

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 amount appropriated for its construction 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 occupies the grounds bounded by Washington, Sansom, Jackson and Post Office Place. It is a solid, handsome four-story structure of two hundred and sixty-five and one-half feet on Sansom by one hundred and twenty and one-half feet on Jackson and Washington. The building, which was constructed under the superintendence of Mr. Samuel McCullough, Superintendent of Construction of United States Buildings in California, is now completed with the exception of the interior fittings and arrangements. The total expenditures upon it to date has been \$874,882, and \$175,000 additional is estimated as ample for its completion, which will be effected during the coming fiscal year. The first floor will be occupied by the Collector of Internal Revenue, the Superintending Surgeon of the Marine Hospital, Special Agents of the Treasury Department, the Naval Pay Office and Steamboat Inspectors, and one-half of the entire floor as a storeroom for Appraiser's stores. All Appraiser's goods will be received from Post Office Place. The second floor will be devoted to the Appraiser's Department and the offices of the Light House Department. The third floor will be occupied by the United States Circuit and District Courts, United States Marshal, District Attorney and the Law Library. The fourth floor will be occupied by jury rooms, file rooms for the Treasury Department, and the United States Signal Service. The ceilings are all lathed with Dwight's patent iron lathing; standing water pipes run from basement to roof, and corporation hose in ample quantity is kept on the roof as a precaution against fires.

THE POST-OFFICE occupies the first floor of the Government building situated on the east half of the block bounded by Washington, Battery, Jackson and Sansom Streets, the entrance being on Washington Street. Like the other public buildings built in the early days of the city, it has been left behind in our rapid development. For years it has been entirely inadequate to the service of the department, and, shifting expedients, alterations and changes in its internal arrangements have been the standing rule. The only effectual relief accomplished, however, has been through the establishment of the various branch offices. Alterations have recently been effected in the old building, making an entire reconstruction of its working space. The entrance from Washington Street now leads directly into the lobby, passing the Money Order Office at the entrance on the right, and the Postmaster's private office on the left. The lobby is in the heart of the building instead of on the outside, as formerly, and is entirely surrounded with the working departments of the office. While material improvements in the facilities of the office have been effected by these changes, they are still as before mere temporary expedients. The growing wants, as well as the dignity of our city, demand that a building suitable to and commensurate with the magnitude of our mail service shall no longer be withheld from us. A proposition is now being pressed before the present Congress, which, if not passed by it, can scarcely fail of passage in the next Congress, appropriating \$500,000 for the purchase of a site and \$3,000,000 for the building of a new Post-Office. Union Square, bounded by Stockton, Powell, Post and Geary Streets, is generally conceded as its future location.

The following statistics of the business of 1878 will serve to show in some degree the magnitude of the business of the office: Mail letters delivered, three million eight hundred and sixty three thousand five hundred; city letters delivered, one million five hundred and fifty-three thousand and twenty-one; mail postal cards, four hundred and fifty-one thousand nine hundred and sixty-one; city postal cards, seven hundred and fifty-one thousand and sixty-seven; newspapers, one million seven hundred and thirty-four thousand two hundred and seventy. The collections show four million five hundred and sixty three thousand three hundred and ninety-four mail letters, two million city letters, and nine hundred and ninety-two thousand five hundred and forty-six papers. The totals in each case represent an increase over the business of 1877 of four per cent. in deliveries and fourteen per cent. in collections. The daily average of the number of pieces (letters, postal cards, newspapers and packages of merchandise) originating in this office was forty-eight thousand six hundred and twenty-five, weighing five thousand five hundred and thirty-six pounds. Owing to the fact that, in addition to the local business, this point is the great distributing station for the open and closed mails for Asia, Australia, etc., as well as a number of European ports, San Francisco ranks as the third in the list of offices of our country in amount of business handled. The number of money orders issued from the main office from January 1, 1878 to November 17, 1878 was twenty-two thousand eight hundred and three, amounting to \$560,614.06; from station A for same period one thousand three hundred and eighty-three, amounting to \$19,761.76; from station B, four thousand six hundred and twenty-one, amounting to \$87,957.95; from station C, nine hundred and forty-one, amounting to \$16,599.85. The number and amount of the orders paid exceed the number issued about twenty-five per cent.

The number of carriers employed is fifty. Two hundred street letter boxes are conveniently distributed throughout the city, and are gradually growing into the confidence of those for whose benefit they were intended. The boxes are usually attached to street lamp posts, and