

\$504,244.02, all of which is represented by actual work performed on the grounds in its charge, and for the purchase of material and merchandise employed in the work. For the maintenance of the Park the Legislature of the State, 1876, authorized the Board of Supervisors to appropriate \$15,000, and to levy an annual assessment upon the taxable property of the City and County, of one and one half per cent. upon each one hundred dollars valuation.

The amount actually expended upon the Parks also includes the expense of fencing the Buena Vista and Mountain Lake Parks, and making large plantations on the former reservation, so that deducting the expense of the preliminary topographical survey of Golden Gate Park, and the amount of the items of expense upon the other two reservations, the cost of improvement and maintenance of the Park, as seen by ordinary visitors, has been, during the past five and a half years, since the work commenced, about \$456,663.91. Of this, about \$98,000 is chargeable to maintenance; and about \$13,000 invested in work-horses, rolling-stock, heavy implements, tools, office furniture, instruments, and other needful incidentals, in good order for future use; so that the total cost of improving Golden Gate Park and Avenue, including all plans therefor, superintendence of the work and reclamation of the sands, is, to date hereof, \$345,663.91.

The statement relating to visitors shows that one hundred and thirty thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight vehicles and four hundred and forty-four thousand six hundred and eighteen persons entered the Park during the year ending November 30, 1874; one hundred and fifty-seven thousand and ninety-one vehicles and five hundred and sixteen thousand one hundred and seventy persons in the year ending November 30, 1875; one hundred and eighty-nine thousand two hundred and thirty-four vehicles and nineteen thousand one hundred and forty-four persons in the year ending November 30, 1876; and two hundred and eighteen thousand two hundred and sixty-six vehicles and seven hundred and three thousand six hundred and fifty-eight persons in the year ending November 30, 1877. During the first mentioned year fourteen million one hundred and twenty-three thousand six hundred and forty-one gallons of water were used on the grounds; during the latter year, seventeen million eight hundred and twenty-two thousand six hundred gallons.

The length of roadway constructed is thirty-five thousand eight hundred and eighty-two linear feet, representing an area of one million six hundred thousand eight hundred and thirty square feet.

About ten thousand linear feet of walks have been graded and macadamized in the Park, of which somewhat less than half is fully surfaced, while the remainder requires only a thin layer of screened rock for their completion. There are ten thousand seven hundred linear feet of walk graded, ready for macadamizing, in the avenue. This, with the ten thousand six hundred feet macadamized in the Park, and about two thousand five hundred feet more now under construction, makes twenty-eight thousand eight hundred linear feet, or somewhat over four miles of walk, which may be placed in serviceable condition at a reasonable expense during the present year.

The labor employed during the past year has been principally devoted to the maintenance of the completed work, the work of improvement being limited to the completion of a part of the walks, the construction of a bridle-path five thousand feet long, and the planting of trees, shrubbery, and flowering plants.

Following is a statement of trees and shrubs planted in grounds: Purchased and planted in the avenue and eastern portion of the Golden Gate Park in the Spring of 1872, six thousand six hundred and thirty; raised in the nursery and planted on the same grounds since that date, forty-one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine; raised and planted on western or sand district of Golden Gate Park during the seasons of 1873-75, seventeen thousand eight hundred and four; ditto on Buena Vista Park during same period, six thousand three hundred and thirty-seven. Total trees and shrubs planted out, seventy-two thousand seven hundred and twenty; planted during seasons of 1875-77, sixty-one thousand five hundred and thirty-six; total planted out with present appropriation, one hundred and thirty-four thousand one hundred and fifty-six. In addition to the above there are about ten thousand young plants, for planting in subsequent seasons, in the nursery, and twenty-two thousand Pines for season of 1878-9.

The reservation known as the Great Highway is the key to all the work of permanent reclamation 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