

PROGRESSIVE SUMTER.

Condensed Statement of Business Statistics, Such as Population, Real Estate and Personal Property Values, Manufacturing and Industrial Enterprises, Educational Institutions, Commerce, Agriculture, Railroads, Public Works, Banks, Taxes and Other Facts About Sumter City and Sumter County S. C., Collected and Classified for The Daily Item by Emmett I. Readon, Secretary and Health Officer.

The city of Sumter and county are situated about the center of the state. The city is situated in a sandy pine belt region, and is noted for the salubrity of its climate. It has always maintained a high reputation as one of the most healthy sections of the south. The city is handsomely laid out with wide streets and well shaded avenues, handsome public buildings and private residences, the latter having well kept gardens, gave evidence of comfort and elegance. Located on eight railroad lines, provided with good sanitary regulations and thorough system of water works and electric lighting, Sumter enjoys exceptional facilities as a summer and winter residence. The distance from Columbia is 42 miles, from Charleston 98 miles, from Wilmington 149 miles. The city is forging to the front steadily and rapidly, industrially and commercially. This is a prosperous section and the signs of good times are clearly evident. Nearly all of the business buildings are new, have just been or are being remodelled and the city is noted for its beautiful homes, and many beautiful cottages with all modern sanitary fixtures and conveniences, are being built for rent at reasonable prices.

Sumter's real estate is steadily increasing in value and as this is likely to become a winter resort, the increase in value is very noticeable.

Several years ago a citizen bought 20 acres near the depot, he sold 17 acres to the Southern Railway for \$10,000.00, got \$2,000.00 for a part of it 100 ft. square, and the value of what he had left, exceeded the original cost of the 20 acres.

The city government of Sumter is in a fine condition financially, having a tax valuation of \$795,000.00 and a bond debt of only \$57,000.00. These are 20 year 4s and 6s. The city tax is 14 mills for all purposes, the business license rates are exceedingly low. While 14 mills taxes are levied, yet property is only returned for taxation at about one-half its value.

For illustration note below that 63 buildings alone erected at a cost of \$375,120.00, still the increase in tax returns in 1903, was only \$175,000.00, including real estate values, household goods and store fixtures and other personal property.

If all property was returned at 3/4 of its value, it would be necessary to levy only 7 mill taxes, which would look better to outsiders not familiar with methods of returning property for taxation, so after all taxes are very low in Sumter, considering the up-to-date municipal government and the conveniences enjoyed by its citizens.

No one will sell property for 50 per cent more than it is returned for taxes, some would refuse a great deal more. The Sumter Water Co. asked \$110,000.00 one year ago for its plant, which cost about \$45,000.00 ten years ago, but this company only pays taxes to the county on \$19,000.00 worth of property and other corporations are similarly undervalued, and private property too.

The people are justly proud of their schools. St. Joseph's Academy for young ladies established in 1893, has a great reputation. It is a high grade institution. There are three graded, two common and one high school under the supervision of a superintendent, who conducts them according to modern ideas and methods. The two handsome new brick school buildings cost \$35,000.00 and are heated and ventilated by a system as near perfect as is known to science.

Sumter is noted for the purity of its water supply, capacity being 1,000,000 gallons per day, distributed from a standpipe which holds 400,000 gallons.

The health of the city is carefully looked after, the death rate is exceedingly low, particularly among the white people, and the city is noted for the small number of cases of infectious and contagious diseases. The city is also well drained, mostly with underground terra cotta pipes. There are two hospitals for the care of the sick, managed by surgeons of ability and reputation, trained nurses are in attendance. These hospitals draw a large patronage from other counties in this State, where there are no hospitals for the care of the sick. They are Dr. J. A. Mood's Infirmary and Dr. S. C. Baker's Infirmary. A training school for nurses is established at both hospitals.

Sumter county is an exceptionally fine agricultural section. The climate is ideal and crops can be raised the year round. The soil is peculiarly adapted to the production of cotton, corn, hay, oats, wheat, melons, barley, rye, tobacco, potatoes and all varieties of fruits and vegetables. This is a splendid market for fruit raising and truck farming. Sumter is one of the largest cotton producing counties in the State. One other county which has over 25 per cent more territory produced 52,000 bales against Sumter's 51,500 bales. This is about the best local cotton market in the state. Sumter also excels in the matter of fine timber. Great quantities cypress, oak, walnut, poplar, dogwood, hickory, maple, yellow and Cuban pine and black gum grow here.

