

provements actually secured were substantial, and well calculated to inspire the fullest confidence in the growth and development of the city.

The following extract, from the valedictory of ex-Mayor Thomas H. Selby, delivered in December, 1871, will afford the reader a bird's-eye glance at several of the leading features of our internal condition during that year :

"A brief summary of the present, while it illustrates what has been accomplished, must be accepted as indicating continued progress. The population, numbering at least one hundred and thirty-five thousand, embracing all nationalities and creeds, have gathered in a little more than twenty years, while thousands from here have contributed to the growth of thriving cities and towns in neighboring counties. The corporate limits embrace an area of thirty-six square miles, having ten miles of available wharf-frontage on the harbor. The buildings number over twenty thousand, exclusive of the Federal structures erected or being built, and to which the Government will, it is believed, add others; for San Francisco, although only the tenth city in the Union in population, ranks fourth in maritime importance, having paid last year \$8,000,000 into the Custom House. In the value of its commerce, this port is exceeded only by New York and New Orleans—the total amount of our foreign and domestic exports, in gold and produce, the last fiscal year, having been \$64,000,000, of which \$32,000,000 was foreign. The number of arrivals during the year 1871 from foreign and Atlantic ports and coastwise was 3,620. Six lines of ocean steamers connect us with the principal sea ports, north and south, and with China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific. During the last year we paid \$13,000,000 in Federal taxes and duties, and our Internal Revenue tax is larger in proportion to the number of inhabitants than that of any other city in the United States. The total operations of the Branch Mint in San Francisco (where, since its establishment, \$321,000,000 in gold and silver have been coined) amount to more than one-half of the entire coinage at the Philadelphia Mint since the organization of the United States Government. Occupying such a position, therefore, relatively to the national trade, finance and revenue, San Francisco may reasonably expect increased outlays by the Government. The Branch Mint now being built will be on a scale in keeping with the above figures. We also require larger and more commodious buildings for the United States Customs, Courts, Internal Revenue and other Federal purposes. Our Common Schools, eighty-seven in number, are liberally-supported—the expenditures of that Department last year having been upward of \$700,000. There are forty-four large and substantial school houses belonging to the city, the remaining schools being held in rented premises. All are free from sectarian teachings, and are attended by 20,000 children. We have also sixty-three private and denominational schools, seminaries, and colleges, attended by about 7,000 pupils. There are sixty-eight churches in the city, and eighty newspapers and periodicals (daily, weekly and monthly) are published here. A city which, not many years ago, was a by-word for violence and crime, is now noted for its progress in culture and refinement, the beauty and comfort of its homes, the variety and richness of its wares, the number of its literary and educational institutions and its varied and thriving industries. The provident character of its people is seen by the great number who possess homesteads of their own, and in the substantial fact that the aggregate deposits in our savings banks amount to \$35,000,000 in gold. The streets, roads and avenues improved by wood and cobble-stone pavements, macadamizing and plankings, measure one hundred and twelve miles, and are lighted at night by 3,600 gas lamps, at a cost of about \$200,000 per annum. Under the thoroughfares the pipes of the Water Company extend a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles, and there are forty miles of street railroad. Of carriages, omnibuses, cars and other licensed vehicles, there are 4,800, and probably as many private conveyances. Since the close of the fiscal year 1870-'71, the Funded Debt, which was then \$3,624,200, has been reduced by cancellation of Bonds to \$3,106,500. Deduct \$228,000, now in the Treasury, to the credit of the Sinking Fund, and there remains an actual debt of \$2,878,500. At no time during the last fifteen years has the indebtedness of our city been so small, nor its credit stood so high as now. Municipal taxes are collected on an assessment roll of \$100,000,000, of real and personal property, realizing about \$3,000,000, of which nearly one-third is for State purposes—San Francisco contributing a little less than one-half of the revenue of California. For several public charities, including Alms House and Hospital, upward of \$1,000,000 have been paid out of the City Treasury in the last five years. Of private relief and benevolent societies, some of them maintaining their own hospitals and asylums, we have about seventy, not counting subdivisions of orders."

Supplementary to the foregoing epitome of his Honor, Mr. Selby, we note the steady improvements made in the southern portion of the city, where a large number of commodious and handsome residences have been erected, all of them giving unmistakable indications of social comfort and domestic attachments. Without architectural pretension, they are, nevertheless, infinitely in advance of the tenement structures so prevalent during the first fifteen years of American occupation, and are quite equal in all respects to the suburban homes of Eastern cities. The process of preparing a public park, suitable for the future of San Francisco, was carried on with more or less vigor during the year past, and public opinion has so settled down to the necessity of having a noble resort of this kind, that its early completion may be regarded as certain. Our Senators and Representatives in Congress are also making strenuous efforts to obtain from the General Government the release of

AFINA INSURANCE COMPANY, OF HARTFORD, lost over \$3,000,000 in the CHICAGO FIRE, and paid in full, Dollar for Dollar.