

THIS CITY WELL PREPARED FOR VISITORS

FRANCIS MARION TAKES HIGH RANK IN HOTEL CIRCLES

New Twelve-story Structure Provides Entertainment for 600 Guests—In Luxurious Surroundings—Costly Equipment—Is Notable Community Enterprise

When the magnificent Francis Marion hotel, recently opened, for room guests the early part of February, all Charleston was deeply pleased, for it was just such a hotel as the progressive citizen had anticipated. The new enterprise, moreover as a local enterprise, stands for community cooperation.

Easy the tallest structure in the eastern part of the State, the Francis Marion is noted as one of the finest hotels in the South. Modern in every respect, centrally located and conducted on a high scale, the Francis Marion bids fair to attract a wide patronage among travelers and as a local asset, it is generally a matter of pride.

Although not many weeks old yet, the hotel has won for its management already many commendations upon the high class service arranged for, handsomely appointed rooms and its general comfort and convenience. The opening of this hotel also has resulted in an increased hotel business for Charleston's many salesmen who heretofore arranged their schedules to take them to cities with superior accommodations are heading to Charleston for their week-end periods.

A Noteworthy Undertaking The building of the Francis Marion is a noteworthy undertaking. The cost of the stately structure in round figures was \$1,250,000, with furnishings, kitchen equipment and other items, estimated at \$400,000 more, being a new investment in the hotel, outfitted, to more than one million and a half dollars—an enterprise that is far from usual in the Carolinas and Georgia. A citizen who is in a position to know whereof he speaks states that the present Francis Marion structure could not be built at present under a million and a half dollars, and other materials. It is reliably reported that the contractors completed the construction at a loss on account of the increase in price of material from the time the contract was awarded.

The idea of building a large, modern hotel to keep pace with the progress of the city had been in the mind of many citizens ever since such a project was about to be launched there occurred a setback. However, at no time was there a hotel as magnificent as the Francis Marion considered until a few years ago when it was decided to erect a hotel that would make Charleston a magnet to the traveling public. The increased popularity of the South as a tourist center and the progress of the new Charleston, made the Francis Marion a logical development.

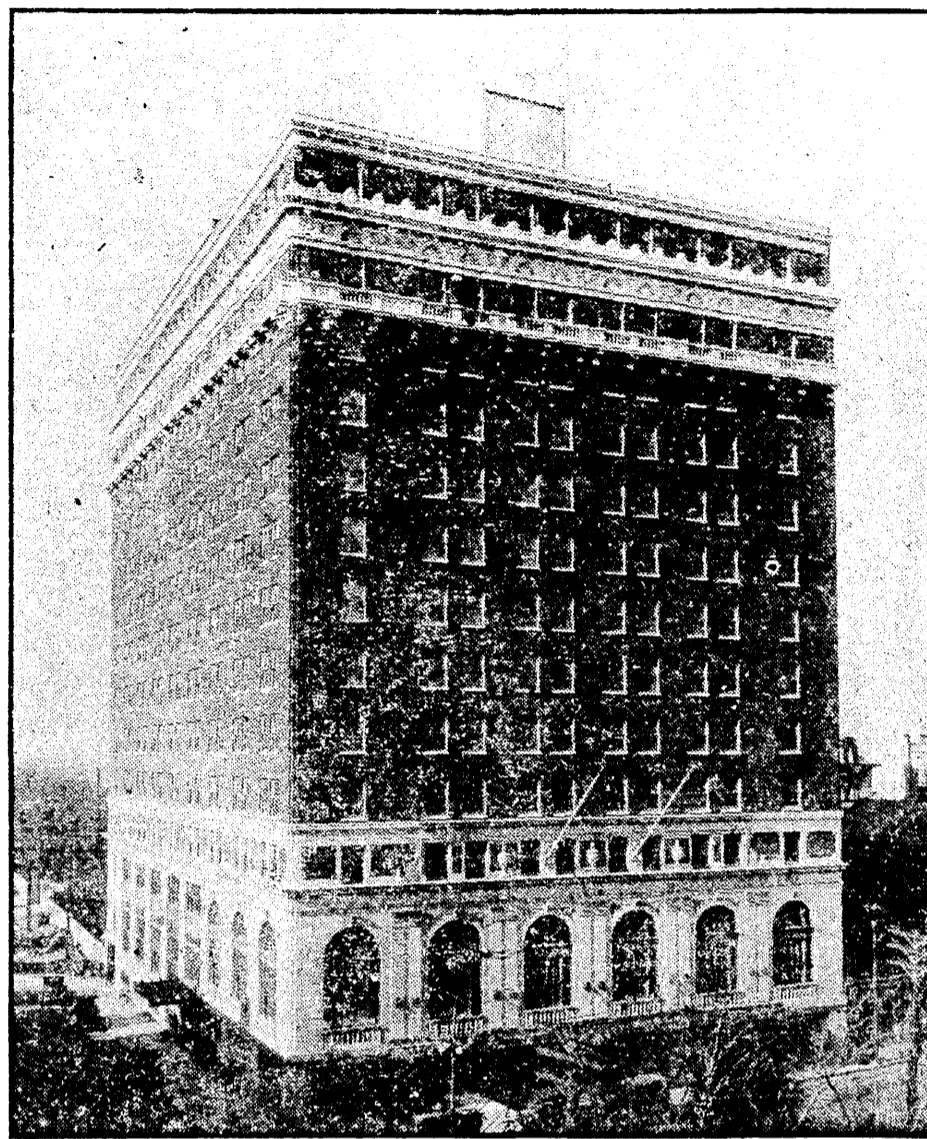
A Local Enterprise This new hotel was first promoted by Major T. T. Hyde, being deeply interested in such undertakings that make up the growth for a community. Major Hyde kept the idea of a new hotel for Charleston very much alive and meeting with a cooperative spirit, found that the time was ripe. From then on events leading to what is now the Francis Marion were conducted in a superior in the southeast took place, and while the financing problem, chief a local question had its ups and downs, community effort triumphed.