The county has an able county supervisor and board of county commissioners, men of practical ideas, patriotic and energetic.

All laws are rigidly enforced and Sabbath breaking is not tolerated. There are no dens where drink and vice rule. The city and county are run on a high moral plane. The people are religious and church court dockets, are remarkably free from criminal cases. The whites are in the majority. The county of Sumter is peopled by sturdy, honorable, hard working farmers of modern ideas, among whom are many historic families, the true types of the old South, noted for hospitality and patriotism. There are ten churches in the city, for white people, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Roman Catholic 2, Episcopal, 1, Hebrew Synagogue, 1, Christian Church, 1, and five churches for colored people, Baptist, Methodist

and Presbyterian. Sumter is rapidly becoming a manufacturing center. Two large furniture and coffin factories employ hundreds of men, one of which started on a capital of \$65,000 seven years ago, the plant could not now be bought for \$50,000.00. The Sumter Telephone Company, which manufactures telephones, switchboards and other telephone and electric appliances, is the only telephone factory in the south, whose products find markets throughout the world. Hundreds of men and women are employed and the factory is one of the largest in the United States.

The Sumter Fire department consists of two two-horse teams manned by the finest set of young volunteer fire fighters to be found in the country, and the hook and ladder company manned by faithful colored firemen. Insurance rates are therefore not high. Sumter city and county have an industries, well behaved and orderly colored population, many of whom own their own homes. Race troubles are unknown.

SOME BUSINESS FACTS.

Population of city of Sumter in 1890, U. S. Census, 3,800.

Population of city of Sumter in 1900 U. S. Census, 5,675.

Increase in ten years 1,875.

Population of city of Sumter in 1903, official city census 7,281.

Suburban population, practically part of city, 767. Total city and suburban population, 8,048.

Actual increase in population since 1900, 1,606.

The increase in a little over two years since 1900 was nearly as much as in ten years previous.

Total area of city in square miles 3 3/4. Number of inhabited houses in city 1,569.

Length of water pipes 11 miles.

Capacity of water supply 1,000,000 gals. daily.

Amount invested in manufacturing and industrial enterprise \$775,000.00.

Banking capital, three banks, \$200,000.00.

Population employed in factories, 1,200. Number of miles of streets 42 1/4 miles of macadam, balance clay and sand roads.

RAILROADS.

Sumter is the largest railroad center in the state. Three different systems of railroads, viz. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co., The Northwestern Railroad Co., and The Southern Railway, with eight separate lines running into Sumter from all points of the compass, controlled by railway companies as follows: Manchester & Augusta Railroad Co., The Central Railroad Co., of South Carolina, The Sumter & Wateree Co., The Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad Co., The Wilson & Summerton Railroad Co., the old C. S. & N. now the M. & A. extension. There are 52 trains daily; 31 carrying passengers, 25 carrying U. S. mails and passengers exclusively.

Total passenger business of all railroads of Sumter for the twelve months of 1903, \$150,018.20. Total freight business of all railroads of Sumter for the twelve months of 1903, \$509,000.80. Local pay rolls at Sumter of the railroads, annually \$71,360.00. Total value of railroad property returned to the county for taxes in 1903 \$985,080.00. Actual value of railroad property, all kinds, in 1903, \$1,400,000.00. Number of miles of side tracks in city of Sumter, 117. Total taxes paid Sumter county 1903, by railroads, \$12,148.12. Total value of railroad property returned for taxes in the city of Sumter in 1903, \$61,690.00. Actual value of railroad property in the city of Sumter \$145,000.00. Total taxes paid city of Sumter by railroads in 1903, \$909.97. Total license taxes paid city of Sumter by railroads in 1903, \$250.00. Number of railroad employes in city of Sumter, 147. Sumter county has more systems of railroads and more miles of railroad tracks than any county in the state, not excepting Richland county, in which the capital of the state is situated. The city of Sumter has the greatest number of railroad lines, with the best morning and afternoon schedules for drawing trade of any city in the state and among the best in the south. Sumter is indebted to the railroads, particularly the Atlantic Coast Line, for much of her prosperity and the Northwestern and the Southern Railway contribute much to the prosperity of the city also.

