

benefited only, which has now an assessed value of \$65,000,000, and is to be paid in yearly installments, in the shape of a tax (payable when the regular municipal taxes are due), covering a period of thirty years. To defray the expenses of opening the avenue, the Board of Public Works was authorized to issue bonds sufficient to raise the amount above mentioned (\$1,244,736). The most of these bonds have already been sold to capitalists, or been taken in payment for property or improvements confiscated on the line of the street. The bonds bear interest at the rate of six per cent per annum. The work of tearing down buildings and opening the avenue will, it is expected, begin about the first of May. The buildings now standing in the district through which the new avenue is to run are nearly all old and very shabby ones. They will be succeeded by new and ornamental ones, the erection of which will create employment, directly and indirectly, for several hundred workmen, and prove quite a stimulant to building and general industrial operations. North Beach, in every way, will be greatly benefited by the new avenue.

**OCEAN VIEW AND RIDING PARK.**—This pleasant and delightful resort, situated on the Ocean House Road, five miles from the City Hall, has been recently thoroughly renovated and beautified, under the immediate superintendence of its proprietor, Mr. Cornelius Stagg. The grounds attached thereto cover an area of over two hundred acres, upon which several new buildings have been erected and numerous other improvements made, at an expense exceeding \$25,000, and to-day it is one of the most attractive pleasure resorts on this coast. From this location a magnificent view of the ocean is always to be had, and on clear days you can see distinctly with the naked eye the Farallone Islands, a distance of twenty-five miles. Situated in the western portion of the grounds are two large and commodious houses, in close proximity to each other, which are called, respectively, the Ocean View House and Sea Side Cottage. The Ocean View House is the public building, containing suits of rooms, parlors, dining rooms, billiard rooms, and a well-furnished bowling alley. Surrounding the house is an attractive garden, tastefully laid out, and having many rare flowers in full bloom. The whole is greatly enlivened by a collection of birds and animals. Immediately opposite the old building is the Swiss Cottage, designed for the use of ladies and children, and as a private reception place for the patrons of the Ocean View House. The building is seventy-five by forty feet, and is situated in the center of a fine park, encircled by a macadamized road, and contains six suits of elegantly-furnished rooms, library, parlors and dancing hall. The garden is neatly laid out with trees, shrubbery, rare plants and croquet grounds, and has an outer border of oak trees. This cottage is fitted up in a becoming manner, and will certainly acquire popularity among the *elite* of San Francisco. From the gardens a road and tan-bark path lead to Lake Merced, which is two and one half miles long, and varying from a few hundred yards to one fourth of a mile in width. At this place a boat house has been erected and the lake stocked with boats, furnishing healthful exercise for visitors. From the two houses a beautiful open road, one hundred feet wide, with tan-bark paths on each side, for the use of pedestrians, leads direct to the track. There are two substantial stands erected thereon, capable of comfortably seating six thousand persons. Surrounding the track is an inclosure fifteen feet wide, for the accommodation of persons in vehicles. Inclosed by the race track is a lawn, from which eight thousand people can witness a race over the track. There are numerous roads leading to the houses. The Mission and Ocean Beach Macadamized Road, which leads out of Seventeenth Street, is by far the most picturesque, presenting a fine view of Oakland, San Francisco, and the immediate vicinity. The Old County Road to the Industrial School leads to the grounds. From the New Park, roads are open. A complete circuit of the bay may be made by going out from town to the Ocean View House and returning *via* the Cliff House. The scenery by the Mission and Ocean View Road far surpasses that of the Cliff House Road, which is chiefly composed of barren sand hills.

#### Operations of Custom House, Mint, Etc.

**GOVERNMENT REVENUE COLLECTIONS AT SAN FRANCISCO.**—The total amount paid for duties at the San Francisco Custom House in 1872 was \$8,184,481. The internal revenue receipts for the same period were \$2,314,698, in currency, or about \$2,083,230 in gold coin. Total Federal Government receipts for 1872, in gold, \$10,267,711.