

THE COUNTY'S WEALTH.

What the Auditor's and Assessor's Figures Show.

The Assessed Value of Railroads, Real Estate and Personal Property The Increase in Ten Years—Some Interesting Figures.

There is one way of figuring the wealth and prosperity of the county, which absolutely precludes any exaggeration, and that is to take the figures of the county assessor and auditor. These officials are not disposed nor permitted to get their estimates too high, but, as a rule, they place values far below the actual value.

In what is called Southern California is included about 34 per cent. of the state's area. Ten years ago, or in 1880, the assessment on this was only 6 per cent. of that of the whole state, but in 1890 it amounts to fully 20 per cent.

The assessor's figures for the year, in totals, are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Value. Includes Real estate, improvements on same, City or town lots, etc.

The railroads and telegraph lines are assessed as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Name, Mileage, and Value. Lists various railroads like San Gabriel Valley, Redondo Beach, etc.

Property on which mortgages are placed, is valued at \$10,216,000, and the mortgages and like instruments at \$8,191,970.

The average for last year's crop is figured as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Crop and Value. Lists Wheat, Barley, Corn, etc.

The following assessments of railroads by the board of equalization:

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Value. Lists Southern Pacific, Western Union, etc.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

The following is the full list of the personal property, as shown on the assessor's books. In its details it furnishes much opportunity for deductions:

Large table with 3 columns: Description, Quantity, and Value. Lists various household and business items.

ASSESSMENT OF CITIES IN DETAIL.

Table with 2 columns: City Name and Value. Lists Los Angeles, Pasadena, etc.

THE AUDITOR'S FIGURES.

The county auditor furnishes the following interesting statement:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Value. Lists Number of acres, Real estate, etc.

COUNTY PROPERTY.

The property of the county is stated to be as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Value. Lists Present court house, Jail, etc.

A COMPARISON.

The books show that in 1880 the assessment of the county amounted to \$16,677,501, which of course included the rich acre of what is now Orange county, which was created two years since.

Let's wife was the author of Looking Backward. She was too fresh and became a pillar of salt.

THE CITY LIBRARY.

A Splendid Institution Which is a Credit to the Municipality.

Los Angeles has good reason to be proud of its public library. It is an excellent institution, splendidly managed. The following excerpts from the last report of the board of directors will serve to indicate its scope and efficiency:

The particulars in detail of the operation of the library, the number of books issued for circulation for library use and home use, the amount of moneys received and expended, the number of books added, and the expenditures for books, salaries and other disbursements, will be found in the report of the librarian, marked Appendix A, hereto attached.

It is thought that a careful examination of these statistics will impress readers with the magnitude of the work that the library has achieved during the past twelve months. Particular attention is called to the significance of the phenomenal circulation, which has rapidly and steadily increased from 4,833 in September, 1889, to 11,076 in November, 1890. Few libraries of double the number of volumes can show such figures.

There have been added to the shelves since the last report 7,053 volumes, so that the library now contains 103,335, one, without exception in this regard, can have any idea of the labor which this has entailed. First, every book has been examined page by page, to ascertain that it was in perfect condition, without sheets missing or misplaced. Second, it has been classified in the general class and its proper subdivision marked and a card made out for the card catalogue, the book plate inserted and the book numbered and labeled before it was ready for the shelves.

In the item of expense the reports of other public libraries in the United States show that the expenditure on salaries and working expenses has been remarkably less in proportion to the amount expended in the purchase of books than is the case with many of these other libraries. A comparison of the figures herewith submitted will make this point more clear.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Lists Books, Binding & Periodicals, Salaries, etc.

For the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the reference department there have been made extensive purchases of sets of magazines and reviews in the past year. The importance of this department cannot well be over-estimated, having in view the fact that the best thought and most intelligent observation, not only of questions of the day and of current literature, but on all branches of thought, is found in monographs contained in these periodicals and scientific and literary reviews. Indeed, the possession of complete sets of such reviews would alone form a library which would be a mine of the richest kind for all students. This mine has been made available by Poole's Index for Periodical Literature, wherein a student upon any subject can ascertain where all articles upon that question may be found.

There was one set comprising 73 volumes of periodicals in the library two years ago, but the present management have added 1390 volumes to this department. This tells you what we have already received, but we have others on the way and orders out for the purchase of other desirable sets of reviews, to be filled as soon as the same can be done at reasonable figures.

