ALAMEDA COUNTY.

Is bounded on the north by Contra Costa county, on the east by San Joaquin county, on the south by Santa Clara county, and on the west by the Bay of San Francisco. This county ranks next to San Francisco in population, shipping industries, educational institutions, churches and general improvements. It received its name from Alameda creek, the largest stream in the county, whose banks are thickly bordered with cottonwood and willow trees, presenting the appearance of a shaded avenue, called in Spanish an "Alameda."

This county has an area of about eight hundred square miles, and is beautifully diversified, from the salt marsh land bordering on the bay to the Contra Costa mountains, in some points two thousand feet above the sea level.

The county is well supplied with water, and good crops are the rule with scarcely an exception. Consequently farmers are well-to-do, and are comfortably located on small but carefully tilled and productive farms. They raise great crops of wheat, barley, corn, oats, hay, potatoes and the finest kind of fruits.

Next to San Francisco, this county is more extensively engaged in the manufacturing industries than any other, and the probability is that it will very soon become the manufacturing center of the State. Its location is in every respect most favorable for this purpose.

Alameda county with its picturesque scenery, healthful climate and proximity to the metropolis is specially adapted for suburban homes, a fact already recognized by a great many San Francisco business men, who have palatial residences in Oakland and suburbs, Berkeley, Alameda, Brooklyn and Fruit Vale.

In the southern part of the county grapes are raised very successfully, and an immense quantity of wine and brandy is made annually. Vegetable gardens, cultivated by Portuguese, Italians and Chinese, are also numerous throughout the county.