

ing the property. The Remount Depot had been closed and the stock sold at public auction.

The final disposition of Government property at Camp Johnston was made in 1921. A great deal of surplus personal property was given to the State, much of which was stored in a large warehouse at Yukon Station near the camp and was totally destroyed by fire June 22, 1921, the loss approximating \$150,000 in value without a dollar of insurance. Full possession of 682 acres of the cantonment site together with 154 buildings was returned to the State military authorities June 25, 1921. The remaining property, comprising 458 buildings and a wealth of supplies, was sold a few days later at public auction for a mere song. The buildings were torn down and the lumber carted away. Once the pride of a nation Camp Johnston today is but a dingy skeleton tenanted by bats and owls, except once a year when the State encampment is held there; but it did what it was intended to do—help win the war.

\*The State is now making plans to relay the entire plant at Black Point with a view of providing not only a thoroughly equipped training camp for the National Guard, but also an attractive State park.

The war-time commanders at Camp Johnston were: Col. Fred L. Munson until April 8, 1918; Col. Charles L. Willard, April 8 to September 29, 1918; Maj. Gen. William P. Duvall, September 29, 1918, until the close of the war. The demobilization and subsequent sales of property were accomplished under the supervision of various officers.

### Duval County Home Guards

On April 7, 1917, the day after war was declared, a body of citizens met to discuss the advisability of organizing a battalion of home guards to furnish protection for the community, as it was certain that the local companies of State troops would be called to the colors. The Mayor's committee on Public Safety, composed of the heads of various civic organizations and other prominent citizens, took the matter up and on April 19 the battalion was organized, the first, it was said, in the United States. On June 1, the County Commissioners officially accepted the battalion, and on August 7, 1917, it was mustered into the service of the County. The officers