February 3: Tenth Annual State Exposition opened at noon, under the joint auspices of the State Park Association and the Florida Fruit Growers' Association. The inaugural ceremonies were elaborate, with music by three bands. The display of Florida fruits was unusually large. The fair remained open until the 7th, and was the most successful undertaking of the kind in the history of Florida fairs.

February 5: Meeting of Florida Fruit Growers' Association. A permanent organization was perfected March 11, 1885.

February 15: Early morning fire, said to have been incendiary, destroyed the Percival three-story, five tenement house on Union Street between Hogan and Julia. The inmates barely escaped with their lives. The fire spread to a near-by cottage on the corner of Union and Hogan, thence to the stables and carriage house of W. D. Barnett and to the Barnett mansion; all were destroyed as was also a cottage occupied by T. T. Stockton. It was a $50,000 fire.

March 17-20: Spring race meet of the State Park Association at the fair grounds in Fairfield.

April 1-4: Southern Press Association convention.

May 19: Cigar makers in El Modelo factory struck on account of a reduction in wages.

**Telephone Controversy, 1885**

In May, 1885, the Southern Bell Tel. & Tel. Co. announced that it would increase the rate for phones from $51 to $60 a year. The announcement brought forth a storm of protest. The Board of Trade called a special meeting and addressed a note to the telephone company protesting against the increase in rate. The local manager of the company replied to this note in a stern, and, as considered by the Board of Trade, insulting manner. Indignation meetings at the Board of Trade followed. Steps were taken to invite a competitive company to come to Jacksonville and inaugurate a new system. A boycott of the telephone company was then put into effect. Business men took the matter up, working in harmony with the Board of Trade. The telephone company stood