

Surveyor-General, contains a population of but seven thousand three hundred and fifty-nine; the assessed value of all its real and personal property was only \$2,505,565. These figures are furnished, not as a basis for invidious comparison, but with the object of placing together useful and interesting facts.

Certain interested advocates of the Northern Pacific Railroad have given wide publicity to the assertion that the western terminus of that road on Puget Sound, will be nine hundred miles nearer to China and Japan than the Port of San Francisco. The majority of persons, having never made any inquiries on this subject, have no doubt accepted the above assertion as true; but the facts show it to be entirely without foundation. We have had full information on this subject from some of the most experienced navigators on this side of the continent. They state that, in point of direct distance, Puget Sound is actually nearer to China and Japan than San Francisco, but that the prevailing currents, winds and seas (upon which the Summer and Winter courses sailed depend) are in our favor. If a line of steamers were now placed on the route between Puget Sound and the centers of foreign trade in Asia, they would not at once sail on a direct given parallel of latitude across the North Pacific Ocean. Even the steamers of the Pacific Mail line from this port do not do so. They make a southerly divergence of about eight degrees in Winter, to avoid the heavy seas and adverse winds usually encountered at this season, before crossing the meridian and striking a course directly across the ocean. The advantages claimed for Puget Sound are thus shown to be baseless.

The present assessed value of the real estate and improvements of the City and County of San Francisco is \$190,000,000; the assessed (though supposed now to be the real) value is still at least \$60,000,000 below the selling price. There are twenty-eight thousand acres of land in the City and County of San Francisco, and about one hundred and seventy-five thousand building lots; the total number of property-owners is about sixteen thousand. Men of small means can purchase building lots, distant twelve to twenty-five minutes' walk from the center of the city, for \$1,200 to \$1,600 each. The tax-rate last year, for city, county and State purposes, was one and one half per cent on each \$100 of assessed valuation.

New Buildings.

NEW BUILDINGS ERECTED OR COMPLETED IN 1872.—The largest building completed in San Francisco last year was the new City and County Hospital. It occupies a block of land on the Potrero, bounded by Nevada, Nebraska, Sierra streets and Potrero Avenue. Its front is on the latter street, which is but from five to ten minutes' walk east of the horse-car lines running on Folsom, Howard, Mission and Valencia streets. The building is a frame one. It has six separate wings or pavilions, each of which is connected by a great main promenade corridor, which is five hundred and sixty-five feet long and twenty feet wide. The main building is sixty-eight by one hundred and thirteen feet in size; the wings or pavilions are each sixty-one by one hundred and fifty-six feet in size, and are capable of accommodating eighty patients each. S. H. Williams was the architect and F. Klatt the contractor. The total cost of the building was about \$160,000. It has been occupied for several months.

A handsome, new, four-story brick structure has been completed on the lot northeast corner of Montgomery and Clay streets. It covers a frontage of forty-two feet on Montgomery by a depth of ninety-seven and one half feet on Clay. Its total cost was \$50,000; total rents, \$1,600 per month. R. M. Sherman is the owner.

The old Niantic Hotel (the site of which, in connection with the ship of the same name which was moored there in the early days of the city, when the tide flowed over that location, has become historical) was torn down last year and an elegant and substantial four-story brick building erected on the lot, which is seventy-three by ninety-one and two thirds feet in size. This building cost \$50,000, and will rent in all for \$1,500 per month. C. A. Low is the owner.

A two-story frame building, with brick basement, is now being completed on the lot on the southwest corner of Market and Fifth streets. The structure will have a frontage of one hundred and fifteen feet on Market and Stevenson streets by a depth of one hundred and sixty-five feet on Fifth. A three-story brick building is also being erected by the same owner on the adjoining lot on Market Street. The total cost of both will be about \$110,000.