

1920

November 24: A committee appointed by the Duval County Council of Social Workers to investigate the success of the community chest idea in other cities, met at the Seminole hotel, Rev. Milton E. Worsham, chairman, presiding. The sentiment voiced at this meeting was that the plan should be adopted in Jacksonville.

*Then followed several years of preliminary work, which finally crystallized in a permanent organization January 14, 1924. The first officers of this organization were: F. C. Groover, president; A. G. Cummer and Mrs. W. B. Young, vice-presidents; F. P. Dearing, treasurer; J. B. Williams, secretary. In April, 1924, the first annual campaign for funds was made, from which the sum of \$208,795 was subscribed by 9203 contributors. The estimated budget was oversubscribed \$7,000. This was the start of the Jacksonville Community Chest, including in its scope the first year twenty-one local charities.

December 14: The Jacksonville Community Players organized, at a meeting held in the parlors of the Windsor hotel. Officers elected: M. B. Stephenson, president; Miss Tracy L'Engle, Mrs. E. R. Hoyt and Miss Eleanor Rawson, vice-presidents; Mrs. E. H. Emery, secretary; Miss Gertrude Jacobi, treasurer. Their initial performance was "Suppressed Desires", a one-act comedy of two scenes, given at the Woman's Club, January 3, 1921.

December 19: Automatic telephone service in Riverside was inaugurated by the Southern Bell Telephone Co.

The High Cost of Living

Upon the release from the controlling influences of the Federal Food and Fuel administration, late in 1918, the index marking the cost of living began to click upward in violent fluctuations until August, 1920, when the peak was reached. Flour sold here, retail, for \$1.00 for a 12-lb. sack, sugar for 30 cents a pound, dairy milk for 25 cents a quart; men's clothing was 199% and women's apparel averaged 226% above the 1914 prices—and Jacksonville, according to the Government's report, rose to the rank of 5th in the list of American cities with respect to the high cost of living at that time. There was a precipitous drop in prices after Au-