

effect; murder after murder occurred, among them Mrs. Grace Hayes and her mother, Mrs. Nason, on September 4. Three white suicides; the accidental drowning of a young man and young woman while rowing off the foot of Laura Street; a number of spectacular knock-down, drag-out fights on Bay Street were incidents of that memorable year.

Along with the police shake-up came a revival of war on open saloons on Sunday. It waxed warm for awhile. The municipal judge was asked to resign, but he informed his accusers that he knew as much about how to run a court as they did, and continued to function. The legislative election in the fall was full of promise for some more excitement. A species of propaganda was started against the railroads, charging them with an attempt to control the election by use of money. The feeling was worked up to fever heat. On the day of the election the local military companies were held under orders to suppress any disturbance. When the voters went to the polls that morning they found them closed. However, later in the day the polls were opened and the election was held without serious disorder.

There was another side to Jacksonville's history in 1894. The program of improvement under a \$1,000,000 bond issue was begun. Bay Street was paved with brick from Bridge (Broad) to Market—the finest street in Florida at that time. Main Street was paved to Hogans Creek. Just as Main Street was finished a circus parade passed over it and the heavy wagons did serious damage to the thoroughfare. Other streets followed in turn. Riverside Avenue was provided for from McCoys Creek to Rossell Street. Ground was broken for the City Hall and Market. An electric light plant was authorized. Here trouble began with private lighting interests, who filed an injunction against the city, seeking to prevent the establishment of a municipal light plant. The city won the suit that followed. Added to these improvements \$1,000,000 was spent in privately owned buildings. Jacksonville now advanced from the large town to the city class.

### 1895

January 13: Ferryboat "Ravenswood" destroyed by fire at her slip in South Jacksonville.

February 18: Ferryboat "Idaho" purchased in the North