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Alameda and Santa Clara Counties Building

To the right of the Organ is La Via de los Estados, at the entrance of which, on the left, is the Alameda and Santa Clara Counties Building. This is the plainest of all the county buildings. The only decoration is the handsome arched doorway with two engaged columns supporting a molded superstructure. Its otherwise unadorned walls are pierced by small deep-set windows near the eaves. The interior is appropriately decorated with a trellis effect.

Although Alameda is one of the small counties of the State (843 square miles) 468,480 acres are devoted to agriculture, 11,300 to horticulture, and 6,500 to viticulture; its poultry and livestock are valued at \$760,000 and \$6,157,519 respectively; its 1200 factories produce \$48,000,000 worth of goods, and 4,250,000 tons of freight are handled on its 4 1/2 miles of wharves along a waterfront of 27 miles.

As for the 1,328 square miles of Santa Clara County, this "Valley of Heart's Delight" is practically one vast orchard and garden. In 1913 there were 8,176, 532 fruit and nut-bearing trees in its orchards. These produce annually 33,500 tons of fresh and 10,600 tons of dried fruit, 55,000 tons of prunes, 967,000 cases of canned fruit, and 360 tons of nuts. Nor are its farm, poultry, and dairy products insignificant. Another important industry is the raising of seeds and nursery stock, 7,000 acres being devoted to it.

In front of the doorway within this building is a model of Oakland's City Hall, the second tallest building west of Chicago. To the right a spineless cactus reminds us that Santa Clara County is the home of Luther Burbank, the "plant wizard." Among the agricultural and horticultural exhibits, some of which also represent Burbank's genius, are gigantic Irish potatoes, pineapple quinces, artichokes, the Elberta peach, a thornless blackberry vine, winter crimson rhubarb, rainbow corn, and magnificent Spanish irises, (the two latter for decorative purposes), Payne's giant walnuts two inches long, and Driscoll's strawberry vines that bear fruit ten months out of the twelve. But one of the most interesting exhibits to us was that of the California Cotton Mills of Oakland, comprising articles manufactured in this State from Imperial Valley cotton, the longest-fibered cotton in the world. Established in 1883, this factory employs from 600 to 700 operators, and it sells \$1,500,000 worth of cotton goods annually. But remembering that there is another county building that must be visited before the afternoon is over, we reluctantly leave these interesting exhibits.