The first group taking a leading part in the project was composed of T. T. Hyde, R. Goodwyn Rhett, J. H. Jahaz, J. A. Steeple, H. A. Nichols, W. L. Stoddard, J. C. Johnson, H. E. Raines, W. H. Mixson, and C. Bissell Jenkins, chosen as directors of the hotel company by the subscribers to its stock. In April, 1920, W. L. Stoddard was commissioned to draw plans, and the prospectus of William Ford for a long term lease was accepted. Early in 1922, contracts for the building were let. In July, 1922, the King McDevall succeeded T. T. Hyde as president of the company. H. D. Lubs having replaced H. E. Raines as secretary and treasurer, J. H. Jahaz continued as vice-president. A new board of directors was elected as follows: R. Goodwyn Rhett, Henry Schaefer, F. R. Rivers, H. P. B. Kording, M. Honnle, A. J. Goss, J. P. Thomas, W. K. McDevall and J. H. Jahaz.

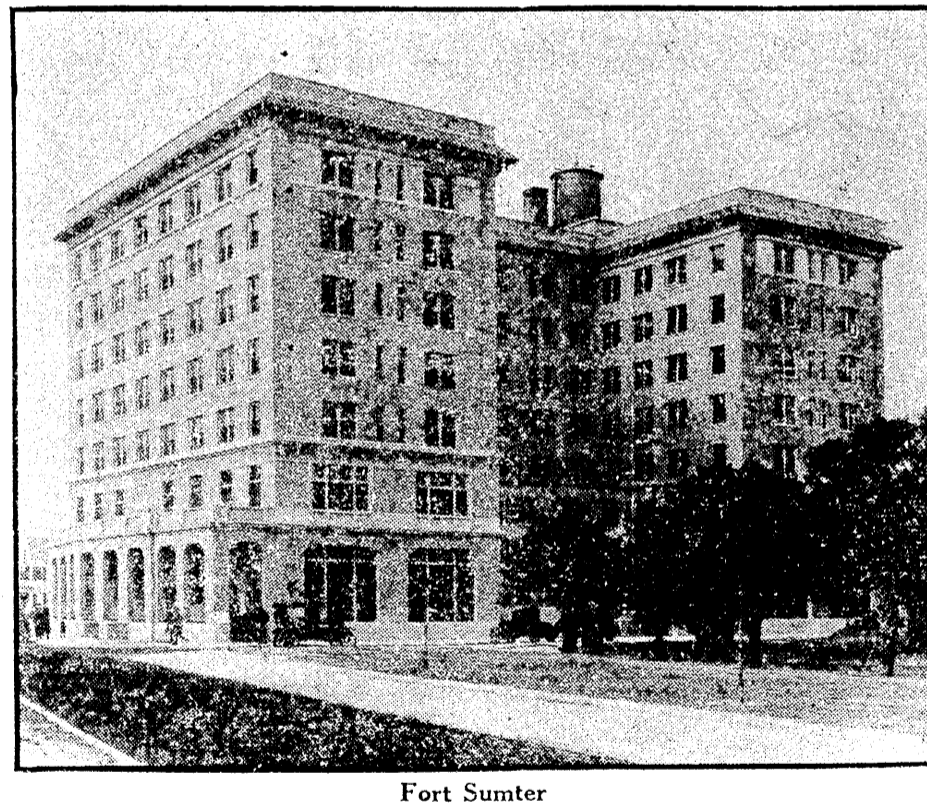
Purchase of the Site The site of the hotel, which at the time of its purchase comprised the site of Boney & Winkler, corner of Calhoun and King streets, was purchased from the late Mrs. W. K. McDevall, who had been identified with leading hotels throughout the country, in Charleston, the Francis Marion is assured of being conducted on a high plane. Mr. Secker has surrounded himself with experts in every department.