The librarian's report for the year will give a better idea of the details of the work, its progress during the past year and its prospects. It is as follows:

The statistics embodied in this report are for a period of one year, December 1, 1889 to December 1, 1890.

The city council apportioned to the library fund, for the fiscal year ending 1890-91, the sum of \$21,222, derived from the city tax-levy, payable semi-annually. The receipts and expenditures of the library fund for the past year are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Lists Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1889, Received on account of apportionment, etc.

Books and periodicals \$13,230 37

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Lists Printing, Stationery and supplies, Library blanks, etc.

Total \$25,354 36

These figures are especially noteworthy, from the fact that the salary account is one-half that of the book account, showing that very few libraries can make, considering the large circulation of books of this library.

The book account of the library is set forth in the following statement:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Lists No. of volumes in library 1st Dec. 1889, No. of volumes accessioned to 1st Dec. 1890, etc.

Total No. Vols. in Library 1st Dec. 1890, 103,335

The discarded books and odd numbers of periodicals were divided between the county hospital and Newsboys' home, for the use of the inmates.

Of the above number of books in the library, 3060 volumes are public documents, and a reference collection number being 2319, all of which do not circulate, leaving 12,546 volumes available for circulation outside of the library.

The circulation, as recorded, is as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Month, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar. Lists Reading Room, Home Use, etc.

Total 6394

Total reading room and home use 119,883

The Sunday attendance for the year amounted to 3046, or an average of 152 per Sunday, the library being open from 1 o'clock p. m. to 6 o'clock p. m., on that day.

No record is kept of the use of books

THE POLICE.

The Work of the Force During the Past Year—The Number of Arrests and Offenses Charged.

The police force of the city is almost up to the best standard in its organization. J. M. Glass, the chief, in his annual report, furnishes the following tabular statement, and matter in reference to the work done by his department during the year. The table shows the arrests made by the police during the year from December 1, 1889, to November 30, 1890, inclusive, to have been 2575.

Of these arrests sixty-three defendants were held to answer to the charges preferred against them in the superior court; 1872 were convicted in the police court; 600 were dismissed by justices, and forty cases are still pending.

The city owns the police station on Second street, and the East Side station. The former is provided with a well equipped receiving hospital and city jail.

The police regulations require that each officer shall carry a club, revolver and handcuffs. The city furnishes a rosewood club, twenty-two inches long, and a black patent leather belt; the revolver and handcuffs are the private property of the officer, and are the make and style of individual fancy.

The report of the detective bureau shows property reported stolen and lost to the value of \$20,800, and property recovered and restored to owners to the amount of \$14,600.

The men have organized a rifle corps, the members of which have voluntarily armed themselves with the latest improved Winchester rifles, at a cost of \$25 each. They have spent much time in drill and target practice, and have attained a commendable degree of efficiency in the use of their weapons. The chief says: "I believe that in certain emergencies the possession of these weapons, and the knowledge of their use, might be a great service to the city, while they add materially to the general appearance of the force on parade or inspection. I think it would be a wise proceeding to furnish the department with a number of regulation bayonet rifles."

The force as constituted at present consists in all of seventy-seven men, as follows: One chief, one captain, one secretary, three sergeants, two drivers of patrol wagon, two jailors, three clerks, one bailiff, six mounted men, fifty-three patrolmen and four detectives.

The table of arrests is subjoined.

SUMMARY OF ARRESTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1890.

Large table with 13 columns: Month (Jan to Dec), Total, and various charges like Adultery, Assault, etc.

Grand totals 434

In the reference department, the public having direct access to the books, but the space at our command for this purpose is so limited that not one-fourth of the demand can be accommodated.

The daily use of the periodicals on file in the reading rooms, averages 100 per day, but no record is kept and the figures are not included in the circulation totals.

There are 221 periodicals received in the library, which are apportioned as follows: On file in reading rooms, 47; on file at delivery desk, 122; for use at home, 52.

That the circulation of current periodicals is popular may be judged by the fact that with fifty-two periodicals, the circulation amounted to 4391 for the year.

The large number of newspapers from surrounding towns, on file in the reading rooms, required so much space that their continuance was deemed impracticable, and the donors of the papers have since transferred them to the chamber of commerce, where they are on file for the use of the general public.

