

seven new hydrants and repairs of hydrants, \$8,498 29; total cost of department for the year, \$33,717 67. The number of hydrants is 145, and of cisterns 7.

Fires of the Year.

The number of fires within the city limits during 1878 was sixty-six, entailing a loss of \$75,169 50, covered by insurance to the amount of \$200,100. The amount of insurance paid was \$47,851, leaving a net loss to the sufferers by fire of \$27,318 50. The following is a correct list of the fires of the year in which the losses were of the sum of \$1,000 and upwards, together with the amount of insurance paid thereon:

Date.	Location.	Owner.	Loss.	Ins. Paid.
Jan. 6	Eighteenth nr West	Noblett & McCleverty	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,250
Mch 31	18th near Peralta	A. Gushammer	1,300	None.
Apr. 26	Peralta and 36th	B. Moran	2,200	2,200
May 9	E. 25th & 10th av.	Annie Green	8,500	8,500
May 24	683 East 12th	G. F. Lynde	2,500	2,500
May 28	First near Brush	R. Horton	1,500	1,280
June 6	475 East 11th	Mrs. John Taylor	2,180	2,180
Aug. 6	13th av, b E 16 & 17	L. Bonten	1,625	1,625
Oct. 26	E. 12th & 15th av.	J. Lorbor	1,800	1,500
Oct. 26	" "	H. Tum Suden	2,200	2,200
Oct. 26	" "	Richard Ough	25,000	8,000
Oct. 26	" "	Richard Ough	4,000	1,000
Oct. 26	" "	Workmen	1,500	None.
Nov. 5	Castro and Second	Welch & Weston	3,000	3,000
Nov 29	Harrison and 4th	F. Kluffer	4,300	4,000
Dec. 31	Union and 26th	C. Welch	3,000	None.

The fifty fires involving losses of less than \$1,000 each were, in most cases subdued in their incipiency, and aggregate a total loss of but \$9,264 50.

The Department is well equipped and in a state of superior efficiency. The rapid progress of street macadamizing thereby lessens the danger of loss by fire throughout the limits by enabling the engines to reach the scene of conflagration more promptly.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Oakland and San Francisco Ferry.

The following exhibit shows the business transacted by the Central Pacific Railroad Company between Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley and San Francisco during the year 1878.

Single trip tickets, 2,272,696; amount realized, \$344,-

737 05. Round trip tickets, 838,522; amount, \$111,164 85. Commutation tickets, 42,856; amount, \$128,572. The total is equal to 5,681,978 passengers carried, and the proceeds amount to \$584,472.

The number of passengers carried and amount of receipts since 1872 compares as follows:

	Passengers.	Receipts.
1873	2,655,671	\$306,235 15
1874	3,192,904	348,448 85
1875	4,028,310	437,206 20
1876	4,909,460	524,311 75
1877	5,570,555	585,251 70
1878	5,681,978	584,472 00

That portion of the travel which has heretofore passed through Oakland to Alameda has to a considerable extent been diverted by the opening of the narrow-gauge railroad and connecting ferry to that town.

The Tunnel.

Work upon a road to Contra Costa County has been rigorously prosecuted during the past year by L. W. Kennedy and his associates. The grading is almost completed, and the construction of a tunnel through the hills dividing Alameda and Contra Costa Counties will be pushed forward this season to completion, thus securing to Oakland the rich trade of the latter county, which has heretofore been compelled to seek an outlet by water to San Francisco. The cost of this important work will be from \$75,000 to \$100,000, and its advantages to Oakland inestimable.

The California Eclectic Medical College.

This institution was incorporated on the 17th day of May, 1878, under the laws of the State. It is designed to establish a medical college of a high order, and in which students of both sexes may receive instruction. The capital stock of the corporation is \$25,000, all of which is subscribed and paid. A magnificent college building, forty-two feet front by eighty-six feet deep and four stories in height has been erected on Clay Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, at a cost of over \$14,000. The summer or preliminary course of lectures will open in July, 1879. This college is regarded as an important addition to the facilities enjoyed by Oakland for scientific and professional education.