Named for Revolutionary Hero The hotel was named in honor of Francis Marion, one of South Carolina's most distinguished warriors in the Revolution. Buildings of the Marion era and of his period are being in the hall room and in other appropriate places. They are here by D. W. Stokes, an artist of much ability, who spent several months at the scenes that have been transferred to the canvas. He also made the bust of Gen. Marion which occupies a prominent place in the Francis Marion is a hotel of which Charleston is proud, and which the public expects to see in March 17, a great crowd of visitors, is up-to-date in every detail.

Two Magnificent New Hotels



Francis Marion



Fort Sumter

Personnel of Organization Operating Francis Marion

Of first importance, of course, in years there as steward and five the operation of a big hotel like the Francis Marion is its system of organization, and the four and Robinson hotel here maintains seven departments. In the general plan of giving good service to the public. The manager's office, front office, housekeeping department, maintenance department, kitchen, care and service department at the Francis Marion will, when the hotel is in full operation, consist of over 120 persons, a large command for Manager Secker to handle, but which will be under his direction, molded into an efficient corps.

CHARLESTON IS HOTEL CENTER OF IMPORTANCE

Opening of New Hostels Doubles Guest Capacity ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TRAVELERS OF ALL CLASSES

Wide Range of Service. Long Established Hotels Here

If the old saying that a city can be judged by its hotels continues to hold then Charleston ought to be able to make a favorable impression on all classes of visitors. The hotel problem in Charleston has been most happily solved by the construction of two imposing three-story buildings which have about doubled the guest capacity of the city. As a stimulus to tourist traffic they are regarded as of most impressive value, well justifying an investment of over \$2,000,000.

The new hotels, the Francis Marion and the Fort Sumter, both magnificent in appearance and up to the minute in every naturally appeal to traveling patronage like the other hotels long established here, also are popular and widely known and especially appeal to their regular patrons.

There are now seven hotels here where excellent accommodations can be secured by visitors. In addition to the new hotels are the Charleston, the St. John, the Argyle, the Timrod Inn and the Villa Margherita. The capacity of these hostels is estimated at five hundred. Besides the seven larger hostels are a dozen small hotels, especially popular among desirable classes of visitors.

In addition to the city hotels are the Atlantic Beach Hotel, on Sullivan's Island, which is usually crowded during the summer months when this resort is in full bloom, and Marion cottage serves those who wish to put up at the site of Palms.

Summerville, virtually considered a part of Charleston from the tourist standpoint, and only 22 miles away, features with the Pine Forest Inn, a hostelry that is known throughout the country and which is opened only during the winter season, giving superb accommodations at this noted resort nesting among the long leaf pines but connected with Charleston by hard surface roads, and railroad.

To meet the desires of those who prefer boarding houses, there are many excellent and well kept ones in the city. Varly Charleston is prepared now to take care of its visitors as never before.

Charles Hotel The New Charleston hotel, on Meeting street in the heart of the retail and part of the wholesale district, also convenient to the amusement houses, piers and railroad station, is a landmark brought up to date in service and equipment. It has long been noted for its bed rooms, ranging from single rooms to suites of almost any size and equipped with comfortable furniture and tasteful appointments. It has been the annual stopping place for scores of famous tourists and many persons who have visited Charleston in recent years have been guests there.

This hostelry, unlike many of the large hotels of the South, conducts its own dairy, composed of resident milk cows and chickens, which are pastured luxuriantly. Every modern appliance, including an electric milker, is used in connection with the dairy. A poultry farm, with 600 pure bred leghorns, supplies the eggs for this hotel, which is widely known for its dining room service.

The kitchen is up-to-date in every respect, there being modern hotel machinery installed, sterilizing machines for washing dishes, carpeting department and linen department are among other features that make the Charleston hotel one of the city's leading hostels.

There is a large lobby, clear and well lighted, with a telephone service, an efficient elevator, baggage delivery department, barber shop, private fire protection system in addition to fire connections with the city department and telephone exchange. Physician and drugist service is also conducted. A consolidated railroad ticket office is located in the building. Wm. J. Haulon is the popular manager, and he has an efficient staff.

The St. John hotel, only a block away from the postoffice, court house, city hall and near the financial district, is located at Meeting and Queen streets. It is one of the oldest hotel buildings in the city, having formerly been known many years ago as the Mills house, and at that time one of the most famous hotels in this section of the South.