Special attention has been given to the reference collection in the purchase of books. Complete sets of the leading English and American reviews have been added, while the other classes have received the attention that the demand warranted.

On the 1st of July the board of directors extended the privileges of the library, during vacation, to all pupils of the public schools who attained an average of 90 per cent. in their examinations.

Cards were issued to 272 pupils and the increased number of juvenile visitors to the reading rooms averaged 100 per day; the circulation of books to these children amounted to 11,830 volumes in ten weeks.

The library staff deserves special mention and praise for the patience and efforts exerted to impress the youthful readers with a proper understanding of the card, catalogue and other guides, and to inspire consideration for the books; the result of the care exercised is very apparent and highly satisfactory from the moral effect, and from a business standpoint as well; since the principles of care and cleanliness thus instilled in the minds of the juvenile reader add 50 per cent. to the length of the life of a book on the library shelves.

During the past year the important work of making a card catalogue of the books has been actively going forward under the care of especially trained cataloguers, Mr. C. A. Cutler's rules for a Dictionary Catalogue being the adopted guide for the work.

The compilation of a finding list of authors and titles of the contents of the library was begun on the 1st of October, and will be in the hands of the printer by the 15th of December.

The copy of the finding list has been written on cards, postal size, directly from the books, and will be continued in that form after the list is published from them.

To compile a list under such a pressure, of course, cannot be satisfactory, nor is it published at all from choice, since the library is growing so rapidly as to render its usefulness very short lived; but it has been rendered imperative from the lack of desk room for the consulting of the shelf sheets, which for the past year have been the sole means of access to the library, aside from the helps afforded by the staff attendants, on whom the circulation has in the main depended.

The experiment of circulating music has proven a decided success, and that it has been appreciated by our patrons is shown by the circulation of 540 in the eight months it has been on the shelves, while the high character of the collection must prove an important educational feature.

A special effort is being made to collect photographic views of the city and surrounding country, and it is earnestly urged upon our citizens to assist us in

STREET RAILWAYS.

The Extent of Transportation Facilities in This City.

The Great Cable System—its Development and Cost—A Splendid Road—The Main and Temple-Street Lines.

There are in Los Angeles about 55 miles of street railway, including cable and horse roads. No city of its size in the United States is better provided with transportation facilities.

The leading roads are the cables conducted by the Pacific Railway company. This comprises about twenty-one miles of road, which is operated by means of seven cables, the power being furnished from three large power houses.

About two years ago a combination was formed of a number of independent horse-car lines in the city in a stock company, under the name of the Los Angeles Development company. Mr. J. F. Crank was president of the organization, Charles Forman vice-president, S. P. Jewett secretary, and I. W. Hellman treasurer. It was the intention of the company to put in a system of cables, very much the same as the one now in existence. Ground was broken in the spring of 1888, and the work begun.

In the fall of that year a number of Chicago capitalists became interested in the undertaking, and C. B. Holmes, the president of the South Side cable system of Chicago, came out to visit Los Angeles and look into the undertaking. He decided that the enterprise could be made to pay, and his decision and the energetic way in which it was carried out by the syndicate, shows what judgment was passed upon the possibilities of the future development of this city by a number of disinterested business men. Four-fifths of the stock was transferred to Chicago purchasers, and the name was ultimately changed to the Pacific Railway company. The work went on rapidly. On the 8th of June, 1889, the Grand avenue power-house was completed, and the first section of the cable went into operation. The occasion was celebrated by a grand banquet.

The next step in the development was the opening of the Boyle Heights power house and the cable from that part of the city. This took place on the 3d of August, 1889, and the citizens of Boyle Heights entertained their visitors in royal style. On the 2d of November the last of the power houses, that on Downey avenue, started its machinery, and the cable began to move cars over the great viaduct at San Fernando street.

East Los Angeles celebrated the street and met the cars with a procession and appropriate festivities. The four other cables operated beyond the various power houses, the Grand avenue to Jefferson street, the Seventh street, the Evergreen Cemetery and the extension of Downey avenue, were opened as rapidly as the lines were completed, and the cable system was completed and in successful operation and doing a good business.

The convenience of this system to the people of the city is a matter hard to overestimate. The remoter districts are the most benefited.

The total cost of the work was nearly \$2,000,000, divided as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Lists For ironwork, rails, etc., For machinery, For material used in construction, etc.

