

GENERAL REVIEW.

Public Schools.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

WALES L. PALMER, President.

DIRECTORS.—L. B. Mastick, 1st District; J. H. Widber, 2d District; J. W. Dodge, 3d District; William Bartling, 4th District; Lafayette Story, 5th District; James Bowman, 6th District; William G. Badger, 7th District; George Cofran, 8th District; Wales L. Palmer, 9th District; C. C. Knowles, 10th District; M. Lynch, 11th District; Joseph M. Wood, 12th District.

George Tait, Superintendent; D. H. Whittemore, Secretary.

It is a source of peculiar gratification to all who are concerned in the prosperity of our city, to observe the flourishing condition of our Public School Department. In proportion as the city has extended her limits to admit fresh accessions to her population—extended her trade and commerce, and embellished the streets with princely edifices and stately rows of stores—so, with commensurate pace, has our School Department multiplied and improved its school-houses and increased its educational advantages.

Schools are the landmarks of civilization. The miserable hovels in which the first Public Schools were here held, had their counterpart in the wretched appearance of our streets and the disorganized state of society prevailing here during the early years of our city's existence.

So, too, the quiet and comfort of many a fire-side, the thrift of the artisan, the affluence of the merchant, and the familiar sound of the church bell to be found here, on all sides, at the present day, are reflected in not a few of our schools by the neat attire of the pupils, their quiet deportment, and their zeal in the acquisition of knowledge. During the past year, the Board of Education have labored earnestly to extend and improve the advantages of popular instruction.

Ten additional teachers have been employed and three new schools have been opened in districts hitherto scantily supplied with school accommodations. The study of penmanship and drawing has been facilitated by the employment of a special teacher of these branches.

The quality of the instruction given in the schools has been greatly improved by a new

and more systematic classification of pupils, and by requiring of teachers greater uniformity in their modes of teaching. The influence of the Normal School and the Teachers' Institute has been made of more practical benefit, and of greater interest to the teachers, by abridging the course of study in the former, and enlivening the latter association by a regular programme of lectures, essays, and other literary exercises.

After payment of all current demands on the *School Fund* in cash, and discharging the floating debt of the previous fiscal year, (\$23,000,) the *School Fund* showed, July 1, 1862, a balance of \$12,000 in the treasury.

The Assessment Roll, according to which taxes are to be levied, this year, places the taxable property of this city at \$50,000,000. On this basis, the School Fund for this fiscal year will be \$175,000, without including the surplus revenue of last year, or the amount apportioned by the State for the support of Public Schools. Now that this Department is relieved of the incubus of a heavy debt, a more substantial progress in educational matters may be looked for during the present year. This progress will be considerably advanced by the State Normal School, established recently in this city for the professional education of teachers. From this source, we anticipate a home-made supply of well-trained teachers.

The children of our citizens have a rich inheritance in the valuable real estate owned by the School Department. If this property be kept intact, a revenue may be derived from the rental of it which will render the tax levied annually for the support of Public Schools a matter of little concern to our tax-payers. This estate consists of seven 50-vara and two 100-vara lots, besides six other lots little less than 50-varas, all of which are eligibly located on principal streets of the city. In addition to these, there are twenty-eight 50-varas located in various sections of the Western Addition, Mission blocks and the Potrero.

After indefatigable exertions made by the late City Attorney and the then Superintendent of Schools, a protracted law suit for the possession of the most valuable portion of this property