The St. John has a capacity of 140 rooms and can accommodate 200 persons most comfortably. It meets the requirements of many of the particular patrons with its outside rooms, running hot and cold water and bathroom equipment. Its kitchen is up-to-date and the dining room is popular with many who

When the tourist season opens next winter, Charleston will be able to get in on the ground floor for this sort of patronage with two splendid new hotels in commission, the Fort Sumter and the Francis Marion. Both are planned with historical features as well as a climate and environment that appeal strongly to visitors. The recently completed Fort Sumter Hotel was especially designed for tourist service, although planning in all respects for business, and with its picturesque location on the Battery overlooking Charleston harbor, has a remarkable view. The south side of the building is a delight to the eye, the noise and bustle of the bustling city. The Fort Sumter Hotel represents an investment of a \$650,000 or more, and situated on the extreme lower end of the city close to the north are many famous residences of the Battery and the business district only a few blocks away.

With the construction of this graceful building completed, the work of installing its furniture and equipment is under way and the opening date will be in the near future, probably the latter part of March or early in April. The manager of Charleston's latest hostelry is A. Stanley Stanford, of Virginia, an experienced hotel operator, who has been in the management of noted resort hotels in Virginia and the east.

The Fort Sumter hotel is located on a site furnished by the city and was built by the J. E. Beamer Construction Co., of Charleston. The architect was G. Lloyd Preacher, of Atlanta. The cost is approximately \$650,000 and the building, seven stories in height, rests on a tract 100 feet by 170 feet. The work of erecting the hotel began in March and it was completed and

prefer to have their meals in a hotel than in a restaurant. C. E. Frazier established the present policy of this hotel, which he controlled for many years, and after his death the present owners adhered strictly to his system with the result that the popularity of the hotel has continued to the present. Its dining room has frequently been in great demand for annual banquets of local organizations.

Alan B. Henry is the efficient manager. Argyle Hotel The Argyle hotel, conveniently located at Hasell and Meeting streets, a hotel site for many years, is a well designed structure with 100 bed rooms and a lodging capacity of 150 persons. Every room has an excellent exposure.

The hotel makes a specialty of commercial patronage but also is favored with tourists from time to time. It has all conveniences, there being a barber shop and a large lobby on the first floor. A large elevator and elevator service, running cold and hot water, and snappy service are provided guests. Its patronage is steady.

It is conducted on the European plan but there is an up-to-date tea room on the Hasell street side where luncheons and dinners can be secured. There is also a beauty parlor, barber shop and a large dining room, where saloons. Room furniture are conveniently located for guests.

R. M. Mason, an experienced hotel man, is manager and his clerks are John Wuzger, J. J. Langston and M. B. McGowan. Timrod Inn The Timrod Inn, on Meeting street opposite the City Hall park, is a hostelry that has proved popular with commercial men and others who desire to stay at length in the city on business missions. It has 45 rooms with accommodations for 65 persons, many of the rooms having bath connections. It is well heated and lighted and has an elevator. G. M. Stoffer is the manager and personally looks after the details of the inn. A restaurant is conveniently located in the building.

Villa Margherita The Villa Margherita caters only to the tourist patronage and has as its guests many of the most prominent tourists who travel in this section. It is conducted on a high standard and has a homelike atmosphere with all the accommodations of a first class hotel. Its kitchen featuring the Southern dishes prepared by experts is said to have no rival in Dixieland. The hostelry, located on South Battery overlooking the harbor, and was formerly a magnificent private residence belonging to the Southern Hotel Co. Its furniture and furnishings are of the best.

Pine Forest Inn The Pine Forest Inn, at Summerville, is noted for its service and excellent management. It has been the host for thousands of visitors who stop there en route from Florida and others who come south annually to spend their entire time and the pine and to engage in hunting in that section.

The owners of the Fort Sumter hotel building are the Fort Sumter hotel company, of which Edward J. Murphy is president and Sidney S. Frazier, secretary and treasurer. In this corporation, through Edw. J. Murphy, City Council in October, 1922, voted to give the site for the building, under conditions that would assure the prompt erection of the hotel.

The right of the city to donate the tract was determined in a friendly suit that resulted in a supreme court verdict sustaining the action of City Council in making the award.

Following the acquisition of the site, final arrangements to finance the project were made by the hotel company and bonds totalling \$515,000, first mortgage, were issued, and the firm of G. L. Miller Co., Inc., of Atlanta, impressed with the sound future of Charleston and which is engaged in such business on a large scale and has financial resources of valuable structures throughout the South in the past several years. It was this concern that brought the project before Mayor Grace and city council, agreeing to finance the enterprise on a large scale if the site desired should be furnished by the city to a company headed by Mr. Murphy.

The hotel is to be conducted by the Fort Sumter Operating Co., a subsidiary of the Continental Hotels company, which conducts a chain of hostels in the East and West in New York. This company is backed by some of the most noted hotel promoters of the United States. The officers of the Fort Sumter Operating Co. are Corbett McCarthy, president; B. A. Britton, treasurer, and Col. C. G. Holden, secretary.