

1888 and again after the fire that destroyed the city in 1901, the people of New York City responded with an open-hearted generosity that should never be forgotten by the people of Jacksonville—even in the years to come when the generation that knew those distressing calamities will have passed away.

By 1875, three large hotels had been built here and about every fourth house was a boarding house. The railroad accommodations were two incoming and two outgoing passenger trains daily. Published here were two weekly, one semi-weekly and two tri-weekly newspapers. A lot on Bay Street in the business part of town was valued at \$10 a front foot.^g

The financial panic that swept the country in 1873 was felt in Jacksonville and there was a slowing-down in business for a while, but principally in the lumber business. The mills did not close, but their output was much reduced. Though building on a small scale continued, capital held back awaiting the restoration of confidence.^h This came in 1874-75 when began the remarkable era of hotel building to care for the constantly increasing tourist travel. In this period new industries were introduced and wholesale houses carrying large stocks of groceries, provisions and dry goods were established.

At the close of 1875 most of the Southern residents had gotten on their feet again in a business way; the prostration following the war had about disappeared in this respect, but the political situation was still controlled by alien politicians. The Congressional election of November 3, 1874, shows how Jacksonville stood politically at that time, when Joshua T. Walls (negro) polled 956 votes against 492 for J. J. Finley, Southern Democrat and prominent Floridian. This vote included East Jacksonville and LaVilla. The final awaking of the negro with respect to the Freedmen's Bureau activities and his consequent waning interest in political matters furnished an opening for the Democrats for the restoration of home rule.^a This was accomplished in large measure by the elections in 1876.

Bibliography, Chapter XV

^aAs stated by residents whose information was first-hand; ^bReports of Col. John T. Sprague; ^cW. W. Douglass, resident of Jacksonville; ^dFlorida and the South, Brinton; ^ePublished account by "Old Citizen" in 1876; ^fRecords of Dr. A. S. Baldwin; ^gNewspaper account; ^hLocal press of the period; ⁱDate furnished by U. S. War Department.