

SUMPTER BANKS DOUBLE BUSINESS.

GREAT ACTIVITY ALONG ALL LINES OF INDUSTRY.

Spring Opening up With Every Promise of a Rushing Season—Great Influx of Capital—Scarcity of Houses and Business Property—Situation Better Than Ever Before.

The banking business is double in volume today what it was for the same time last year, is the statement authorized by the city's two banks, and the various mercantile houses bear out this statement; some even asserting that their business is five times better.

The progress and prosperity of Sumpter, and the development of the mineral resources of the district are well evidenced by the prevalent business conditions, and a comparison between Sumpter today and one year ago. Sumpter is headquarters, as is well known, of one of the richest gold fields in the country. Its trade is dependent upon their development, and the business situation of the city reflects the condition of the mining industry in the surrounding section. The vast mineral wealth of the Sumpter district is attracting the attention of the world, and there is a steady acquisition of mining property by the leading capitalists of the country. This influx of capital has brought new people and new interests to the city more than doubling the volume of business within the past year. The incident increase in population has rendered it difficult to obtain residence property, not to mention the scarcity of offices or business property. The fact of the matter is that there is not a vacant residence in the city at this time for rent, and every available office and every storeroom is occupied. As mentioned in THE MINER last week, an effort is being made to supply this want and a number of new houses is under process of construction. It is estimated that at least twenty more will be started within the next few weeks. It is realized that this is a profitable field for investment, and the opportunity is being seized. A year ago business and residence property was lying idle without a renter in sight.

The situation may best be judged from the testimony of the business men themselves, and a conclusion formed as to the difference in the volume of trade now and a year ago. The leading dry goods and grocery firms of the city estimate that their business has increased anywhere from doubling to five times, over the same period last year. Several concerns more conservatively inclined, say that their business has doubled, while others place their increase at five times. A safe key to the situation is the condition of the banking houses. Both the First National bank and the Bank of Sumpter, as stated above, say that their business is double in volume today what it was this time last year. And yet the season is only approaching its opening. It will be a month or more before the snow is entirely gone, and mining is in full blast. While the big properties usually continue to operate during the winter, the prospects and smaller concerns close down in November and Decem-

ber until the spring opens up. These are just now beginning to make preparations to resume work. If the volume of business in Sumpter, at a very conservative estimate has doubled this early in the season over the same period last year, the question arises, what will it be when things get in full swing later on?

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

City Will Extend Sewer System and Grade New Streets Soon.

The coming season will see a number of municipal improvements in Sumpter. The city council is disposed to keep step with the general progress seen on every side, by extending public improvements.

Many things are contemplated. New streets are to be opened up and graded, and the pavements on old ones extended. Besides this the sewer system is to receive attention as soon as the weather will permit. The sewers now on the main streets are to be extended in all directions throughout the city, and residence sections connected. It is also probable that the council will undertake the construction of a new city hall before very long. It is interesting to mention in this connection that Sumpter is in excellent shape financially, being practically out of debt. Another thing of interest to the prospective resident is that the rate of municipal taxation is exceedingly low.

Flynn Property Sold.

Manning & Welsh have sold the Flynn property on the corner of Clifford and Bonanza streets, to E. W. Mueller.

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