

mation of the downs. It comprises a strip of land along the ocean beach, extending south from the Cliff House bluff about two and seven-eighths miles, varying in width from two hundred to four hundred feet, according to the curvature of the shore line. On it the sands are thrown by the ocean waves and carried inland, a continuous fresh supply to the drift. The manner in which this is being reclaimed, and a further drift of sand prevented, is thus described:

Along a line on the Highway reservation, lying parallel to and one hundred feet west of its eastern boundary from its intersection with a prolongation of the northern boundary of Golden Gate Park, south, for a mile in length, across the face of the Western end of the Park Reservation, and for half a mile south of it a brush fence has been built. Redwood posts, four by four 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 dune 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 dune 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 dune 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.

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE, opposite the City Hall, is two hundred and seventy-five by two hundred and four feet square. This square, or Portsmouth Square, as it was called in the early days of Yerba Buena, is noted for its historical reminiscences. It is here where Captain Montgomery, of the U. S. S. Portsmouth, with a party of seventy marines and sailors, raised the American flag on our newly acquired Mexican territory. This took place on July 8, 1846. Thirty years afterwards, and we have a city of nearly three hundred thousand inhabitants, and growing more rapidly than any other in the Union. In 1851 another important event transpired in this square; a man named Jenkins was hanged for stealing a safe during the great fire of that year, in which the greater portion of the city was destroyed.

BUENA VISTA PARK, bounded by Haight, Fell, and Broderick streets, contains thirty-six acres. This park is neither square, round or triangular-shaped, but bears something of the configuration of a spider's web, or zig-zag form.

MISSION PLAZA, bounded by Mission, Potter and Ridley streets, is one thousand and thirty-four by five hundred and sixty-four feet. It is elbow-shaped.

ALTA PLAZA, eight thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine by five hundred and seventy-nine feet; bounded by Steiner, Scott, Clay, and Jackson.

ALAMO SQUARE, eight hundred and ninety-three by six hundred and eighteen feet; bounded by Fulton, Hayes, Steiner, and Scott.

BUENA VISTA SQUARE, one thousand and four hundred by four hundred and eight feet; bounded by Utah, Vermont, Napa, and Shasta.

COLUMBIA SQUARE, five hundred by two hundred and seventy-five feet; bounded by Fillmore, Harrison, Columbia, and Sherman.

FRANKLIN SQUARE, four hundred and eighty by four hundred feet; bounded by Center, Santa Clara, York, and Jersey.

HAMILTON SQUARE, eight hundred and thirty-nine by four hundred and thirty feet; bounded by Steiner, Scott, Post, and Geary.

JACKSON PARK, four hundred by four hundred feet; bounded by Santa Clara, Mariposa, Arkansas, and Carolina.