

Chase-Hibbard Corporation's Plant Destroyed When Flames Break Out; Damage Is Approximately \$25,000

Spontaneous Combustion Is Responsible for Spectacular Blaze, Which Firemen Fight Valiantly at Late Hour — Zero Weather Handicaps Firemen.

Flames bursting into the sky at 10:45 o'clock last evening, lighted up the city with a spectacular glare that called hundreds from their homes to the Chase-Hibbard Corporation's plant at 154 East Fifth street, which was totally demolished after a gallant fight to save it by the entire fire department. The structure and contents lost is valued at approximately \$25,000.

The fire is conceded to be the most disastrous in recent years. The corporation deals in flour and feed, and huge quantities of these were stored within the building. An estimated value of \$20,000 has been given. Spontaneous combustion is thought to have been the origin of the mighty conflagration.

The natural zero atmosphere for blocks was heated. At a distance of 250 feet, the plate glass windows of the International Harvester Company's offices across the street were broken by the blast. Hundreds of on-lookers lined the platform of the Erie freight house next to the doomed structure and watched the terrific play of flames. Shortly after 11 o'clock the roof and parts of the side walls caved in.

All of the various fire units of the city were called into action and responded valiantly. At the arrival of the first company the lower section of the building was blazing and flames were creeping to the upper story and cupola. Two powerful water lines were applied from either side of the conflagration, but the flames were too intense to get under control.

A thrilling by-play was made, when Everett Doune, a garage man of 513 Harper street rushed into the ground floor of the burning structure, seized the motor Chase-Hibbard truck abandoned there, and drove the blazing car out into the nearby yard.

Police officers brushed the crowd back to safety while the big truck was being driven rapidly away. Badly cut off of the danger zone, the motor stalled. Water streams were applied and after several minutes the driver succeeded in placing the car in motion. It was driven to Mr. Doune's garage on Harper street.

The fire department worked all night fighting the flames and was busy until shortly before noon today with the smoldering debris. Chief Espey, directed his men untiringly and some unusually clever maneuvers were displayed by the fire fighters. The H. H. Plak Builders' Supply Company, which immediately adjoined the burning structure, was saved entirely by the remarkable work of the department.

"It was a tough fight," remarked the fire chief this morning, "for the building was what is termed as 'iron clad' and it is very hard to work with that type of structure. The men were in constant danger of being enveloped in the flames by the expanding of the grain."

Groups of firemen on the Plak Company's roof saw a wall about to fall outward after the fire had progressed perhaps a half hour. A heavy stream of water was applied in such a manner that it forced the wall inward and it fell, and the crowd in the crowd in appreciation of the firemen's effort.

Chester P. Hibbard, secretary, treasurer and general manager of the corporation, was not aware of the fire until this morning. It was a singularly timely call, as he called and no one in his household awakened. The building and contents are insured.

MAYOR J. N. WOOD AT CONFERENCE HELD IN ALBANY

Mayor J. Norton Wood is in Albany today, where he is attending a conference of the legislative committee of the New York State Conference of Mayors and other city officials. A proposed home rule amendment for submission to the legislature was under consideration at the conference today.

The recent Buffalo conference authorized a committee, headed by Corporation Counsel William S. Rapp of Buffalo, to draft an amendment designed to give cities home rule, including the right to operate transit lines or enter into contracts for service. Mr. Rapp was not present but was represented by Andrew P. Roman, assistant corporation counsel of Buffalo, who had a draft of a proposed amendment which was said to omit all reference to municipal operation of traction facilities.

Real Estate Deeds

The following deeds have been filed in the Chemung County Clerk's office:

Harry W. and Lena H. Paton to Roy B. Delo, property on West Water street.

Lillian L. Denny to William Saxton, property on Washington place.

