

### Civilian War-Work

First in responsibility and greatest in mental strain of all the home war-work, were the duties of the Local Boards. These boards of local citizens were constituted in every community of the country for the purpose of classifying the men registered for the draft. In Duval County there were four—three for the City of Jacksonville and one for the County at Large. The matter of classifying the 31,930 men registering in the County, reading the lengthy questionnaires and establishing the status of each, was a stupendous undertaking by itself; but added to it was the nerve-racking duty of hearing the claims for exemption, many of them under conditions that made a decision like splitting a hair, whether some mother's boy should be classified for civil duty or sent off, maybe to the front-line trenches. The personal responsibility of these "Dollar a Year" men was very great. They were the civilian generals of America's armies and they nobly performed their duties.

The war developed numerous activities of a self-sacrificing nature, and to all of them the patriotic men and women of Jacksonville gave their time and money freely. They drove all of the war bond loans beyond their quotas; oversubscribed to others and contributed well to the balance. Day and night they worked in the interest of the soldiers through the many radiating lines of war activities. They heard the call of local charities multiplied as a result of the war, and met it. Everywhere, and in everything, they worked for the advancement of the cause, and they made for Jacksonville a record that stands well above the average for the country.

### Living Conditions During the War

The selection of Jacksonville as a shipbuilding point and war campsite affected local business, living and social conditions in a number of ways. As soon as the shipyards were opened, labor flocked to them, attracted by the relatively enormous wages offered almost any and everybody. Local business concerns were hampered, being unable to meet the wage scale of the shipyards, notwithstanding the fact that the tide that set in for the North in 1915-16 was now beginning to flow homeward. Nearly all the vacant office space in Jacksonville was taken by the Shipping Board, Emergency