## JOHN ABNER MEAD-

A Dramatic Life History

fession.

of today, with their expensive suits of

sports, their relaxations and the gen-

erally easy way in which their suc-

mean, expedients of Dr. Mead's col-

lege training and the little office in

which he began to practice his pro-

for an example of success by dint of

will power and applied ability will not

do better than to read the story of

those early days, explaining as they do

the steady, uninterrupted march of

prosperity which followed his ready

acceptance and use of the first oppor-

tunities that fortune put in his way.

Grown men will be struck with ad-

miration when they consider the ex-

traordinary versatility which his pro-

fessional and business life have dis-

closed. It is very seldom that a man,

after making a measurable success in

a learned profession like medicine,

should be able to translate himself

easily to business life and not only

prove himself the peer of his asso-

ciates, but demonstrate his ability to

make a signal success in several di-

The resuscitation of the bankrupt

Howe Scale company was a task for a

trained executive and financier, and

yet this young doctor made a striking

success of the supposed forlorn hope.

FIELD OF ENSILAGE CORN.

His entrance into the state political

time has already acquired a consider-

able momentum and is being watched

with the closest interest by all men

who have made state politics a study.

The Doctor's Platform.

was prepared to take a stand on mat-

ters of public import, the doctor said:

in regard to public questions. Briefly,

avenue of the state, the best business

methods in the administration of its

affairs and equal opportunity to every

Pressed to be more explicit, the lieu-

"First.-A business administration

"Second.-Practical schools, with a

view to developing more efficient work-

ers-agricultural, industrial and com-

"Third.-The development of the

farming interests of Vermont by means

farm for introducing the most modern

"Fourth.-A system of taxation that

of state affairs on the lines of econo-

my and efficiency that have made all

tenant governor submitted the follow-

ing as his idea of public issues before

citizen of the commonwealth."

"I am in favor of-

business successful.

the state:

methods.

"Yes; I have some decided opinions

am in favor of progress in every

When questioned as to whether he

other interests.

The administration of a banking

verging lines of business.

Young Vermonters who are looking

Dr. Mead Announces the spectacle of this resolute, indefat-His Candidacy and His the ridicule of his companions and the Platform -- Condensed Bi- humiliation of wearing old and worn ography of a Remarka- an education, indicates a Spartan fortible Character -- The Story ing his life's success. It is a far cry of How a Penniless Boy from the luxurious medical students Rose to Become a Great apartments, their good clothes, their Business and Political Force -- An Interesting cesses are secured, to the poor, almost and Dramatic History.



JOHN ABNER MEAD.

FES, I am a candidate for pro- property is considered to be career motion," said Dr. John Abner enough for most men, and yet he has Mead of Rutland, lieutenant made it a mere detail of the day's governor of Vermont. "I ex- work. pect that my friends in Rutland city The operation of a large farm is the permanent improvement or ver- lation and entered Middlebury conege and Rutland county will present my one of the most intricate problems of mont woodlands. name as a candidate for governor at the day, and yet it is one of his chief "Tenth.-Laws that will encourage the patriotic fervor of the day and