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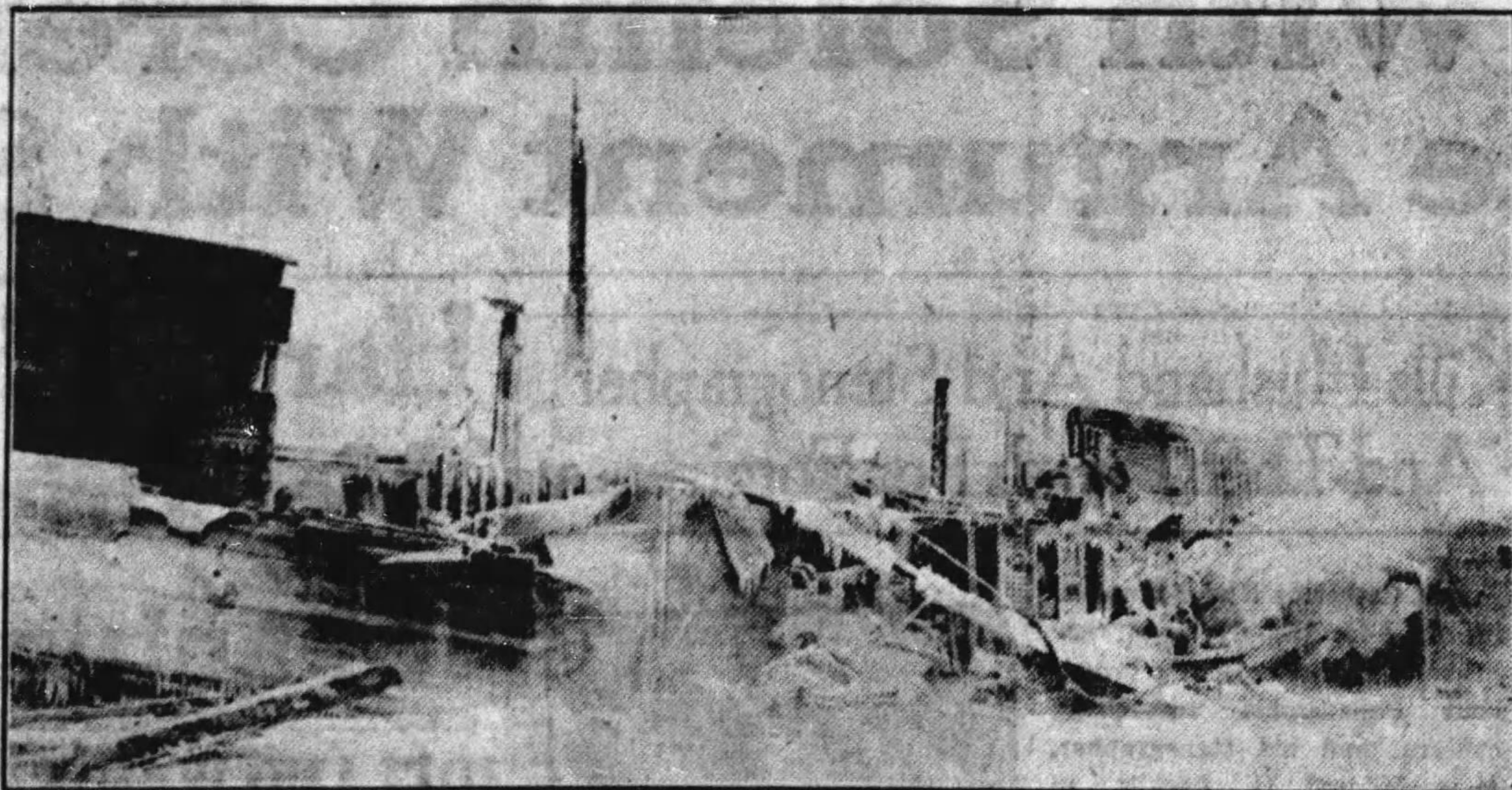
FRIDAY EVENING

114 LAKE ST.

Handsome Prizes.

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Largest Fire In Months Visits Elmira; Approximate Damage Given As \$25,000



—Photo By Celdon, Star-Gazette.

All that remains of the once Chase-Hibbard Corporation, located at East Fifth and State streets. The large granary of the company was destroyed totally at 10:45 o'clock last night.

The entire Elmira fire department responded to the general alarm and fought to protect the Fisk Rubber Company building, which is close by, from becoming enflamed by sparks, which flew many feet into the air.

An idea of the task which confronted the Elmira fire fighters may be had when it is stated that the water froze almost as fast as it was thrown from the fire hose. A stream of water from a fire hose may be seen in the center of the picture. It was left there to prevent further outbreak.

Smooth Swindler Orders Ton Of Coal Over Telephone and Gives Bogus Check To Driver In Payment, Taking Change

Address Where Coal Is Delivered Proves To Be Vacant Lot, but Before Driver Finds It Out, He Is Accosted by Man With Dinner Pail, Who Tenders Check, Receives Change and Leaves—Petrie Company, the Victim.

Elmira is becoming a rendezvous for clever swindlers, who seem to find it easy picking for their crooked operations. Two of these operators, within one week, have found Elmira easy marks, and the police investigating, are hopeful there will be no more of them.

The Petrie Coal Company on East Washington avenue is the second victim of some smooth swindler. Yesterday afternoon a telephone call was received at the Petrie office from a man asking if one-half ton of pea coal could be delivered to 712 Harper street at once. The reply was affirmative and the man asked that change for a \$20 bill be sent.

The coal soon was ready and the driver set out for its destination. When he arrived on Harper street, a man, carrying a dinner pail, stepped out to the wagon and asked if the coal was for 712 Harper street. When the driver replied, the man handed him a check for \$20, took the change and directed the driver to place the coal in the cellar of "that yellow house, three doors up."