The city of Sumter does a very large business in dry goods, particularly fancy dress goods, and making fine dresses, military goods, etc. There are seven dress making establishments, some of them conducted by exclusive dry goods stores. There are four first class millinery stores. The leading dry goods, millinery and shoe stores send their representatives and head dress makers, milliners and chiefs of departments north each spring and fall to purchase their stocks and study the latest patterns, styles, etc. Sumter draws a large patronage in the above lines from Florence, Marion, Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Darlington, Marlboro, Williamsburg and Georgetown counties. In gents and boys clothing and furnishing goods Sumter has a number of establishments handling these lines and exclusively several merchant tailoring establishments which make clothing. There are a number of large shoe stores also. The wholesaler grocery business is very large and ships many carloads of groceries to other points. A good business is also done in shipping hardware and paints. Lots of manufactured articles, such as telephones, telephone receivers, switch boards, furniture, coffins and fine caskets and boxes, doors, sash, blinds fly screens, desks, cabinets, safes cotton seed oil, meal and hulls, cotton yarn, lumber, turpentine, rosin, tarred wood work, ballusters, window and door frames, fancy wood work, golf sticks, building material of all kinds, brick, ice, soda water, coca cola, wagons, log carts, buggies, brass and iron foundry work, machine work, plumbing work, marble and stone work, job printing, and other articles are made here and shipped to various points in this and other states. Diversified industries, honest dealing and a hustling business spirit, together with splendid telephone connections with rural districts and surrounding towns and convenient morning and afternoon railroad schedules to all points make Sumter the chief distributing center for a very large section of South Carolina.

The general headquarters and repair shops of the Northwestern railroad are located here. Two commodious freight depots, with numerous warehouses, platforms and sheds for cotton, fertilizers, laval stores, agricultural implements and other freight. Two handsome passenger depots costing \$25,000, two local switch engines are required night and day to handle the freight traffic. Two yardmasters and a force of switch hands and other hands are worked night and day on the extensive freight yards. Five car inspectors are constantly employed, three roadmasters are located here with five section masters. A considerable force of locomotive engineers, firemen, conductors and baggage-masters and other railroad men are living here. The district surgeon of the three railroad systems lives here.

Total value of real estate and personal property, returned for taxes in the city of Sumter in 1903, \$1,794,090. Actual value of all personal property and real estate of all kinds, taxable and non-taxable in the city of Sumter estimated \$3,000,000.00. Total city taxes collected in 1903, \$24,794.89. This does not include license tax and commutation taxes, amounting to \$4,500 annually. Increase in tax returns in city of Sumter in 1903, \$175,000.00. Number of new residences, stores, tenement houses, office buildings, manufacturing enterprises, schools, warehouses, hotels, lumber plants, churches and other buildings erected in the past 18 months 163, which cost \$375,120.00.

The Western Union Telegraph Co., Postal Telegraph Co., and the Southern Express Co. have 16 men employed here and they do a very large business. The Western Union pays taxes on personal property returned at \$27,818.50. The real estate and personal property owned by the city of Sumter valued at \$12,500.00. Its municipal officials are: Mayor, eight aldermen, city clerk and treasurer, recorder, supervisor of registration, superintendent of public works, assistant superintendent of public works, chief of police, 6 regular policeman and several substitute officers, chief and assistant chief of the fire department, secretary to city Board of Education, health officer and sanitary inspector, city physician, superintendent of education, five members of the city board of education, five members of the health board, president of the health board, city engineer, corporation counsel, 35 teachers employed in the city graded schools. Total school enrollment for 1903, 1,400, an increase of 16 per cent. The county court house and county offices are located in Sumter.

