

The Spring Valley Water Works draw their principal supply from the Peninsula, where they control the watershed of thirty-nine square miles, which supplies the three storage reservoirs, namely: the Pilarcitos reservoir, San Andres reservoir, and the Crystal Springs reservoir, all being located at a sufficiently high altitude to supply all parts of the city. The three reservoirs together have a storage capacity of over 15,000,000,000 gallons, which can and will be increased to 40,000,000,000 gallons by building the lower Crystal Springs dam. The aggregate capacity of the reservoirs of the Company is 15,256,500,000 gallons.

The water from these reservoirs is delivered by means of two 30-inch plate-iron pipes, into the Lake Honda Reservoir, and the College Hill Reservoir respectively—the former holds thirty-four million gallons and the latter fourteen million gallons; these two reservoirs again feed the water to the five smaller distributing reservoirs in San Francisco, viz.: Market Street, Russian Hill, Francisco Street, Clay Street, and Brannan Street reservoirs; all these seven reservoirs, together holding in the vicinity of sixty million gallons.

The water from these distributing reservoirs is furnished to the inhabitants of San Francisco, through a system of cast-iron pipes laid in the streets, seven hundred and eighty thousand feet, or nearly one hundred and fifty miles, in length, varying in diameter from twenty-two-inch to four-inch.

The Company also owns the Lobos Creek property, which, by means of its aqueduct, a pumping apparatus furnishes two million gallons per day.

The daily supply is at present in the neighborhood of twelve million gallons. In order to meet the increasing want of the city in the future, the Company has acquired the right to bring into their present works, the water furnished by sixty additional square miles of watershed, comprising the larger coast streams south of Spanishtown.

The Legislature of 1873-'74 authorized the Board of Supervisors to come and examine the sources of water supply and to purchase or condemn such as might be selected. In accordance with law, T. R. Scowden was elected Water Engineer, and instructed to make an examination of the rivers, lakes, and water-sheds, which could be rendered available. After a series of extended surveys, he submitted a report containing the required information. He recommended the purchase of the water-sheds of Calaveras Valley, located partly in Alameda County and partly in Calaveras County. The Spring Valley Water Company subsequently purchased the Calaveras property, and the Supervisors decided to negotiate for the purchase of the property owned by that Company. The price asked for the real estate and franchises at Calaveras Creek was one million dollars, and for the other property, \$14,500,000. The Supervisors declined to make the purchase, and for the time being the city's effort to become owner of a system of water works came to an end. Many propositions were submitted and a vast amount of interesting information was placed in possession of the public. The Legislature of 1875-'76 has passed an Act for the appointment of Commissioners to regulate water rates, under which selections have been made, and also a law authorizing the city to purchase or erect water works. (See pages 1028 and 1031.)

To show the many separate sources from which San Francisco can be supplied with water, we give a brief statement of those described by Mr. Scowden, premising that the supply on the peninsula seems adequate for the wants of a city much larger than San Francisco is likely to become during the present generation. The water shed of the Calaveras Creek has an area of 139.48 square miles, and the estimated daily supply is seventy-nine million six hundred and ninety-two thousand six hundred gallons. A dam one hundred feet high would be needed, and the route of the conduit to San Francisco would be around the head of the bay, by way of Alviso, a distance of 45.48 miles. Total cost, \$10,655,052.

The Blue Lakes are in Alpine County, at the summit of the Sierras. A daily supply of one hundred million of gallons can be obtained, at a cost of \$25,581,414. Length of route, 217.06.

Clear Lake is in the central part of Lake County, 127.23 miles distant. The source of supply is "practically inexhaustible," being far beyond the wants of a population of one million people. Cost of the scheme, \$22,014,641.22.

Mr. Scowden also gave exhaustive descriptions of the resources of the Spring Valley Water Company, and of the Laguna Merced and Pescadero Creek, the former being within six miles of the City Hall, and this taking its rise in the Santa Cruz Mountains. It can thus be seen that San Francisco will never suffer such embarrassments as have been encountered by many large cities in obtaining an abundance of pure water. The sources from which she can obtain it are many, and the cost will be trifling when contrasted with what has elsewhere been paid for facilities far more restricted than those within our reach.

Libraries.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY, on the north side of Bush Street, between Montgomery and Sansom. The building has a frontage on Bush Street of sixty-eight feet nine inches, with a depth of one hundred and thirty-seven feet and six inches. It is three stories high, with basement and attic. The façade is of the modern Italian style, sixty-five feet to the top of the main cornice, and is surmounted by a mansard roof, with iron crestings. Upon the first floor is the library, containing about forty thousand volumes, the reading room, reference library, ladies' reading room, parlor, and trustees' room. On the second floor, the chess and smoking room, writing room,

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