The stranger walked in the opposite direction, and the driver drove to the yellow house. While the driver was looking for the window through which he could unload the coal, a woman came to the door and asked what he wanted. He told her that he had a load of coal for the house, but she informed him that he was much mistaken.

The driver's inquiries brought him the information that number 712 Harper street is part of a vacant lot owned by the Board of Education for use as the Academy athletic field. He hurried back to the coal office with the news and the check. Detectives Harry Lawes and Peter C. Curley were sent from police headquarters to investigate.

The check given to the driver was made out to James Kelly and signed Frank Myers. It was on a local bank. Investigation proved it worthless, and no sign of the smooth individual who pulled the turn, has been found. He is described as about 32 years old; five feet, seven or eight inches in height; smooth faced; dark eyes and complexion, dressed in blue suit, black soft hat, no overcoat.

Damon Orchestra To Play At Twelfth Annual Party Of St. Vincent de Paul

Rochester Organization Is Officially Engaged For Coming Society Function, Given For Charity, at the State Armory on Church Street.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society today engaged the Damon Orchestra of Rochester to play at the society's twelfth annual ball, to be held at the State Armory on the night of Tuesday, February 21. This marks the

fourth consecutive year that the Damon Orchestra has furnished music for the St. Vincent de Paul ball.

The Damon orchestra was selected after a number of other orchestras had been given thorough consideration. The society negotiated with the Paul Whiteman and Phil Ohmen orchestras of New York City and the Leo S. Riseman orchestra of Boston, but the prices asked by these organizations made them prohibitive. Two orchestras from Ithaca, one from Buffalo, Olean, Penn Yan and three local orchestras were considered with the Damon orchestra being selected. The orchestra will be composed of 15 pieces. The Rochester musicians have given the St. Vin-

Government Representative For French Republic Here; Speaks At Elmira College

Elmira College welcomed an interesting speaker this morning at a chapel meeting—Julian J. Champenois, representative of the French government for the student exchange movement. Mr. Champenois told of how enthusiastically American students were received at educational centers in France and remarked about how happy is his country to have so many French girls going to school in America. There is one French student registered at Elmira College at the present time.

FRANCIS KELLY CASE GOES OVER TERM; CHARGED WITH HAVING STOLEN GOODS

The case of Francis Kelly of West Fourth street, charged with criminally receiving stolen goods, was put over the term in County Court yesterday afternoon. Attorney Michael O'Connor, appearing for the defendant, requested that the case be deferred on the grounds that some material witnesses were missing.

Mr. Kelly is charged with having received a quantity of automobile tires stolen from the C. M. & R. Tompkins Company last fall.

Social Notes

TO ENTERTAIN AT TEA.
Mrs. William M. Cooper of William street will entertain at tea tomorrow afternoon in honor of Mrs. Edward A. Shumway of Philadelphia, who arrives tomorrow to visit Mrs. S. G. H. Turner of Euclid avenue.

ENTERTAINED CLASSES.
Mrs. Charles E. Horton entertained the members of Miss Florence Calkins' Sunday school class and the Horton class of the First Methodist Church at her home on West Second street Monday evening.

PARTIES IN HONOR.
Mrs. J. Hamilton Clarkson of West Church street entertained last evening at her home in honor of Miss Myrtle Bowman, whose marriage to J. Fred Hoefer, also of this city, will take place soon. "Five hundred" was enjoyed during the evening. The prizes were won by Mrs. Robert E. Biddle and Miss Irene Slingerland, who presented them to the bride-elect. The guests also presented Miss Bowman a china tea set.

Mrs. George Kellogg of Foster avenue will entertain in Miss Bowman's honor next Monday evening at her home.

TO SING.
Mrs. Carrie Frey, soloist at the First Presbyterian Church, will sing at the meeting of Willard W. C. T. U. tomorrow afternoon. She will be accompanied on the piano by her daughter, Miss Marjorie Frey, who also will be heard in piano solos.

SLEIGHRIDE PARTY.
Wednesday evening the "Let's Go" Club and their invited friends enjoyed a sleighride party at Pine City. Dancing was enjoyed until a late hour when a delicious supper was served.

BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY.
Several young girls were delightfully entertained Tuesday from 4 until 9 o'clock by Miss Loleta Marie Toti, at her home on West Church street, in celebration of her twelfth birthday anniversary. A delicious three course supper was served at 5:30 o'clock by the young hostess' mother, Mrs. Louis C. Toti, assisted by Mrs. George D. Wallace. The center-piece was a tall vase of pink carnations, and the hand painted place cards bore a pink floral design. Dainty bonbon holders were in the form of pink cakes, each holding a tiny candle. The favors were confections, which were fashioned into apples and baskets. The pretty birthday cake had twelve pink candles in rose-shaped holders. Following the supper games were played, and dancing was enjoyed, with Miss Helen Harris at the piano. In the evening game, Miss Harris won the souvenir, a basket of old fashioned candies. The young hostess was presented a number of beautiful and useful gifts. The guests were: The Misses Mary Elizabeth Uwin, Evelyn Minard, Marjorie Volker, Helen Harris, Florence Virginia Pingrey, Doris E. Creighton, Marsha J. Hamilton and Dorothy Adams.