The San Fernando-street viaduct is 1535 feet long, and high enough to let cars with engines attached pass underneath. The approaches are each seventy-five feet long.

There are in the city three miles of cable railway not in the above system, and there is a total of twenty-five or thirty miles of street railway operated by horses or mules.

An electric street railway of about ten miles in length was built a few years ago and operated for a while, but it fell into decay. A company of people from Topeka, Kansas, has recently purchased the plant and franchise, and is now putting the road into thorough operating order under the control of the best systems known to electricians.

The result of all this is that Los Angeles has a system of street railways embracing nearly twenty-five miles of cable, nearly thirty miles of horse cars and nearly ten miles of electric road. The grand total is from sixty to sixty-five miles of street railway. The Pacific Railway company is now known as the Los Angeles Cable Railway company, and during 1889 it carried 6,000,000 passengers, or employs about 500 men.

The horse cars and other systems employ nearly as many more. The investment of \$2,000,000 in this system by the Chicago owners of the cable system is a pretty good evidence of the confidence shrewd men have in the city.

The Los Angeles Cable Railway company was a California organization, and owing to the fact of there being several objectionable features so far as stockholders were concerned, under the California law, a new corporation was organized under the laws of the state of Illinois on August 22, 1889, under the title Pacific Railway company. The present officers are: C. B. Holmes, president; J. F. Crank, vice-president; John J. Akin, superintendent and treasurer. The capital is \$2,500,000.

This company owns in all forty-five miles of track, of which twenty-one are operated by cable, and twenty-four miles by horses and mules. The three power houses, which are handsome brick buildings, are each equipped with compound, non-condensing engines of the Corliss type, and two Hazleton tripod boilers of 500-horse power. All of the machinery is the most improved patterns, rope transmission being used to transmit the power from the main shaft to the drivers.

Six large frame stables for the horses and mules are located at the terminals of the horse lines, and the machine and repair shops are on the corner of Grand avenue and Twelfth street. These horse lines use 140 horses, 90 mules, and 125 cars. A ten-minute car service is given on these lines.

The cables all make a speed eight and one-third miles per hour, and the horse lines seven and three-fourths miles per hour. The cars run from 5:30 a. m. until midnight. Each car makes a per annum mileage of 35,594.80 miles, the total of all the cars per annum being 1,779,700 miles. The company employs 325 men, and last year paid out in wages \$190,169.51. It also expended for hay, grain, supplies and material \$105,106.88.

The number of passengers carried last year amounted to 7,500,000. No person

was killed by the cars, and but three severely hurt.

THE FIRST CABLE ROAD.

The Extent of the Temple Street System and Its Business.

The Temple-street cable railway is the pioneer cable road of the city, having been in operation now for over five years.

It has in service three miles of line, one and one-half miles being double track, and one and one-half being single track.

It extends from Spring street along Temple street to the north city line, running through the beautiful western hill section of the city.

Ten trains are operated, and on the double track portion a five-minute service is maintained.

The power-house is equipped with duplicate engines and the most approved driving machinery.

The carefulness with which the road is managed is evinced by the fact that in a total of about one million passengers transported last year not a single accident occurred.

Mr. P. Beaudry is president, and F. W. Wood secretary and manager.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

List of Those in the County, with Their Population.

Following is a list of cities and towns in the county of Los Angeles, with their population and distance from Los Angeles:

Table with 3 columns: City Name, Population, and Miles. Lists Los Angeles, Acton, Alhambra, etc.

COUNTY CLERK'S BUSINESS.

A Summarized Statement Which Shows Less Litigation than Last Year.

The following is a summarized statement of the business of the county clerk's office for the past year, together with a comparison with the years 1888 and 1889. The figures show a slight decrease from those of 1889, which is accounted for by the fact that there has been much less litigation in the county:

Table with 3 columns: Year (1888, 1889, 1890) and various categories like RECEIPTS, DECEASES, etc.

RECEIPTS. 1888. 1889. 1890.

Table with 3 columns: Month, 1888, 1889, 1890. Lists January, February, etc.

December, 1889, estimated.

Eight hundred and fifty veterans draw pensions through this office.

The fees of the office were reduced 3 per cent. by the last legislature, taking effect in April, 1890.

All fees are paid into the county treasury. The office nets the county about \$1500 monthly.

When once started downward the sinner goes at foot speed.