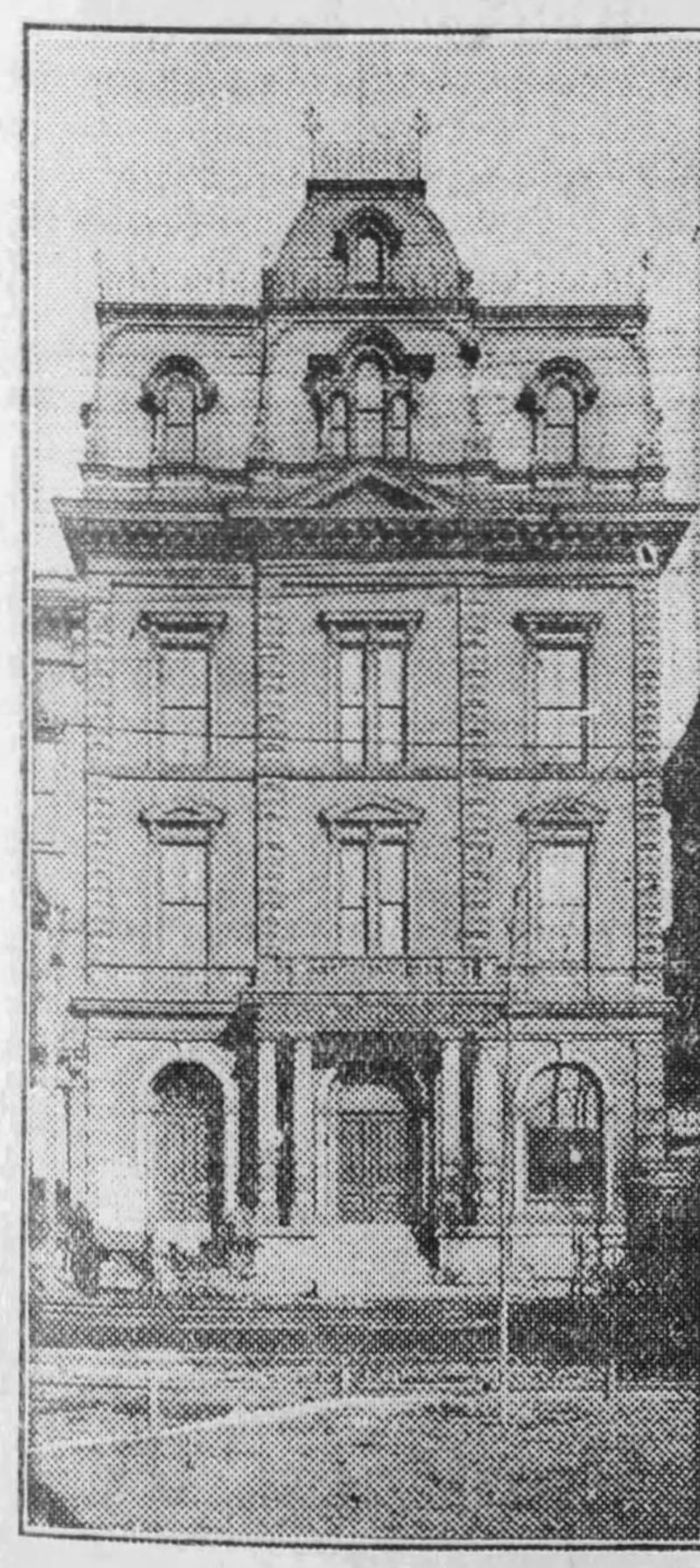
question asked by a reporter. The hour was 7:30 a. m.

The scene was the office of the Howe open. important political news is explained by the fact that ever since Dr. Mead came into the control of the scale works, twenty-two years ago, he has made a practice of being "on the job" as early as any employee of the con-

The extraordinary singleness of purpose, fertility of resource, courage concentration, ability, superb vitality and high personal character that have made it possible for a man of the humblest antecedents to rise from a condition of biting poverty to the con trol of a half dozen successful and im portant enterprises reads more like a story book than a prosaic record of everyday life.

No person can read the biography of John Abner Mead without feeling the tremendously dramatic possibilities that inhere to a life of fixed purpose and integrity, with an eye firmly fixed on success. From the time that Dr Mead was left a virtual orphan he seems to have had but one object in mind, and that the fullest development of his own possibilities and powers in harmony with the welfare of those with whom he was associated and of the various enterprises with which he has been connected.

Going through college on \$425, pain fully and scrupulously saved from the earnings of uncongenial toil, interrupt foldier in the civil war, studying medivine and assisting in commonplace tasks about a doctor's office and finally doing manual labor of the severest



BAXTER NATIONAL BANK, RUTLAND.

type in a Rutland quarry to procure the means to secure the best medical education possible—all these point to a character of consistent and singular

The side lights on his college life demonstrate that he was able in those days to eliminate whatever may have stood in the way of his success, and

double taxation and develop rather than restrict opportunity. igable young Vermonter, braving alike

"Fifth.-Better roads for Vermont by the introduction of improved methods, with state supervision and aid clothes in order that he might receive wherever and whenever practicable.

"Sixth.-The good offices of the executive in settling disputes between labor and capital by arbitration. "Seventh.-Fewer and more uniform

laws, with no special legislation that can be covered by general statutes. "Eighth.-(a) A system of courts that