—Miss Emily Czekalski of Beach street will leave Sunday for an extended stay in Rochester.

—Miss Ruth Mayes of 122 Orchard street had the misfortune to sprain both ankles last evening while coasting on Water Cure Hill. Dr. William S. Cain is attending her.

—W. D. Gelder left the city last night for Washington, D. C., where he will attend the 42nd national convention of the National Designers Association of Tailors which is held in the Washington Hotel.

—Mrs. Marie Hannock is confined to her home, 307 Highland avenue by an attack of grippe and tonsillitis.

—Mr. and Mrs. William H. Snyder of West Church street expect to leave Saturday night for a stay in Miami, Fla.

RECTANGLE GIRLS PLAN BOX LUNCHEON AT THE Y. W. C. A.

The Rectangle Club girls of the Y. W. C. A. will entertain at a delightful "box luncheon" party tomorrow evening in the "Y" cafeteria building. All old and new club members are cordially invited to attend with their friends. Tickets are being sold for the affair and each girl attending will take a box luncheon for two. The daintily wrapped boxes will be auctioned later in the evening, furnishing a novel entertainment. Games and dancing will be enjoyed. The music for the occasion will be furnished by an orchestra under the direction of Mrs. Madeline King Davis. The room in which the party is to be held will be charmingly decorated for the occasion.

STORY-TELLING BEE PLANNED TOMORROW AT THE CITY HALL

Story Hour for the kiddies of the city will be held as usual tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock in the Assembly Chamber of the City Hall. A delightfully interesting program of practical and fanciful tales, graded to suit the ages of the listeners, will be conducted by young women of the college. All children and those under school age, are cordially invited. Each week the audience of attentive little people grows larger.

MARGARET BAKER INJURED BY FALL

Margaret Baker, 754 Market street, is confined to the St. Joseph hospital as the result of a bad fall on William street Sunday. She is being attended by Dr. Tracy Hamilton who reports her condition as improved today.

Miss Baker was about to get into her automobile when the accident occurred. She had stepped on the running board, slipped, and fell to the pavement. She was immediately taken to the hospital in her car.

COLD WEATHER

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Nor the

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STRAIGHT-FORWARD MESSAGES ON

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By Eminent Visiting Ministers

GOOD MUSIC

YOU ARE INVITED

EVERYBODY COME

These services include the Presbyterian Churches of Elmira, Horseheads, Watkins and Spencer.

New Hotel Project Has It That Agents In This City Inspected Main St. Site

Latest Report Has It That Hotel Men From Abroad Come Here and Inspect Langdon Property on Main and Church Streets—Real Estate Man Mum.

Negotiations have been opened for the purchase of a plot of ground on North Main street, at the corner of West Church street where it is proposed to erect a large modern hotel, it is said.

Men interested in a hotel project were in this city recently and among other proposed sites, inspected the C. J. Langdon homestead and property, which is owned and occupied by Mrs. C. J. Langdon. It was reported today that the visitors were favorably impressed with the location, declaring North Main street an ideal location for a modern hotel. It is said that an effort was made to learn if this plot might be secured. The visitors were in consultation with a well known real estate dealer

with North Main street as a possible location for a hotel? he was asked. "They appeared favorably impressed," he replied, but refused to make further comment.

BUILDING MATERIAL

Minneapolis, Jan. 26.—Building contractors in this section are making a vigorous campaign for reduction in the prices of building materials, announcing that the wages in the building trades will remain unchanged.

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NEWS CAMERA SNAPS PEOPLE ELMIRANS KNOW



JOHN BAKER
Mr. Baker is Elmira's city sealer and a good one. He may be seen carrying a gasoline can or pair of scales most any time, as he is always hunting for weight and measure cheats.

cent de Paul Society the utmost satisfaction in years gone by and this had an important bearing upon their selection this year.

Dr. George H. Brickwedde, vice-president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, has been made general chairman of the ball committee this year. Dr. Brickwedde will appoint his various committees within a few days.

GIRLS, HERE IS THE HANDSOMEST MAN IN THE WORLD



Joseph Shilkraus in colonial garb.

Joseph Shilkraus has been dubbed the handsomest man in the world by no less an authority than Max Rhinehart, the famous producer. Shilkraus took the leading role in one of the movie pictures now attracting attention on Broadway. Shilkraus once played for Rhinehart. Then became a favorite at the court of Emperor Joseph of Austria.