

1918

developed two parties, known as "Drys" and "Wets", the "Drys" seeking to make the County "bone dry" and the "Wets" to prevent it. The "Wets" strove in every way to prevent or delay an election by counter-petitions and injunctions, the Government all the time complaining about the failure to "keep the lid down". On one occasion \$100,000 worth of liquor was seized by the Government, and Jacksonville came to be known as a "booze oasis". The commander of Camp Johnston issued an order prohibiting soldiers to visit Jacksonville on Saturdays, with a promise of making it seven days in the week. The election was held four days afterward with the above result.

May 24: Main's foundry in South Jacksonville, engaged in filling Government orders, was destroyed by fire; loss \$20,000.

June: Strike of carmen of the Jacksonville Traction Company for recognition of the union and increase in pay. It was a partial strike, as many employees remained loyal. As a patriotic move women of the local Liberty League acted as conductors on the cars for several days, the first instance of the kind in the history of Florida. Considerable violence was directed against the loyal carmen; several of them were shot with bird shot. On one occasion a lady passenger, Mrs. G. D. Grant, wife of Captain Grant of Camp Johnston, was struck in the face by a brick thrown at the car, and very seriously injured.

July 16: Fire destroyed the entire plant of the American Agricultural Company in the Talleyrand section. The loss approximated \$1,000,000.

August 11: The paint and oil building of the Hubbard Hardware Company, of the south side of Bay Street between Main and Laura, was gutted by fire. The loss exceeded \$100,000.

November 27-December 7: Florida State Fair.

Influenza Epidemic, 1918

In his report to the City Commission, December 31, 1920, the City Health Officer, Dr. Wm. W. MacDonell, said: