

OAKLAND NEWS.

J. West Martin on the Charter.

THE - QUESTION OF BONDS.

A Brakeman Injured on the Broad-Gauge—Notes From Alameda.

Before the tax levy was fixed by the Council there were apprehensions that the same might be set at \$1 00. If such was the case the supporters of bonds declared that the success of their plan would be jeopardized, as the taxpayers would refuse to submit to such additional taxation. The tax levy, however, was fixed at \$1, and the bond advocates breathed easier.

In an interview with a CHRONICLE reporter last evening Commissioner J. West Martin expressed himself clearly upon the question, and adverted to live issues which were of deep interest to the city taxpayer, especially since the Supreme Court may sustain the charter in the Ah You case now pending before it, and if so, put another complexion on things at the City Hall, stripping the Council of its assumed powers and restoring them to the Board of Public Works as bestowed by the charter.

"The people of Oakland," said Mr. Martin last evening to the reporter, "will never give up the right to govern themselves, even if the Constitution of the State has to be amended. They will never consent to the supremacy of the general law over their charter. They framed the charter, intending to be governed by its provisions, and not by the dictates of a State Legislature."

"Suppose the charter is overruled in the Ah You case?" was asked.

"Then we will have the constitution amended. There is no use of having a charter if it is to be destroyed. I should feel unwilling to undertake the expenditure of a million of dollars on the proposed public improvements if the Board of Public Works is to be ignored as it has been, when the express conditions of the charter are so well understood by all and particularly by those who before the passage announced themselves its best friends."

"You think, then, that the bonds depend greatly upon the Ah You decision?"

"I do. If the general law is sustained and the charter ignored I do not think the bonds will carry. I am personally favorable to public improvements and so is the board, but the people will demand that the provisions of the charter be carried out if they vote for bonds and not otherwise."

"What do you think of the action of the Council in the premises?" asked the reporter.

"I do not care now to discuss that point," answered Mr. Martin. "I will say, however, that the Council is a changeable body, and while the present Council might be favorable to the Board of Public Works, its successors might be inimical and overthrow the board, appointing their own agents. In view of the expenditure of the large sums contemplated by the charter, and the Board of Public Works being especially created for that purpose, I earnestly believe that the people would not feel willing to vote \$1,000,000 for bonds without knowing in whose hands the money was to be expended. It was under the impression that the Board of Public Works was to have a voice in this matter that I was induced to accept the office."