements amounted to nearly one thousand dollars for each working day in the year.

Municipal Licenses.

The city derived a revenue of exceeding forty-five thousand dollars from licenses to general traders during the year. Nearly all branches of business require a license. There are a few exceptions, among which are blacksmiths and barbers. Why a blacksmith should be exempted from this tax, while a tinsmith or painter is required to pay license is not apparent. The following list shows the number of licenses issued, and approximately the number of business places in the city: Banks, 2; brokers, 7; brewers, 4; bill posters, 1; express agents, 2; hotels, 2 (boarding and lodging houses, of which the number is legion, many of them hotels in every sense of the word, are not required to take out a license); insurance agents, 37; laundries, 58; livery stables, 19; saloons, 211; meat markets, 53; marble workers, 2; merchant tailors, 11; merchandise peddlers, 42; produce peddlers, 116; photographers, 8; pawnbrokers, 1; plumbers, 12; paint shops, 5; real estate offices, 28; restaurants, 29; shooting galleries, 3; saddlers, 7; steam power, 6; tinsmiths, 12; auctioneers, 9; general merchandise, 479; total, 1,158.

Mortuary Statistics.

The death rate of the City of Oakland is less than that of any other city in America from which reports are received. Dr. Cary, the Health Officer, estimates the population at 42,500, and the death rate per 1000 for the past year at 12.54. The total number of deaths for the year 1878 was 533, classified as follows: Zymotic, 113; constitutional, 104; local, 194; developmental, 81; violence, 39; unknown, 2. There were 295 male; and 238 female decedents of the total of 533; the number under one year of age was 148. If the estimate of population is correct Oakland may justly claim to be one of the healthiest cities of the world.

Fire Department.

The Fire Department of Oakland comprises four first-class steam fire engine companies: The Phoenix No. 1; J. B. Felton No. 2; Oakland No. 3; and Brooklyn No. 4; Relief Hook and Ladder Company No. 1; and the Empire Hose No. 1. It is officered by a Chief Engineer, First and Second Assistants, with forty-seven men on its company rolls. The expenses for 1878 were: For salaries \$19,291 90; running expenses, \$5,817 48; all other expenses, including purchase of new material and construction of