

the notice being served only after a deputy had made a personal examination of the street against which complaint was made. During the year Montgomery Avenue was placed in good condition for travel as far as Filbert Street, and the Superintendent urges its further extension to the Bay, as soon as possible. He also recommends that one of the main streets leading to the Golden Gate Park shall be dedicated to that travel, and put in good condition at an early day. He further suggests that no more streets east of Van Ness Avenue be macadamized, and that Montgomery, and all important business streets, should be paved with some noiseless pavement.

Public Buildings.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE is located in the brick building on the corner of Washington and Battery streets, erected in 1855, at a cost of \$866,000. The operations of this important department of the public service are referred to elsewhere in this article.

THE UNITED STATES MINT.—Among the Government buildings of San Francisco the United States Mint is among the most elegant and imposing. It is built of granite and sandstone, and conveniently situated at the northwest corner of Mission and Fifth streets, with a frontage of one hundred sixty and one-half feet on the former and two hundred seventeen and one-half feet on the latter. It is two stories in height, besides an ample basement. The parapet walls are fifty-six feet high, the pediment seventy-five, and its two chimneys each one hundred and forty-two feet. Its architecture is Doric. Massive fluted columns at the main entrance on Fifth Street give to the building an air of beauty and grandeur, and relieve the sombre aspect of its severe simplicity. The coinage during the year was as follows: Gold—double eagles, one million seven hundred and thirty-five thousand, value \$34,700,000; eagles, seventeen thousand, value \$170,000; half eagles, twenty-six thousand seven hundred, value \$133,500; quarter eagles, thirty-five thousand four hundred, value \$88,500; total gold, one million eight hundred and fourteen thousand one hundred pieces, valued at \$35,092,000. Silver—trade dollars, \$9,519,000; half dollars, five million three hundred and fifty-six thousand, value \$2,678,000; quarter dollars, eight million nine hundred and ninety-six thousand, value \$2,249,000; dimes, two million three hundred and forty thousand, value \$234,000; total silver, twenty-six million two hundred and eleven thousand pieces, valued at \$14,680,000. Total gold and silver coined, twenty-eight million twenty-five thousand one hundred pieces, valued at \$49,772,000. The refining department at the Mint went into operation in 1875. It has a capacity of about one million ounces per month. The charges for refining are: Three hundred parts gold and less, two and one-half cents; three hundred and a half parts gold to six hundred thousand, four cents; six hundred and a half parts gold to seven hundred and fifty thousand, six cents; seven hundred and fifty parts gold and over, eight cents. The present Superintendent of the Mint, Mr. Henry L. Dodge, entered upon his duties January 1, 1878. Under his administration the force of employees has been considerably reduced, there being now two hundred and thirty men and women engaged there, against two hundred and fifty during last year.

THE UNITED STATES SUB-TREASURY is a substantial four-storied structure which has recently been erected on Commercial Street, near Montgomery, on the land formerly occupied by the old Mint. It has been constructed under the superintendence of Mr. Samuel McCullough, and is on a plan of architecture similar to that of the United States Appraiser's Building. The walls are built of pressed brick laid on granite sills. The building was completed early in the Autumn of 1877, and was transferred to the Sub-Treasury Department October 8th of that year. The original plan was for a three-story building, and the estimated cost about \$87,000. It was subsequently decided to add another story, making the total cost of the structure \$101,500. The amount appropriated for it was \$107,000. The first floor is occupied by the Sub-Treasury; the second by the Register and Receiver of the General Land Office; the third and fourth by the United States Surveyor-General.

THE UNITED STATES APPRAISER'S BUILDING is now almost completed. It stands on the northeast corner of Washington and Sanson streets, extending on Sanson Street two hundred and sixty-five and one-half feet front, and running from Washington to Jackson Street one hundred and twenty and one-half feet. It is a handsome four-story structure. The basement is nine feet and three inches in the clear. The walls rest on a solid concrete base, which extends under the whole structure. The construction of the building is under the superintendence of Mr. Samuel McCullough, Superintendent of Construction of United States Buildings in California. It is now ready to receive its roof, which will be of copper and slate, and has already been contracted for. The basement and first floor will be used as the United States Appraiser's stores. The second and third floors will be occupied by the United States Courts. Congress has thus far appropriated \$633,000 for this structure. About \$250,000 more is needed to complete the work. Should this sum be appropriated during the present session of Congress, the building can be completed in eight months after the money is available.

THE POST OFFICE.—The growth of San Francisco has been so rapid during the past five years that the capacity of all public buildings has been tested to their fullest extent; especially has this been the case with the Post Office, and the necessity of securing a new building for this important institution is daily becoming more pressing. For many years the operations of the office in this city have been hampered by reason of the inadequate amount of room provided,