The total amount of business in all branches of trade, manufacturing and industrial lines is estimated by experts to be not less than \$7,000,000 annually, exclusive of banking business. The total volume of business as done by the three local banks in 1903, according to statements of cashiers of the First National Bank of Sumter, Bank of Sumter, and The Sumter Savings Bank \$50,630,382.06. Sumter is an unusually large lumber market, with a dozen lumber plants located in or near the city, employing several thousand hands, and nearly all lumber shipments are made from the Sumter depot. We have also 1 telephone factory, 2 large cotton ginneries, 2 coffin and furniture factories, 1 large cotton oil and fertilizer factory 2 large bottling works, 1 golf stick factory, a fine water works system, 3 ice plants, 1 electric light and power plant, 5 lumber, door, sash and blind factories, and general wood working establishments, 2 laundries, 5 shops making wagons and buggies, 3 embalming establishments, free city mail delivery, rural mail delivery, one cotton mill, one natatorium, 6 shoemakers, 3 tin shops, number of contractors, painters, and architects, and skilled laborers and mechanics and artisans, stenographers and typewriters, private schools, music schools, fine drives, good hunting and fishing, one whiskey dispensary, beer dispensary, 3 job printing establishments, 1 daily and 4 weekly papers, one monthly paper, 3 banks, 8 railroad companies, colleges and graded schools, 2 new modern hotels, and many excellent boarding houses, one military company, brass band and orchestra; \$40,000 opera house and city hall, long distance and local telephone exchanges, 3 gunsmiths, two brass and iron foundries, 3 machine shops, 5 blacksmiths and wheelwright shops, 5 bicycle repair shops, 5 plumbing and steam fitting establishments, 3 furniture and cabinet repair shops, 2 marble and stone yards; there are 15 physicians, 9 dentists, 5 drug stores, 15 trained nurses who go out of the city to work when called on, 21 attorneys, 4 railroad attorneys, 3 railroad surgeons, 35 county officials and their clerks and assistants, who have their offices in Sumter, 13 lodges of secret societies.

POSTAL RECEIPTS SHOWING INCREASE IN 10 YEARS.

Fiscal Year ending June 30.	Receipts for Fiscal Year.	Gain.
1893.	\$6,979.79	
1894.	7,178.64	198.85
1895.	7,171.24	
1896.	7,310.02	138.78
1897.	7,446.63	136.61
1898.	7,620.03	173.40
1899.	7,698.34	87.31
1900.	8,779.57	1,081.23
1901.	10,203.21	1,423.64
1902.	10,778.76	475.55
1903.	12,077.06	1,298.30

Total gain in 10 years \$5,104.67
Less loss in fiscal year 1895, 7.40

Total net gain in 10 years, \$4,097.27

Receipts in fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, \$6,979.79

Receipts in fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, 12,077.06

75 per cent gain in 10 years. Receipts for first half fiscal year to December 31, 1903, \$6,842.8

Receipts same period 10 years previous, 3,806.12

Gain in 10 years, \$3,036.69

handle the freight traffic. Two yardmasters and a force of switch hands and other hands are worked night and day on the extensive freight yards. Five car inspectors are constantly employed, three roadmasters are located here with five section masters. A considerable force of locomotive engineers, firemen, conductors and baggage-masters and other railroad men are living here. The district surgeon of the three railroad systems lives here.

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Sumter is a large wholesale as well as retail market, having 4 exclusive wholesale and jobbing houses, with representatives on the road, 7 or 8 wholesale and retail establishments, and about 65 retail stores of all kinds, besides other places of business. Eight handsome brick stores and 1 brick warehouse 40x175 ft. are in course of erection or have been built within the last 18 months, besides a number of small wooden stores, not previously mentioned. Sumter is also a very large live stock market, there being 6 stables handling thousands of horses and mules annually, besides many thousands dollars of farming machinery, other agricultural implements, harness, hay, grains, buggies, wagons, &c. Sumter is a large wholesale distributing point for a large portion of South Carolina.

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DETAILS OF THE BATTLE OF SIMOUCHENG.

Russian Loss Double the Estimate Made by Japanese, Who Lose Less Than 1,000.

Japanese Won Victory By Desperate and Tireless Fighting Superior Generalship.

