

1888

Florida, and the success of their intensive campaign was evinced by a perceptible decrease in the tourist travel to Florida in that winter. The citizens of Jacksonville became aroused over the seriousness of this movement and in the Spring of 1887, met in mass-meeting to devise means to combat it. Here began the rivalry between the two States that exists today.

It was decided to establish at Jacksonville, for the interest and instruction of tourists, a great exposition, to be held annually during the winter months, of sub-tropical and tropical products and resources, embracing in its scope the entire State of Florida, the Bahamas, and the West Indies, and if possible, Mexico and Central America. An association was formed and capitalized at \$100,000. That part of Water-works Park at the corner of Pine (Main) and First Streets was leased from the city, for \$1.00 annual rental, as a site for the exposition buildings. Their erection began in the fall of 1887. The main building was 325x152 feet over all, including transepts. It was sheathed and lathed, then stuccoed, which gave it the appearance of stone construction. A smaller rustic building was erected near it, also for exposition purposes.

The opening of the exposition on January 12, 1888, was auspicious, and great crowds visited it although all of the exhibits were not in place. It was generally pronounced a most creditable display of Florida's resources, and by far the most pretentious undertaking of the kind ever attempted in the State. It had been advertised daily for eight months and numbers of people came from distant States to see it.

President Cleveland Visits Sub-Tropical

President Grover Cleveland accepted an invitation to visit the Sub-Tropical, and his arrival on February 22, 1888 (Washington's Birthday), was marked by the most brilliant pageant and parade ever staged here. The presidential train arrived amidst the roar of Wilson's Battery and the party was greeted at the station by cheering thousands, playing bands, and boom of cannon. With the President came Mrs. Cleveland, Secretary Whitney and wife, and a party of Congressmen. The President's coach was specially made for