

MAYOR ROBINSON'S MESSAGE.**What It Costs to Run the Oakland City Government.**

Last evening Mayor Robinson presented his message to the City Council of Oakland. The message opens with a general statement regarding the city, its population and the assessed value of property—\$28,000,000. The message touches upon the desirability of Oakland as a place of residence and its advantages as a manufacturing center, and suggests remedies for abolishing certain public nuisances that exist in the shape of stagnant pools of water in the neighborhood of the Tompkins School. The total cost of maintaining the municipal departments for 1882 amounted to \$212,877 64, not including the cost of maintaining the Free Library or the public schools, both of which are managed by separate Boards of Trustees.

The Mayor commends the work done by the Police and Fire departments. He recommends a tax levy of 82 cents for \$100 on a basis of \$28,000,000, the valuation of assessed property, as follows: For Salary Fund, 30 cents; for General Fund, 8 cents; street-light Fund, 10 cents; School Fund, 16 cents; Interest Fund, 10 cents; Free Library Fund, 2 cents; total, 82 cents.

In regard to water rates the Mayor says: "From the reports of the Contra Costa Water Company now on file it appears that they have received as water rent the past year \$198,833 70, of which the citizens of Oakland have paid \$175,061 45, only \$25,000 less than the entire expenses of running the City Government for the same time, including all extraordinary expenses, and \$18,000 more than the tax levy for the same year for that purpose. In other words, the citizens paid \$158,000 in the shape of taxes for current expenses for the year 1882, and for water for the same year \$176,000. This has enabled the company to make a dividend of \$126,000, after paying interest on their bonds of \$30,600, and still leaves a surplus to apply in payment of operating expenses and new works. * * *

I recommend, as a fair adjustment of matters between the citizens of Oakland and the water company, that the City Council fix the rates for water 20 per cent below what the company is now charging."