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San Rafael

AN RAFAEL, the commercial center of Marin County and the County seat, is situated in a small sheltered valley surrounded by wooded hills, and faces the Bay of San Francisco on the east. It is distant about 17 miles northerly from San Francisco. The city is the largest in Marin County and is the seat of the County Government. The town was incorporated under a special act in 1874, and in 1889 it was re-incorporated under the general law as a city of the fifth class. The population within its municipal territory, which embraces the entire water shed of the San Rafael valley, is approximately 4000 souls. Its government is that of cities of its class, and is vested in a board of five town trustees, with their subordinate executive officers.

The city is regularly laid out in blocks, generally 300 feet square, by streets that run nearly parallel with the cardinal points of the compass. Many of the streets are planted with handsome trees, affording abundent shade in summer and adding to the picturesque appearance of the city. The population of San Rafael is made up principally of business and professional men of San Francisco, who make their homes here. As might be expected from such a class of residents, the improvements and general surrounding are of a far higher order than a population of some 4000 would indicate. The dwellings are, as a rule, large, elegant and of modern design, surrounded by large, well kept grounds. Horticulture, in many instances, is carried to its highest development. The flower gardens of San Rafael are famous throughout the state.

To the business man wearied with the eternal and infernal rumble and turmoil of traffic, bored well nigh to death by the unending routine of desk and counting-room, distracted by the echoes of that worst of abominations, the cobblestone, the sweet pure air, the soothing quietude of this Mecca of the invalid is as welcome as a ray of sunlight to the lattice of the sick. But, after all, it is the people, the residents that stamp the character of a town, and here we have a community of refined, cultured, hospitable people, who make welcome the stranger within their gates, asking only that he subscribe to the ordinary tenets of morality. Here the moneyed men, the capitalists of San Francisco, the men whose names, interests and business careers are identified and indissoluby connected with the growth, history, and prosperity of

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