

are more clearances than entrances registered at the Custom House is, that an incoming vessel is not entered on the books unless it has a cargo of foreign goods to the value of over \$500. The total amount of import duties for 1876 was \$8,053,000—in round numbers a decrease of \$235,000 from 1875.

THE UNITED STATES MINT is an elegant and durable building on the northwest corner of Mission and Fifth streets, fronting one hundred and sixty and one half feet on the former and two hundred and seventeen and one sixth feet on the latter. The building is two stories high, besides the basement. The parapet walls are fifty-six feet high; the pediment seventy-five, and the two chimneys each one hundred and forty-two feet. The form of the building is a hollow parallelogram, one hundred and two and one half feet by forty-three and three quarters, and paved with flagging. Six solid fluted columns, massive and lofty, give beauty and grandeur to the main entrance on Fifth Street. The style of architecture is the Doric. The coinage during 1876 was as follows: Gold, number of pieces, one million six hundred and eleven thousand, value \$32,022,500; silver, pieces, twenty-eight millions seven hundred and seventy-one thousand, value, \$10,682,000; total coinage, \$42,704,500. In 1875 the refining department was placed in operation. Its capacity is about one million ounces per month, an amount frequently insufficient to meet the demands for its services. Charges for refining: three hundred parts gold and less, 2½ cents; three hundred and a half parts gold to six hundred thousand, 4 cents; six hundred and a half parts gold to seven hundred and fifty thousand, 6 cents; seven hundred and fifty and a half parts gold and over, 8 cents. When necessary, outside establishments are employed to assist the U. S. Mint in its refining department.

UNITED STATES SUB-TREASURY.—An elegant four-story building is being erected on the site of the old mint, on Commercial Street, near Montgomery, for the United States Sub-Treasury Department. It is being built under the supervision of General Samuel McCullough, Superintendent of Construction of United States Buildings of California. It is constructed on the same style of architecture as the United States Appraisers' Building. The material used is the best quality of pressed brick, laid on granite sills. General McCullough's estimate was \$87,116.26; but it was afterwards decided to add another story, making four stories, which will make the total cost about \$100,000. The Sub-Treasury will occupy the entire of the first floor; the Surveyor-General's office will be on the second; and the Register and Receiver of the General Land Office will occupy the third and fourth floors. So far Congress has made three appropriations for this building, aggregating \$60,000. If the required \$40,000 is allowed at the present session—and it is very probable—the building will be ready for occupancy by May 1, 1877.

UNITED STATES APPRAISER'S BUILDING.—On the northeast corner of Washington and Sansom streets is being built an elegant and substantial three-story structure, to be known as the United States Appraiser's Building. It is being constructed under the direction of General Samuel McCullough, Superintendent of Construction of United States Buildings of California. The building extends on Sansom Street two hundred and sixty-five and one half feet; its depth, running from Washington to Jackson Street, is one hundred and twenty and one half feet. The basement is nine feet and three inches in the clear. The basement walls rest on a solid wall of concrete, five feet wide and five feet deep. The basement and first floor will be used as United States Appraiser's stores. The second and third floors will be occupied by the United States courts. Congress has made three appropriations for the building; the first, \$403,000; second, \$100,000, and the third, \$80,000; aggregating \$583,000. Superintendent McCullough has asked for an additional appropriation of \$200,000; which, if allowed, will enable him to complete the building during the coming summer.

THE POST-OFFICE.—During the past year some slight improvements have been made in the Postoffice building, which is both a convenience to the employes and public. Though the building is inadequate for the proper transaction of the volume of business, yet General Coey has done a great deal in remodeling and fitting up the inner building, so as to make ample working room. The system of the delivery of letters by carrier was commenced under the administration of General Coey, in November, 1869. There were seventeen carriers. In 1870 the number of carriers was increased to twenty-four. During that year eight hundred and sixty-nine thousand nine hundred and four letters were delivered, of which number one hundred and thirty-three thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven were "drop" letters. They collected eight hundred and forty-six thousand seven hundred and thirty-five. This does not convey, by probably 25 per cent., the number of letters received by mail, or mailed; as a great many "call" for letters, and a great many mail them. In 1875 there were three millions nine hundred and twenty-two thousand four hundred and fifty-one letters delivered, of which nine hundred and ninety-six thousand two hundred and fifty-six were drop letters; and there were collected five millions two hundred and fifty-one thousand one hundred and nineteen. The number of postal cards delivered was seven hundred and thirty-eight thousand two hundred and twenty-five; number collected five hundred and sixty-nine thousand five hundred and fifty-six; number of carriers twenty-four. In 1876 the carrier force was increased to thirty-six. There were delivered four millions five hundred and fifty-eight thousand four hundred and sixty-seven letters; of which three millions four hundred and two thousand five hundred and sixty were mail letters. During the same time there were collected five millions four hundred and fifty-two thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight letters, of which seven hundred and forty-two thousand nine hundred and twelve were drop letters. There were about eight hundred thousand

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