

114,900 pear, 287,000 prune, 1,250 lemon, 2,175 orange, 103,000 almond, 2,200 walnut.

In addition to these there are hundreds of acres of strawberries, currants, blackberries, etc.

The largest nursery in the State is that of the California Nursery Co. at Niles.

More than half the flowers that supply the San Francisco market come from Alameda County. The finest collection of orchids on the coast, worth \$50,000, belongs to Mr. J. C. Siegfried of Alameda.

Bay Farm Island, which is a part of the City of Alameda, contains about 325 acres of land devoted chiefly to the production of asparagus. The land rents for \$50 per acre per annum.

One reason for the remarkable success of fruit and vegetable growers is found in the fact that very few injurious insects are found in the County. A very strict quarantine was established early in the history of fruit growing and has been maintained ever since, with the result that Alameda county has no phylloxera, no red or white scale and very few other pests.

#### PRICES OF LAND AND PROFITS.

Land in Alameda County is not cheap either in price or quality. To a man who has sold a farm in the Mississippi valley, which he has improved and brought to a high state of cultivation, for \$50 or perhaps \$75 an acre, \$150 an acre for unimproved land seems a high price, but when the income is taken into account, the discrepancy disappears. From his Illinois or Iowa land he will do well if he realizes \$10 an acre net, which we will say is 15 per cent on his investment. An Alameda County orchard when in full bearing has cost him \$75 an acre for the land and say \$100 an acre for planting and cultivation, or, if he prefers, he can save the time required for development by buying his orchard at about \$300 an acre. The net income from this land will not be less than \$75 per acre or 25 to 40 per cent on his investment. Experienced fruit growers say that taking the average of the years they can make a net profit of \$100 a year per acre. These may seem large figures, but for the past five years the average income from orchards in this County has been more than \$75 per acre. In many instances profits from \$400 to \$600 an acre have been realized in single years. Last year orchardists sold their cherries at 20 cents per pound, realizing from \$500 to \$1,500 an acre, depending upon the age of the trees. Unimproved fruit

lands may be had at \$40 to \$150 per acre, depending chiefly upon the location. Orchards in full bearing, where owners are for some reason anxious to sell, go as low as \$250 an acre, but more often are held at \$350 to \$600, including fair improvements.

#### TAXES.

Large sums of money are used annually in public improvements and in maintaining those already made. The public school fund amounts to about \$500,000 annually; \$100,000 are expended on road improvement and maintenance, all macadamized roads being sprinkled every day to keep them in perfect condition.

The County has no debt and only needs to raise sufficient funds by taxation to pay current expenses.

The following figures give the valuation and rates of taxation for ten years past:

Year.	Val.	City Rate	Outside	Amount Raised
1890..	\$76,260,176	\$1.00	\$1.30	\$ 829,731.27
1891..	83,031,722	85	1.15	705,769.63
1892..	89,070,041.50	80	1.10	787,252.93
1893..	90,588,140	1.00	1.35	905,881.40
1894..	90,821,744	1.00	1.35	996,391.35
1895..	91,924,619	1.18	1.52	1,174,850.62
1896..	96,406,186	97	1.30	1,024,538.51
1897..	82,948,726	1.13	1.50	1,020,766.30
1898..	85,504,144	1.20	1.53	1,064,003.96
1899..	84,105,794	1.34	1.69	1,193,096.37

#### SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT ROLL.

Real estate (other than town lots) ..	\$14,945,675
Improvements on same.....	4,127,000
City and town lots.....	32,973,775
Improvements on same .....	22,386,450

Total real estate.....\$74,432,900

Personal property .....	\$ 6,513,950
Collected by Assessor.....	2,133,818
Money ..	212,625
Collected by Assessor.....	85,000
Solvent credits .....	1,014,625
Collected by Assessor.....	100,800

Total personal property.....\$10,060,818

Total all property.....\$84,493,718

Value of property affected by mortgages ..	\$32,025,100
--	--------------