ment of a paid department, and the reorganization was accomplished on July 16, 1886. Thus passed out of existence the volunteer fire department of Jacksonville, an organization so intimately associated with the life and history of the city, that the citizens really regretted to see it go. The Mechanics Company, however, maintained its organization separately, and volunteered its services whenever there were serious fires; upon these occasions, as the company came up on the run, the spectators waved their hats and cheered with the enthusiasm of former days. The old bell in the hall of the Mechanics, on the north side of Adams Street, between Main and Laura, spoke to the men of the company for the last time at 1:20 a.m., August 18, 1891, when they were called out on the big fire that swept up Main Street that night. They placed their engine at the foot of Main Street and saved the property on Bay. Their hall was burned; after the fire they sold their engine to the city, and disbanded.

It would seem that the Fire Commissioners made rather a peculiar selection when they appointed Peter Jones the first chief of the paid department, for Peter Jones was known as the “Carpet-bagger” Mayor of Jacksonville, which office he had held six terms; and there was decided objection to the appointment at the time.

The first call of the new department was on July 21, 1886—it was a false alarm. The first actual fire call came in on August 10. The first Gamewell Fire Alarm system was installed in August, 1886. Increase in territory, provided by the charter of 1887, necessitated a great extension of water mains, many new hydrants and much additional apparatus. Since then, from time to time, further extensions have been made, and numerous hydrants installed to meet the growing needs of the city.

The paid department, after its establishment in 1886, comprised a central station and three sub-stations; their locations then and subsequent changes were:

No. 1 (Central Station)—South side of Forsyth Street between Ocean and Newnan; moved to its own building, northwest corner of Ocean and Adams Streets, September 21, 1897; burned out in the fire of May 3, 1901; rebuilt on same site and occupied February 1, 1902.

No. 2—West side of Main Street between Church and Ashley; moved in 1898 to west side of Main Street between