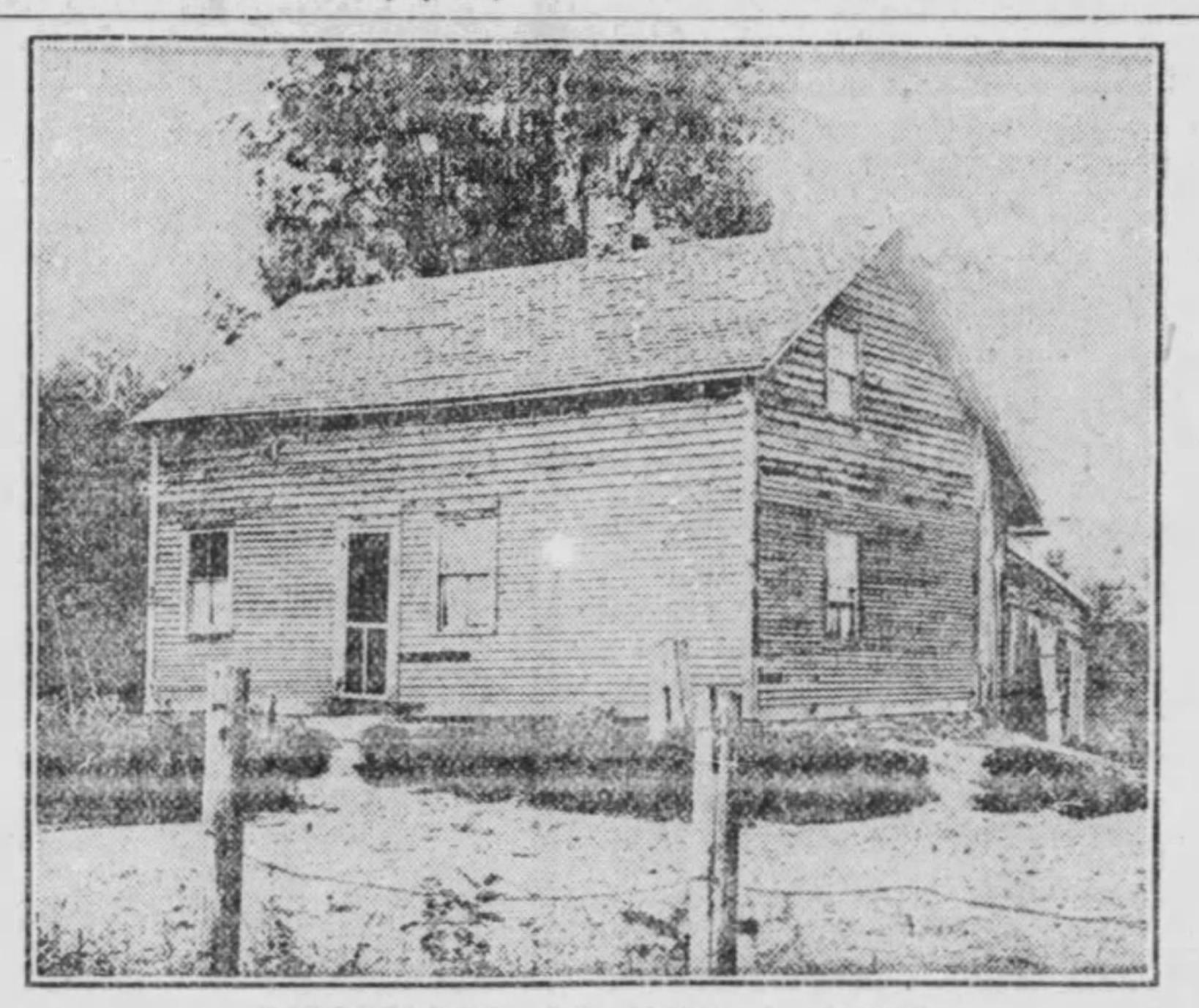
will provide cheap and speedy justice to rich and poor. "(b) A radical reduction of court expenses by business methods of admin-

istration. "Ninth.-A continuation and extension of the state's forestry policy for

of every possible penny with the great goal of learning as its object. He "worked out," he fished and sold his catch, did odd jobs, and often a man's work at a boy's wage, until in the years of 1857 and 1858 he was made teacher of a district school, for which he received \$15 per month and "boarded around," as the custom was. When he received the \$45 for the final three months' service, he had accumulated at that time \$425. With this he started in life. As an example of patient, persistent frugality and thrift the foregoing is a particularly striking example.

At this time he had an uncle living in Malone, N. Y., who was the principal of what was then known as Franklin academy. The boy wrote to him and was permitted to attend school there and do "chores" about the house for his board and sweep the schoolhouse and build the fires for tuition and books. He had never been outside of Rutland county, and thus, at seventeen years of age, alone and considerably frightened, he started for the spring of 1868. Malone to continue his education.

