

million gallons. They can and will be increased to forty-six thousand million gallons, by building the lower Crystal Springs dam. The water from these reservoirs is conducted, by means of two thirty-inch plate-iron pipes, into the Lake Honda and the College Hill reservoirs, respectively. The former holds thirty-three million gallons, and the latter fifteen million gallons. These two reservoirs again feed the five smaller distributing reservoirs in San Francisco, viz: Market Street, Russian Hill, Francisco Street, Clay Street, and Brannan Street Reservoirs, all of which have a capacity of more than sixty million gallons. The water from these distributing reservoirs is furnished to the inhabitants of San Francisco through a system of cast-iron pipes, laid in the streets, nearly one hundred and seventy miles in length, varying in diameter from twenty-two inches to three inches. The Company also obtain from Lobos Creek, by means of an aqueduct and pumping works at Black Point, two million gallons daily. It owns additional water rights relating to the coast streams above and below Spanishtown, which will enable it to utilize a water-shed of sixty square miles. It has also acquired Calaveras Valley, which controls two hundred and fifty square miles of water-shed, and is the next nearest source of supply to San Francisco that exists. It has facilities readily adapting it to the construction of reservoirs that will contain forty thousand million gallons. From these Calaveras reservoirs the water will be conducted by an aqueduct, consisting of two miles of tunnel, twenty-two miles of pipe, and about twenty-four miles of open aqueduct, to Crystal Springs and San Andreas Reservoirs; independent pipe lines will convey the water from there to the city reservoirs. When the entire works are developed as proposed, the Spring Valley Water Works will have a storage capacity aggregating eighty-six thousand million gallons, and fed from a total water-shed of about three hundred and fifty square miles; all of which, when developed, will give an average yield of more than two hundred million gallons daily—which, according to the amount consumed in Liverpool, England, viz: fourteen and one-half gallons per capita, will be enough to supply near fourteen million inhabitants. The Company is also prepared, in case of any exigency requiring additional supplies, to pump water from Lake Merced to the extent of five million gallons per day.

Exhaustive surveys, looking to the building of water works to be owned by the city, by Colonel Mendell, of the United States Engineer Corps, under the direction of the Board of Water Commissioners created by the act of the Legislature of 1876, were made in 1876 and 1877. A number of different schemes were proposed and examined, having their sources in the Sierra Nevada, several of which were highly approved by the public; but after an expenditure of near one hundred thousand dollars in examinations, etc., the enquiry was abandoned. Overtures were made for the purchase by the city of the Spring Valley Water Works, which were offered for \$11,800,000, which being deemed too large a sum, the purchase was not made. For a number of years the proposition has been entertained of purchasing Lake Merced, and by pumping, supply a portion of the city. The price fixed was \$15,000,000. This was agreed upon under Act of the Legislature passed in 1876, known as the "Rogers bill," but before the sale was consummated the law was repealed by the Legislature in January, 1880. Under the New Constitution the Municipal authorities have the power to regulate the rates for water and to assess property for a portion, thus reducing the rates to consumers.

Public Squares and Gardens.

There are twenty-two public parks, or squares, in this city, varying in size from two hundred feet to the great Ocean Park of one thousand and thirteen acres. Ocean, or Golden Gate Park, lies in the northwestern portion of the city, bordering on the ocean. It is fifty-six blocks long and nine blocks wide—or three miles long and a half mile wide. A beautiful avenue, or drive, about three-quarters of a mile long and one hundred yards wide, leads from the city proper to the park. There are seven lakelets in this park; also arbors, grottoes, mounds, rustic benches, etc., which gives it rather a picturesque and romantic appearance. Up to June 30, 1877, the Park Commissioners had received from all sources \$499,941 09, of which \$486,249 47 had been expended, leaving a cash balance of \$13,691 62. From June 30, 1877, to June 30, 1878, the receipts from various sources were \$75,182 38; balance from previous year, \$13,691 62—\$88,874 00. Expenditures, \$57,210 38. Balance June 30, 1878, \$31,663 62. From June 30, 1878, to June 30, 1879, the receipts have been as follows: From taxes, \$45,419 77; from Police Court fines, \$600; from Pound fees, \$91; from sale of old sacks, \$34; from sale of iron pipe, \$125 20; sale of disabled horses, \$75 25; and \$2,000 transferred from the General Fund—making a total since their last report of \$48,345 22, with balance on hand at that date, \$31,663 62—\$80,008 84.

The amount expended during the past year is \$74,762 78, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$5,246 06. Since its organization, the Board of Park Commissioners has disbursed \$618,222 63, 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. The Legislature of 1876 authorized the Board of Supervisors to make annual appropriations of \$15,000 from the General Fund, and an annual tax levy of one and one-half cent upon each one hundred dollars for its maintenance. Early in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, a special appropriation from the General Fund of \$10,000, and an additional levy of one