

The total value of all the property destroyed by the fire was approximately \$15,000,000, of which \$4,000,000 was uninsured. Upon the remaining \$11,000,000 there was insurance of \$5,650,000. The net loss to property owners was therefore \$9,350,000. It was the largest fire, both in area and property loss, ever experienced by any Southern city of the United States, record to 1924. The flare of the great conflagration was visible in Savannah, and its smoke was seen at Raleigh, N. C.

Rebuilding

The fire was on Friday afternoon.

Saturday, the people spent in recovering from the daze of the appalling catastrophe. Those who had lost their homes set about finding shelter for their families or in locating missing members and friends. The streets were still too hot to travel, but here and there where there was no brick paving people could be seen poking into the ruins in an effort to recover some lost possession. Even now the narrow fringe of blocks south of Adams Street west of Laura was being made ready for the business of Jacksonville, with partitions and shelving going up. (Here for several months merchants, bankers, doctors, lawyers, real estate agents, contractors, saloon keepers and others of every line of business elbowed their way in and out of this congested district.)

Sunday, worship was held in the parks or under the trees outside of the fire district. A shower of rain had cooled the streets somewhat and property owners were everywhere looking the situation over. Some could be seen stepping off or measuring as a preliminary thought to rebuilding. Relief measures were taking form and by Sunday night the people had pretty well collected themselves.

Monday, May 6, the rebuilding of Jacksonville began. Building permit No. 1 was granted to Rudolph Grunthal for a temporary shack at the northwest corner of Main and State Streets, but a mile away, at the Merrill-Stevens plant, sills were already laid for the first structure to come under shed in the burned area. In a few days temporary shacks were springing up everywhere. The first brick for a permanent structure in the fire district was laid May 21 for a building at the corner of Adams and Bridge (Broad) Streets owned