White or Perkins Ferry, 1906

Over Third of Calcasieu Became Beauregard Parish

Editor's Note: The following is an article on the development of Beauregard Parish which appeared in the June 23, 1915 edition of the Lake Charles American Press.

Until the year 1912 the territory now embraced in Beauregard Parish was part of Calcasieu Parish.

During that year the legislators divided Calcasieu Parish, which had an area in excess of 3,000 square miles, into four parishes, of which Beauregard is one.

The parish includes approximately 1,500 square miles and is located in the northwest corner of the old Calcasieu Parish. The present population is about 15,000 and the assessed valuation of taxable property is $8 million.

The parish has about 19 railroad stations, a dozen or more of which are towns varying in population from 150 to 5,000.

The aggregate town population is between 11,000 and 12,000 and the majority of the townspeople are interested in one way or another in the dozen or more saw and planing mills operating in the parish.

DeRidder, the parish seat is one of the most rapidly growing and enterprising cities in Southwest Louisiana. While it possesses several immense saw mills within a five mile radius, it is not pinning its future on the lumber industry.

Its citizens are making efforts to secure settlers for the adjacent lands, which are mostly cut over pine lands, and are meeting with a fair degree of success. Its agricultural interests are growing rapidly and the parish nearby has acquired many new homebuilders from the central and western states.

One firm alone has disposed of 22,000 acres in the vicinity of DeRidder to 200 different families, and are disposing of 26,000 more acres in southern Beauregard and northern Calcasieu, of which 19,000 acres have been sold.

Beauregard Parish's new courthouse which is now complete and being occupied by the various parish officials, is a four story building surmounted by a terra cotta dome, the full height of which is 93 feet.