



**L. McLean**  
(Successor to  
D. Tisch),

# Nurseryman & Florist

SEEDS  
and

FLORAL

DEPOT,

479 7th

Street.

Oakland.



dwelling unadorned with a handsome garden is apt to be classed as the abode of a shiftless family. In every direction green lawns and well-kept grounds gladden the eye of the visitor and create within him an impression decidedly favorable to the people in whose midst he sojourns. The tenderest plants are here grown in the open air, so mild and balmy is the atmosphere. Harsh winds, and cold, damp fogs, are almost unknown, as the town lies out of range of the winds coming through the Golden Gate from the ocean, and is also protected by its dense barrier of native trees. The winter season is particularly pleasant, as the sandy soil quickly absorbs the rain, and mud—nasty, sticky mud—is an unknown quantity. In summer there is generally a cooling breeze from the surrounding waters, dispelling the sweltering heat, which, further inland, often makes life almost unendurable.

In every portion of the town a bountiful supply of surface water of excellent quality may be found at an average depth of sixteen feet, while artesian wells are quite numerous and comparatively cheap. On the island, and near the shore-line at the eastern boundary of the town, several flowing wells have been secured. The main water supply, however, pure from nature's fount, is furnished by the Artesian Water Works, owned by Capt. R. R. Thompson, a citizen of great wealth and commendable public spirit. The water is drawn from a number of large artesian wells, located between High Street and San Leandro Bay, from whence it is forced into an immense tank of wrought-iron, 60x60 and 11 feet deep, which covers the top of a building specially erected on Park Street for the purpose. From this reservoir it is distributed through the mains and supply pipes, the fall, 60 feet, giving sufficient force for domestic purposes. In case of fire, the engineer of the works is notified by telephone, and the powerful pumps at the wells are at once applied to the mains, affording a stream of such power that it has been deemed necessary to issue an order that in no case must a fire hydrant be closed until the connection has been removed. This heavy pressure obviates the necessity of having fire engines to pump from the mains, and the fire department of the town is composed merely of four hose companies and a truck company.

A bird's-eye view of Alameda generally gives the beholder an idea that its surface is perfectly flat, but this is far from being the case. Throughout the entire length of the peninsula is a ridge from which the ground gradually slopes to the water on the north and south, this ridge at its highest point being twenty-nine feet above high water. This fall creates an excellent natural drainage, and to this fact may perhaps be charged the failure to provide a proper system of sewerage for the town. At the rate at which the population is increasing, it will soon be

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