

The Harbor of Oakland.

The harbor facilities of Oakland, with a moderate degree of improvement, might surpass any on the coast if not upon the continent. The fact of deep water on the other side of the Bay determined the location of the commercial metropolis. It is safe to say, however, that the expenditure of one-tenth the sum of money used in transforming the site of the great peninsular city into a habitable place, would, had it been used on the main land, have developed far superior facilities to those now enjoyed by our metropolitan neighbor.

An artificial harbor is afforded by the estuary of San Antonio, which opening into the main bay, opposite the city of San Francisco, extends inland for something over two miles on the southern boundary of Oakland. The improvement of this estuary has been the theme of discussion for years, and many plans have been proposed and some partially carried into effect.

In 1860 about \$30,000 was expended in dredging the channel across the bar at the mouth of the estuary. In 1868 a further sum of \$15,000 was likewise expended. Finally, so evident was the importance of the work, that the national government interested itself in the matter. In 1873 a bill passed Congress, and was approved by the President, appointing a Board of Commissioners to survey the harbor of San Antonio Creek and submit plans for its improvement to an extent that sea-going vessels might enter. The first official report was made in February, 1874, and reports have since been made yearly.

The important matters to consider, were to what the estuary could be developed so as to make it a commercial harbor, the number and character of vessels it could accommodate if so developed, and the cost of the enterprise. The area of the estuary is about 900 acres, and it is evident to all, that if so improved as to admit vessels of any tonnage, however large, that it would supply ample space for all that would enter the Bay of San Francisco.

It was decided to erect parallel training walls from the mouth of the creek to deep water. The effect of these walls would be to confine the flow of water from the estuary at ebb tide to a narrow space, and thus washing out the sand between them. The cost of this preliminary work was estimated at about one-half million of dollars. It was also estimated that nearly one and one-half millions of dollars additional would be necessary to complete the excavation and dredging of the harbor proper.

Jonas J. Morrison will sell you Cheaper and Better Lumber than any one in the trade. Try him.