

per cent. (making a total levy for Park purposes of two and one-half per cent.) was made by the Board of Supervisors. A subsequent order, however, revoked the direct appropriation and reduced the levy to two per cent. As a consequence, works of improvement during the year were discontinued, and force employed only to the extent necessary for maintenance, except in the case of the conservatory, built during the year, for which purpose the special appropriation of \$40,000 by the Legislature was made. The gross amount of expenditure above set forth includes the expenses for fencing Buena Vista and Mountain Lake Parks, making large plantations in the former, and the expense of the preliminary topographical surveys for Golden Gate Park. Deducting these, and there remains actually expended upon the Park, in the six and one-half years since the work was begun, \$570,642 52. Of this amount, about \$185,000 is chargeable to maintenance, \$20,000 to work horses, rolling stock, tools, etc., the remainder, \$366,879 74, being chargeable to direct improvement.

During the year ending June 30, 1879, the Park was visited by seven hundred and three thousand four hundred and fifty-five persons.

The length of roadway constructed is forty-eight thousand six hundred and eighty-two feet, representing an area of two million fifty-six thousand six hundred and thirty square feet. About five miles of linear length of walks have been constructed, of which nearly three-fourths are completed, the remainder needing only the capping surface of screened rock with which all are finished. The improvements in roadway during the past year consist in the completion of a large section of the "Southern Drive," the driveway connecting with First avenue, and a fine macadamized road connecting the western entrance with the Point Lobos Road. About five thousand five hundred feet of walks have also been completed. A large area has been graded, converted into lawns, and sown with selected grasses. A cottage for the florist in charge of the conservatories has been erected, also a propagating house in the nursery grounds. Extensive improvements are now being made, the men being paid by voluntary subscription secured by Mr. David Bush.

The number of trees and shrubs planted in the Park since the spring of 1872, when this branch of improvement was begun, is one hundred and fifty-five thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight. In the nursery, for future planting in the coming season, there are forty-five thousand trees and shrubs, and about twenty-five thousand flowering plants. The reclamation of the lands bordering on the great highway, from the continued drift of the shifting sands of the ocean, the solution of the problem for which the simple means adopted by the engineer in charge, amply furnished, continues to become more and more assured; the dune has steadily increased in height, and its resisting power to the drifting force of the sands has become fully established.

In 1878, a conservatory was erected for the reception of the two conservatories presented to the Park Commissioners by a number of our prominent citizens during the year 1877. These conservatories were purchased from the estate of the late James Lick, Esq., by whom they were imported from France, and presented upon the condition that suitable buildings for their reception and care should be erected in Golden Gate Park within eighteen months from date of presentation. In pursuance of this condition, the Legislature of 1877-8 passed an enabling act, authorizing the appropriation of \$40,000, and the work was at once begun. The conservatory is located about one-quarter of a mile from the entrance of the main park, and is built upon a plateau, partially artificial, lying to the right of, and about fifteen feet above, the level of the main drive. An adequate conception of its magnificent character may be obtained from the following figures:

It is built, judging from superficial appearance, almost entirely of glass, is two hundred and fifty feet in length, the main building being fifty-six feet square, and surmounted by a dome, rising fifty-six feet high in the clear, inside measurement, the inside space being unbroken by any trusses or girders, the roof being supported and sustained entirely by its connection with the external walls. In this splendid dome the bright glare of the continuous crystal is relieved by two lines of glass in variegated colors, one at the spring of the arch and the other at the summit of the arch. The remaining portions of the building average thirty-five feet in width; the east and west ends being extended in their fronts, which face the south, to a line parallel with the main or central building. In front of the main building is a reception room, twenty by twenty feet, through which visitors will enter. In the center of the reception room is a small pool, from the middle of which rises a tasty and unique fountain, the design showing a swan surrounded by magnolias, upholding a bowl in which a mermaid rises, holding on her shoulders a sea-shell in which the fountain plays. On the right of the rotunda is the "Orchid House," an arched room, thirty-five by fifty feet, not yet thoroughly stocked, yet still making quite a display of some handsome varietics. The east extension is used as the aquatic house. Here, in the front, is located the fernery, in the shape of a Grecian cross, from which the water passes to the main pool in the rear of it, which is a trifle lower in height, and thirty feet in diameter. This is the home of the Victoria Water Lily, a tropical flower, whose exuberant growth produces leaves five and six feet in length, each of which is capable of upholding a child on the water. During the year the queen lily arrived at maturity, and has now produced about twenty-five beautiful flowers. Some of the leaves measure eight feet in diameter. The temperature of this pool is maintained at