

# INTRODUCTION

The Polk-Husted Directory Co., publishers of the Oakland City Directory, present the 1921 edition of that publication to its patrons and users with full confidence that it will not fail to satisfy the most critical.

Especial care has been exercised to secure a thorough enumeration of the residents of the city and all its manifold business interests. The work presents as complete and comprehensive a directory as it is possible to produce, having in view the vast volume of information and statistical data assembled for compilation. In the accomplishment of this task the publishers have utilized their complete organization and efficient methods and the directory represents an achievement in production on a par with other metropolitan directories. The directory is devoted to the advancement of all of the city's vital interests and has in each issue kept pace with its progress.

We are indebted to the Oakland Chamber of Commerce for the following data, which has been especially prepared by Mr. Eugene Bowles, director of publicity.

## THE MAINLAND OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

A hundred years from now the traveler bound for Asia will ask for a stop-over at Oakland, and as he looks down from the dirigible observation platform—for they will all be flying then—as the airship slows down for the airdome, the unique city of the world will meet his eye.

He will see a metropolis of varied and beautiful character—great industries flanking a harbor-front at which is tied up the shipping of the world; in the mid-section the business, commercial and financial center; on the foothills that run down to the sea the homes of a happy people—hustling manufacturing, cold-blooded business, contented firesides all comingled.

Outstanding will be the Pacific naval base—mayhap by that time transformed into a base for the warriors of the air, immense fighting planes and dirigibles that can swoop across the Pacific in hours to deal death to the enemy.

Just a beautiful dream, you say? Well, one Edward Bellamy once wrote a book called "Looking Backward." It was written less than a century ago. Look it over again and see if nearly all of the wonderful things he wrote about in that book have not come true today, with more wonders made into realities than he ever dreamed of.

Oakland has all the elements for the making of such a wonder city—and when one speaks of Oakland and its development, its sister cities must always be taken into consideration.

Along the shores of San Francisco Bay cluster these "Seven Cities of the Mainland," as some call them. In reality they are all one big community with common interests and with a combined population of 315,940 (1920 census). These cities are:

Alameda, population 28,806; Albany, 2,426; Berkeley, 56,036; Emeryville, 2,390; Oakland, 216,261; Piedmont, 4,282; San Leandro, 5,703.

In the center is Oakland, which gained 65 new industries in 1920, adding 4,000 men and \$7,000,000 to its payrolls and increasing industrial investments by \$9,000,000. It is the Alameda County seat and the third largest city in California, scoring a 44 per cent growth in the 1910-1920 decade.

The United States census shows that it was among the ten fastest growing cities in the country in 1910-20 decade, and the same census figures show that an east and west line drawn in the neighborhood of the city hall equally divides the population of the Pacific Coast, 2,783,000 people living on each side of the line.

The county as a whole has 344,177 people and in the outlying sections are a number of prosperous small cities, among them the following:

Hayward, population, 3,487; Pleasanton, 991; Livermore, 1,916.

The late John Hay, then secretary of State under President Roosevelt, called Oakland the "beauty spot of the world" when he visited the city in 1906. He had viewed it as one views Naples—from its heights—and like Naples, he saw it running down in verdant terraces to meet iridescent San Francisco Bay.