

**Water Front and Harbor Improvements.**

The Board of Engineers appointed by the Harbor Commissioners under the provisions of the Act of the Legislature of 1875-6 have established a new line of water front, which begins two hundred feet seaward from the northern prolongation of the Presidio Reservation, and extends in an easterly and southerly direction upon straight or curved lines in such manner as to approach as near as practicable the extreme outer projections of the water front, established by Act of 1851, to a point near the intersection of Second and Berry streets, and thence to continue southerly upon straight or curved lines in such manner as to approach as near as practicable the extreme outer projections of the water-line front, established by the Board of State Tide Land Commissioners, to the southern boundary of the City and County of San Francisco. An important feature of the readjustment of the water front is also a proposed new thoroughfare, two hundred feet in width, extending in straight lines from point to point along the water front, and affording easy access to all parts of it. Distances will be very materially shortened. The new line provides for free entrance to China, Central, India, South and Dry Dock Basins. The following is the estimate of cost of the new-line, including the expense of dredging a channel sixty feet wide and twenty feet deep, filling it with large stone, filling the thoroughfare with small stone and earth, planking the roadway and constructing a wharf thirty feet wide, to serve as a facing to the sea wall: From Chestnut to Harrison Street, 7,000 feet, \$2,357,886; from Chestnut to Powell Street, 3,170 feet, \$844,800; from Harrison to the foot of Second Street, 3,080 feet, \$1,156,400. Total distance, 13,250 feet; total cost, \$4,362,086.

During the past year, the receipts from all sources for the Harbor fund have been \$609,229.62. Expenditures, \$323,708.12; turned in to State Treasury, \$285,521.50. Of the expenditures, \$88,649.57 have been devoted to permanent improvement, \$82,068.79 to the purchase of dredges and steam tugs, \$23,979.38 to urgent repairs, \$4,803.38 to sea wall account, and the remainder to maintenance and contingent expenses.

Work contemplated in China Basin has been delayed by questions on the part of property owners as to the right of the Board to enter China Basin. The matter is now before the Supreme Court, and if favorably decided, important and extensive improvements will be immediately undertaken, the effect of which will be to afford a vast increase of accommodations to our lumbermen.

Work under three separate contracts is now in progress, covering the contemplated bulkhead at North Beach from Stockton to Lombard streets. For the first thousand feet the gross price is \$96,000. The second thousand feet has been let at forty-six cents per cubic yard for rock work, and twenty cents for earth, and \$20,000 additional for wharf; the third thousand feet for sixty-five cents per cubic yard for rock work, and twenty-five cents for earth, with \$20,000 additional for wharf. Kearny Street has, during the year, been filled in from the shore-line to the bulkhead, at a cost of \$11,975.

**Hotels.**

No notable change in the capacity or accommodations of the hotels of the city has occurred during the year. San Francisco still maintains, however, the lead among the cities of the world with respect to the quality and number of her first-class hotels, which she assumed contemporaneously with the opening of the Palace and the Baldwin, and is still able to challenge comparison equally as well upon the score of liberal patronage.

In immensity and solidity of structure, the Palace stands probably the peer of any similar building in the world. It is seven stories in height, the height of each varying from twenty-five feet in the clear—the first story—to fourteen feet—the seventh. It fronts two hundred and seventy-five feet by three hundred and fifty feet in depth. It possesses three inner courts, around which balconies or piazzas attached to each story extend. The walls and partitions are made as nearly earthquake and fire-proof as possible, and required thirty-two millions bricks in construction. The courts, the New Montgomery Street front and the dining room are now lighted with the electric light, which was first introduced in July, 1878.

Taking equal rank with the Palace in character of accommodation and appointment, the Baldwin presents an appearance of more graceful and pretentious architecture, although fully as substantially built. It fronts two hundred and seventy-five feet, by one hundred and eighty-four feet in depth. It is six stories in height. The basement is entirely of brick and iron. Its principal dome stands one hundred and sixty-eight feet above the pavement, and from its commanding location, it presents one of the most salient of the city's many adornments.

To these may be added our six other leading hotels, which go towards the completion of our first-class list, all of whose appointments, both in regard to luxury and convenience, combine to sustain the reputation claimed for the city.

In the aggregate the accommodating capacity of our leading hotels exceeds five thousand, and it is a just encomium upon the liberality of the people of the Pacific Coast, that they are generously sustained. The following is the list of hotels and their locations:

**PALACE HOTEL.**—Location, southwest corner of Market and New Montgomery Streets, extending back to Jessie Streets. The ground floor on the Market and New Montgomery Street fronts is chiefly occupied by stores. There are seven hundred and fifty-five rooms above the ground floor, and the accommodating capacity of the hotel is estimated at twelve hundred.

Insure with HUTCHINSON &amp; MANN, 322 and 324 California, and 302 Sansome Sts.

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