

inches and fourteen feet long, were set three feet in the sand, at intervals of twelve feet; to which, on the leeward side, two rails of one by six pine fencing lumber were loosely fastened, originally near the ground and about two feet apart.

Against these rails on the outside a thin wall of brush was laid, which, making an eddy in the winds, causes the advancing sands to heap up about the fence, a steep bank on the leeward face, sloping away gently towards the beach. As the surface becomes higher, the rails are raised and more brush applied; the down being now about nine feet in height, and the drift of the sand effectually restrained from advancing more than eighteen feet within the line of fence. As the present fence posts become covered, another row will be set parallel to them and about fifty feet further towards the water, where the same process of checking the sands will be gone through with, until the hillock becomes high and wide enough to improve as the proposed elevated drive, along which will be planted suitable trees; the outer slope of the embankment being planted with sea-beach grass and its inner face covered with shrubbery. In the course of time, the grass arresting further drift, and growing through it, the slope of the beach will become too great for lodgment of more sand, and the advance will be checked. The drive on the summit of the down will supply the place of that on the beach, commanding a fine view of the ocean and the inland improvements; and the proposed lower road at the foot of the down on its inner line, will furnish a grand promenade, nearly three miles long, level and straight, entirely protected from the winds.

The engineer considers it demonstrated that the shifting sands may be thoroughly reclaimed and covered with vegetation, without resorting to such expensive expedients as had at first been anticipated.

The Commissioners, feeling the necessity of concentrating their resources on the principal park, have as yet paid but little attention to Buena Vista Park, which, however, will not be much longer neglected. The fine prospects of bay and city scenery which it presents will, together with its other natural advantages, make it a most popular resort. The small park around Mountain Lake, as an indispensable feature to the general plan, will also be improved before long, and Congress will also, almost certainly, grant the use of the most of the Presidio Military Reservation to the city for the purposes of a park. It will, therefore, be seen that San Francisco is in process of being liberally and well supplied with desirable places of outdoor recreation.

PIONEER PARK.—In the early part of the present year, a few enterprising citizens conceived the idea of preserving in its original condition the crest of Telegraph Hill, one of the most prominent and interesting landmarks of the city, and for that purpose contributed a fund sufficient for the purchase of several fifty vara lots, including the above site. It is proposed to dedicate the plat for the purposes of a public park, and to carry into effect this object the Legislature, at its last session, passed an act authorizing the Board of Supervisors to appropriate five thousand dollars to be expended in the erection of fences and beautifying the grounds, provided the fee of the land is conveyed to the City and County of San Francisco.

WOODWARD'S GARDENS.—Park, garden, pond, fountain, museum, aquarium, conservatory, theater, circus, hippodrome, menagerie, skating rink, picnic ground, restaurant, and everything in the world of out-door or in-door amusement, or the best possible combination of both, that can contribute to attract and delight the public, this all comprehensive and most popular resort is sure to provide. If any visitor can discover a deficiency he has only to make it known to the enterprising proprietor who is sure to supply it at the earliest possible moment. It is the universal verdict of all late visitors, that no city in America can show any place of public resort which provides anything approaching the abundance and variety of means for public recreation which are here to be found. The immense pavilion is the largest and strongest permanent wooden building upon the coast. It has the form of a huge parallelogram, with the corners cut off, thus giving its ground outline the shape of a regular octagon. One hundred and fifty feet long by one hundred and thirty wide, and fifty feet high, with broad rows of strong seats running entirely around it, and massive galleries also encompassing its whole circumference, and accommodates within its acre and a half of extent seven thousand spectators at once. In the center a solidly-laid, perfectly-fitted, and smoothly-planed floor, one hundred and ten feet long by ninety in width, furnishes as extensive a scope for skating as the most ambitious could desire. The new aquarium is most surprisingly delightful and wholly successful attempt at establishing permanent homes for the most rare and curious, as well as the most common and useful of the finny tribes. Here also one may study at leisure the mysteries of trout hatching and raising from the egg to the fully-grown specimens of the largest and finest varieties, until the whole operation become as clear as the glass through which it appears.

THE CITY GARDENS.—On the south side of Twelfth Street, stretching from Folsom to Harrison streets, and running half a block south. The grounds are finely laid out and ornamented with shade trees, shrubbery, arbors, etc. It has also a pavilion in which theatrical representations, balls, and various other popular entertainments follow each other as the successive tastes of its patrons demand.

PUBLIC SQUARES AND PARKS.—Portsmouth Square, commonly known as the Plaza, on the west side of Kearny Street, extending from Clay to Washington streets and directly fronting the old City Hall, is the oldest, most celebrated, and best finished public square.

Union Square, bounded by Post, Stockton, Geary, and Powell streets, and for several years