Tokio, Aug. 5, noon.—It is now estimated that the Russians lost 2,000 men in the fighting at Simoucheng. The Japanese sanitary corps recovered and buried 700 bodies in the valleys through which the Russians fought and retreated. Prisoners and Chinese report that many of the Russian dead and wounded were removed by the Russians themselves. The Japanese captured six guns, 570 shells, a quantity of stores and 33 prisoners. A detachment of the Russian medical corps which was captured by the Japanese was returned to the Russian lines. The Japanese casualties at Simoucheng amounted to 860 men, including eight officers killed and 24 officers wounded.

Gen. Kuroki's attack upon the late Lieut. Gen. Count Keller was timed to forestall the assumption of the defensive on the part of the Russians. Frontal and flank attacks were delivered simultaneously against the Russians at Yushulikzu at dawn of Sunday, the Japanese artillery first clearing the way for the infantry. The position was captured at 9 o'clock in the morning. A frontal attack against the Russian centre was continued but the general advance was delayed to await the success of the Japanese left column. The Russians attempted repeatedly to retake their former positions at Yushulikzu, but the Japanese repulsed them every time.

The fighting at Yangtsuling began at dawn of Sunday, July 31, when the Japanese drove back the Russian outpost companies and took possession of the positions. The Japanese artillery was ineffective there on account of topographical conditions. Horses were useless and men had to drag the guns over the broken country. It was 11 o'clock before the main battery of artillery opened fire. The main force of the left column began the attack from Makumenza and separate detachments advanced along separate routes with the object of striking the Russian flank and rear.

The heights of Yangtsuling were held by the Russians with four battalions. The Japanese partially silenced the Russian artillery, but four of the enemy's guns continued to sweep the Japanese position. Only 20 Japanese guns got into action. The frontal attack delivered by the Japanese in the morning had not become effective by noon. In the meantime a flanking column had scaled some heights and gotten the Russians range and at 11 o'clock the Japanese artillery was strengthened.

During the afternoon the infantry pressed forward and the entire line became engaged. The Russians resisted stubbornly. The battlefield was most difficult one upon which to manoeuvre and the Japanese were not able to dislodge the enemy. The troops of the mikado slept in battle formation when the coming of night suspended hostilities. Fighting was resumed at dawn next day and the Russians were speedily repulsed. Gen. Kuroki estimates the Russian casualties at 2,000.

At Yangtsuling the Japanese captured two guns, with 60 rifles, 400 tents and much ammunition and equipment. Eight Russian officers and 149 men were taken prisoners. In the fighting at Yushulikzu and Yangtsuling the Japanese casualties amounted to 970 including four officers killed and 40 wounded.

TOTAL RUSSIAN LOSSES 4,000

St. Petersburg, Aug. 5. 11 p. m.—Detailed reports reaching the war office from Gen. Kuropatkin's generals show that the Russian losses July 30, July 31 and Aug. 1 did not exceed 4,000. The Japanese are believed to have lost an equal number.

It appears most of the Russian losses were sustained on the Siametsze road and between Simoucheng and Hai Cheng. The two divisions of the late Gen. Keller's corps did not make a serious resistance at the Yansse pass, falling back on Liandiansian with scarcely any casualties. Similarly Gen. Stalkenberg's and Gen. Zaroubaieff's troops retired upon Anshanshan, half way without heavy fighting or loss. The greatest number of casualties was sustained by Gen. Herschelman, who with the Ninth European division held Kuchiatzu and Yushu pass on the Siametsze road. The fighting here was of the most desperate and bloody character. A single regiment lost 25 per cent of 800 men before they withdrew towards Anping. Another point where most stubborn resistance was made was at Nanga pass, a position between Simoucheng and Hai Cheng, which was held by Gen. Zassalitch, who had been placed in command of a newly formed corps, including the Thirty-first division belonging to the tenth European corps, and two Siberian battalions, altogether 40,000 men. Gen. Zassalitch's misfortune at the Yalu river was duplicated, owing to the superiority of the Japanese artillery. He was making a splendid fight until he suddenly discovered that the Japanese gunners were enfilading his batteries. It appears that Zassalitch in this case was not to blame.