

## 1889

Most of these troops arrived on the 10th.

April 11. The State competitive drill was held on the special drill ground that had been prepared near the Sub-Tropical. This contest was open to all Florida companies, the two Jacksonville companies and the Orlando company entering it. The judges' award in percentage was: M. L. I., 86.2; Orlando Guards, 83.5; Jacksonville Light Infantry, 79.1. Following this drill was an individual contest for the best drilled soldier open to all; it was won by Private H. H. White of the Carolina Rifles.

April 12. The crowning event was the interstate drill of this date for a first prize of \$1,000 and a second prize of \$500, open to all companies. The Southern Cadets won first prize and the German Fusileers the second. The companies entering this contest and the final award of the judges were as follows: Southern Cadets, 79.1; German Fusileers, 78.9; Gate City Guards, 76.8; Carolina Rifles, 74.2; Orlando Guards, 72.1; Metropolitan Light Infantry, 54.5; Jacksonville Light Infantry, 49.7. The drill was witnessed by 3,000 people and the companies as they came upon the field were greeted with tremendous enthusiasm, especially the M. L. I. in its strikingly unusual uniform of bottle-green coats, white pants, and hats with long white flowing plumes for the officers and green plumes for the men. There were many incidents connected with the interstate drill that were the subject of discussion among military men for a long time afterward.

April 6: Answering a call for help from Savannah, where a great conflagration was in progress, the old Mechanics Volunteer Fire Company boarded a special train and was carried there at the rate of 65 miles an hour.

June 5: Large fire at the foot of Bridge (Broad) street; 65 buildings burned and an area of 5 city blocks swept clean; loss about \$135,000. The fire started at 1 a.m. at the foot of Bridge Street near the railroad tracks. It swept north along Bridge Street to Adams Street, and burned all buildings except two on Adams Street, in the area bounded by Bridge, Adams, Hawk (Jefferson), and McCoys Creek. South of Bay the fire crossed Bridge Street and burned most of that block. The buildings were principally frame.