

This report was signed by Edward Gibbons and Leonard Johnson. It expresses the spirit which influenced the Council from eighteen hundred and fifty-five, for many years. We do not propose to revive a discussion of the merits of a controversy which appears to have been settled for all time. In the two extracts from official documents which we have copied we present the most succinct statements of opinions to be found upon our records. And here we drop the question of the water front, to return to it only when it is made the instrument for securing the location of the terminus of the Western Pacific Railroad in Oakland.

Oakland had several times enjoyed temporary periods of unusual prosperity, but her career as a city commenced only when a sure and rapid means of communication had been established with San Francisco. The advantages of the town, as a place of residence, had induced various parties engaged in business in San Francisco to build homesteads in Oakland. The occasional detention of the ferry boats on the Bar at the mouth of the San Antonio Creek deterred many from taking up a residence, but upon the completion of the San Francisco and Oakland Railroad, a steady tide of emigration set toward the city, and it has never diminished, a fact that can be proven by an examination of the table showing the receipts of the Railroad Company since January 1866. The introduction of gas and water into the city marked another era in its progress. To-day, there is not a city in the State with a more promising future. Our growth has been solid and substantial, and the present condition of the city is in every way satisfactory.

Until within the past year our city has been considered important solely on account of the number and rank of the educational institutions located in or near its corporate limits. She has been identified with the higher educational interests of the State since an early day, and the selection of Berkeley as the site of the State University permanently establishes the position of the city as the educational centre of the State.

The facilities for building a vast city within and near the