

The Fire Department held an election for officers, when Frank E. R. Whitney was elected Chief Engineer, and W. O. Smith, D. T. Van Orden, and C. S. Simpson, Assistants.

DEC. 3.—Complete changes were made in the Police Department. Four new captains and a number of policemen were sworn in; very few of the old force were retained.

DEC. 5.—Maguire's new Opera House was commenced on the 15th of October and finished this date. The first performance was given on the evening of the 6th.

DEC. 10.—José Y. Limantour arrested, under an indictment found against him for presenting a fraudulent claim (which was confirmed), to the Land Commission, involving a large portion of the City of the San Francisco, Alcatraz Island, and other property. There was a great excitement in certain quarters in consequence of the arrest. He gave \$30,000 bail for his appearance.

DEC. 15.—An entertainment in compliment to Mons. P. Dillon, late Consul of France at this port, was given at the International Hotel on the evening of this date. It was a farewell testimonial previous to his departure from California, and was numerously attended.

The San Francisco Gas Company removed the lanterns from almost all the gas posts in the city, with the exception of one at the intersection of each cross street. This reduction of light was the result of the action on the part of the Board of Supervisors in refusing to pay the price charged for gas by the Company.

DEC. 22.—Forefathers' Day, celebrated at the International Hotel by a grand dinner, which was principally partaken of by gentlemen from the New England States. It was well attended, and altogether, was a very happy affair. A great many addresses were made on the occasion by different gentlemen, most of them worthy of doing honor to the Pilgrim fathers.

DEC. 31.—The San Francisco Divorce Calendar for the year 1856, shows that 110 divorce suits were instituted in the Fourth and Twelfth District Courts. In 39 of these cases, decrees of divorce were granted, previous to the expiration of the year. In 1855, there were 72 suits commenced in the city, and decrees dissolving marriage were rendered in all of them.

During the year 1856, there were 146 applications in insolvency, in which, 42 were made in the Fourth District Court, and 104 in the Twelfth District Court. The total amounts were as follows:

Liabilities.....	\$3,401,042
Assets, as given.....	637,908
Balance of failure.....	\$2,763,134

In the year 1855, the number of applications were 197, and the failures much larger, as follows:

Liabilities.....	\$8,377,827
Assets.....	1,519,175
Balance of failure.....	\$6,858,652

The passenger statistics show that in 1856, the arrivals and departures by sea, were as follows:

Total arrivals.....	29,630
" departures.....	22,747
Excess of arrivals.....	6,883

Showing a net gain of population from arrivals by sea of only 6,883, which is a very unfavorable exhibit. About 8,000 were added to the population by the overland route, and it is estimated they brought with them from 25,000 to 30,000 head of horned cattle.

The following is a comparative statement of the exports from San Francisco for the years 1855 and 1856.

	1855.	1856.
Treasure.....	\$43,080,211	\$48,887,543
Merchandise, Produce and Quicksilver....	4,189,611	4,270,515
	\$47,269,822	\$53,158,058