Going Through College on \$425. There he fitted himself for matricu-



BIRTHPLACE OF JOHN A. MEAD. [An Old Fashioned Vermont Farmhouse, Not Luxurious.]

the next Republican state convention." recreations to join his men in spring- and foster Vermont industries, with served one year in the army, enlisting The foregoing was in answer to a time, having or harvesting and dem- the view of providing a home market in August, 1862, and continuing in the onstrate his practical knowledge of ag- for our agricultural products.

riculture as well as his love for the "Eleventh.-Measures that will give prominence to the natural beauty and old class of 1864. To accomplish this Scale works in Rutland, and the sin- The management and financing of a attractions of our mountains, valleys, he worked at having nearly every gular combination of early hours and large business block is frequently a lakes and streams, interest the vacationist and summer visitor and attract permanent residents from abroad."

Biography of John A. Mead.

of Roswell Rowley Mead, grandson of out assistance from any one but his James Mead, and Lydia Ann, daughter own willing hands and busy brain. of Eli Gorham of Rutland. James John A. Mead "cut it pretty fine," Mead was the first white man to settle however, as at the time of his gradin Rutland township. He bought of uation he was so "hard up" that he Nathan Stone of Windsor 7,000 acres was obliged to sell all his books, par of land, paying for the same in horses ticularly the English books of the final valued at \$333.33. He was a distin- year, that every graduate likes to guished pioneer and patriot and was keep, and so he graduated from Mid colonel of the Third Vermont colonial dlebury, square with the world finanregiment.

Rowley R. Mead was born in West Rutland, in a hotel which his father, Abner Mead, conducted. On the maternal side John Abner Mead, subject of this sketch, inherited some of the bluest blood in this country. One of Lydia Ann Gorham's ancesters, John Howland, was a brave and enterprising member of the Mayflower colony, and four of them were original Pilgrims. Rowley R. Mead moved to Fair Haven in 1839 and settled on a small farm there.

Left to Care of His Aunt.

Ann Gorham Mead, went into a de- term teaching. fair career for some men, and yet whom he lived much of the time until of the University of Vermont. field was in its way no less remark- he was sixteen years of age.

Struggling For an Education.

able, and experienced political generals say that his instinctive grasp of Young Mead attended the common the principles of organization at the schools at West Rutland until the time when he was nominated by the spring of 1858. When he was about Republican state convention as lieuten- twelve years of age he conceived a ant governor indicate political ability very strong desire to obtain an eduof a high order. His candidacy at this cation. His father was a poor man

in the fall of 1860. He then caught service until July, 1863, when he re turned to college and graduated in his summer and taught school every winter, studying hard meanwhile to make up his arrearages. With his original savings of \$425 he fitted himself for John Abner Mead was the only son college and completed his course with

cially, but nearly penniless.

Tries Unsuccessfully to Re-enlist.

Finding nothing to do at home, he then tried to enlist in the army again going to Castleton, where it was re ported two or three soldiers were re quired to complete their quota for that purpose. He found that the last mar. had just been enrolled and returned from Castleton in a gravel car, thor oughly discouraged. This was low tide in his fortunes, however, as he found a letter awaiting him from Champlain N. Y., offering him a position as teach er in the high school for a term of John Abner Mead was born on four months. He started for Cham

cline soon afterward and died in Au- Immediately upon his return he be gust. The infant son was left with a gan to study medicine with Professor remaining with them for several years. most of his expenses by caring for the the doctor has been able to operate his Then Rowley Mead married again, and office and assisting the doctor or prolarge well tenanted block not only the boy was virtually given to an fessor. Then he continued the study profitably, but as a mere annex to his aunt, Mrs. Blanchard, who cared for of medicine, attending the first course him for a number of years and with of lectures in the medical department

Doctor.

He continued with Dr. Perkins for nearly two years, when the pinch of poverty came again, and he gave up his studies and began working on a strong desire to graduate, if possible.



uated from this medical institution in ally ornamental offices.

No Dress Suit to Graduate In.

ment as house physician to the Kings of real estate that had ever taken County hospital, where he went the place in the town up to that time. He next morning after graduating. An in- sold the upper portion of the block to cident in connection with this gradua- J. M. Haven. tion is the fact that out of ninety- Two or three years afterward, on three students he was the only one the reorganization of the Rutland railwho did not possess a dress suit. but road, he was made treasurer and transwas obliged to wear an old shiny black diagonal suit, and as far as his finances were concerned he had religiously saved just enough money to purchase a ticket to Vermont. His bewilderment on receiving the same night during the exercises a long official envelope containing his appointment as house physician at Kings County hospital was such that he is said to have stuck a pin into his leg, fearing that he might president and general manager. This be dreaming.

three months he was unexpectedly that had ever been invested in the placed on a salary of \$800 a year, which was wealth untold to the young fellows of that day, who were accustomed to "walk the hospitals" for their board and washing.

