

Clear proof of the value of this department's activities and facilities to the community lies in the comparative analysis of 1927-1928 and 1928-1929 figures showing playground attendance and gross income from various facilities:

	1927-1928	1928-1929	Increase
Playgrounds attendance.....	1,790,167	1,954,296	164,129
Lake Merritt attendance.....	86,000	92,280	6,280
Chabot Golf Course attendance.....	54,000	65,043	11,043
Mountain Camps attendance.....	1,240	1,584	344
Gross income from golf, camps, and boats....	\$71,000	\$77,000	\$6,000

Mountain Camps

In connection with our municipal mountain camps I will again urge the necessity of acquiring at least one similar facility closer to the city. Several locations are available in the Santa Cruz Mountains, in Sonoma and Marin Counties, and on the coast. These camps could be open practically all the year, transportation would be cheaper to them, and working members of households could visit camping families during week-ends. If land could not be had through donation by public-spirited citizens, and purchase would therefore be necessary, I am sure that the people of this city would recognize the situation and willingly vote bonds to defray the initial cost. Thereafter, following the success of our two Sierra camps, they would more than pay for themselves.

Each year shows an increase in the popularity of our municipal vacation camps. Last season the camper days at the Oakland, Feather River and Tuolumne Camps totaled 17,567 camper days in comparison with the 1928 total of 15,511 camper days—an increase of 13 per cent.

Kamp Kidd for boys and Camp Sierra, our girls' camp, were under the direction and guidance of trained leaders and counselors, and provided for many of our boys and girls a wonderful outing and educational vacation in the High Sierras. Camp Chabot, for girls, located on the golf course property, provided a week of activity in the open for hundreds of our playground girls, at the cost of \$5.00 per week. This camp was completely renovated and was filled to capacity during the entire school vacation.

The Annual Christmas Pageant and May Day Festivals, given in co-operation with the Oakland Public Schools, were outstanding in their success. Twenty-five hundred children participated in the two performances, which were attended by many thousands of spectators.

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

Expansion is Mandatory

The Oakland Free Library is in dire need of an extensive building program. The main library building, a gift of the late Andrew Carnegie, was constructed in 1902, when the population of the City of Oakland was only 60,000. Today the 400,000 people of this city demand bigger and more conveniently located facilities.

Under the most able direction of the Board of Directors of the Oakland Free Library system, plans are being worked out along these lines. Tentatively they call for a building program that will allow of a centrally located administration building and yet give every section of the city its own local library structure. These buildings will house not only regular library facilities, but will each have an auditorium for local community music festivals, amateur theatricals, debates, and so on, and will, furthermore, lend themselves to the exhibition of unit collections circulated throughout the branch system by the Oakland Public Museum. Each building will be so constructed as to allow additions that will further tend to beautify the original structure, and each also will be beautifully parked.

The members of the Library Board are appointees of the Mayor, and it is my intention in the near future to place before the public the opportunity of voting an issue of bonds to carry on this needed expansion. The next year or two, also, will probably see