

PALO ALTO, MAYFIELD AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY

The government census in 1920 gave Palo Alto a population of 5,900. The directory canvass, supplemented by the health department work in 1920 showed that in the same territory that was covered by the government enumerators there were more than 6,100 people. Since the national census was taken the population has further been increased by annexation of outlying territory. so it is believed Palo Alto's population is fully 8,000. In the Palo Alto Acres district and other territory tributary to Palo Alto are 2,000 more people. Mayfield and Stanford, also more or less tributary to Palo Alto, add 4,000 more, making a total population in the district covered by this directory is fully 15,000. Palo Alto is the largest city between San Francisco and San Jose. It is the business center of this district. Mayfield is a residence and canning center. Stanford University and four private schools, along with the public schools make it an educational center. San Francisco is 32 miles northwest and San Jose 17 miles southeast. Steam and electric railways run to San Jose; bus lines and steam railways run via Palo Alto from San Francisco to San Jose.

The present city charter of Palo Alto went into effect July 1, 1909. It was formulated by a board of freeholders composed of Marshall Black, C. E. Jordan, H. W. Simkins, C. B. Wing, Fernando Sanford, E. C. Thoits, C. B. Stinson, J. T. Coulthard, G. J. Carey, Walter E. Vail, B. P. Oakford, S. W. Charles, Stanley Forbes, C. S. Downing and A. N. Umphreys. The governing body of the city is the council composed of fifteen members, each elected for a term of six years and five retiring every two years. All executive officers are selected by the council. Three subordinate boards look after details of administration, such as public works, public safety and the library. Members of these boards hold office for six years. Appointive officers serve during the pleasure of the council, but the custom has become established that such appointive officers are reappointed annually and have served almost continuously for most of the time since the charter was adopted.

Among features of public policy embodied in the charter are the initiative, referendum, recall, prohibition of manufacture