Mead Learned to Say "No."

The importance of "unconsidered trifles" in relation to this appointment dend semiannually, and its value has is well exemplified by the fact that steadily increased until today it is during his college course and about unquestionably one of the best busk three months before graduation there ness propositions in the state. This was a merry party in the parlors of result was accomplished by a tremen the hospital at which an ablebodied punch, according to the customs of and intense application to business. that time, was served. The young student had made a mental vow a short. In 1901 Dr. Mead purchased the time before that thereafter he would Hayward farm, now known as the

ment of Columbia university, and grad- go with those complimentary and usu-

Mead In Business.

In 1880 he bought the Bates House He immediately received an appoint- block, this being the largest transfer

fer agent, and also treasurer, transfer agent and director of the Addison railroad. At the organization of the Clement bank and the State Trust company he was made director in both. and vice president of the State Trust company.

The Howe Scale Company.

In 1888, at the reorganization of the Howe Scale company, he was elected corporation had gone through bank-After being in the hospital about ruptcy three times, and all the money stock of said company had been lost The business of this company has increased since August, 1889, when he became active manager of its affairs from \$350,000 to \$400,000 per annux in sales to \$1,500,000 in 1907. The busi ness thereafter paid a substantial divi dous amount of hard work, long hours

Mead the Farmer.



OTTER CREEK STOCK FARM. [A Plain, Comfortable Farmhouse of the Better Type.]

day or a number of glasses.

Dr. Mead Practices Medicine. In the fall of 1870 he resigned his quarry at West Rutland, having a position in the hospital and came to Rutland, where he began the practice of his profession on the 8th day of December, 1870. He began in a small way with a single room and had only press for distribution or experiment. money enough to buy a horse and of- About ten years ago Dr. Mead was fice furnishings, including a cloth made director and president of the lounge, on which he slept for almost two years. A box by day contained the bedclothes and was converted into His confidence in these various instian extra seat.

He served as surgeon general on the staff of Governor Redfield Proctor from 1878 to 1880 and was also a member of the staff of General Alger, who was commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. He served, too, tor, in 1906 he was a member of the as a member of the staff of General house of representatives, and in 1908 Veazey, also commander of the Grand Army. He was on the pension examining board for eight years, was physician and surgeon to the house of correction, was the first house physician, in fact, from the time it was completed until he came to the Howe Scale company.

No Tin Soldier.

Although serving as surgeon general on the staff of Governor Redfield Proctor, as aid to General Alger and as colonel on General Veazey's staff, it one of the most successful business In fact, the sole inheritance which the quarry for about ten months, after is significant that the young doctor men of the day will be applied to the which he went to New York city and was never able to purchase a dress solution of state problems, their ecoentered the College of Physicians and uniform, but did the work without at nomical adjustment and a business ad-

April 20, 1841. His mother, Lydia plain that evening and finished the let the other fellows do the drinking. Otter Creek stock farm, this estate while he attended to the studying. of about 500 acres supporting 125 Among the party were college friends, head of cattle and producing 300 tons who jokingly pressed young Mead to of hay, as well as three large silos of ing his college course to serve as a [These rows are nearly half a mile long.] family in Fair Haven to be cared for, Joseph Perkins of Castleton, paying join them in a jovial glass, but were ensilage. This farm is a model of its unsuccessful. The superintendent of kind, having running water with a fifthe hospital afterward admitted that ty foot head supplied from a spring on the ability to say "No" at this time the hillside, which is used for all purinduced him to recommend the young poses and furnishes, besides, an ideal man for the appointment as house phy- fire protection. There was grown on sician. The singular part of the inci- this farm last fall probably one of the Quarry Worker That He Might Be dent is that the superintendent himself largest fields of ensilage corn in the was a convivial character, not at all state, fifty acres in extent and growing averse to the friendly glass of that as level and perfect as it is possible to imagine. Among the interesting things about the farm is the fact that for about three years an acre of land has been planted with Russian seed corn, a variety that grows a large number of ears with a very small amount of stalk. This is harvested each fall and the seed sent to Washington by ex-

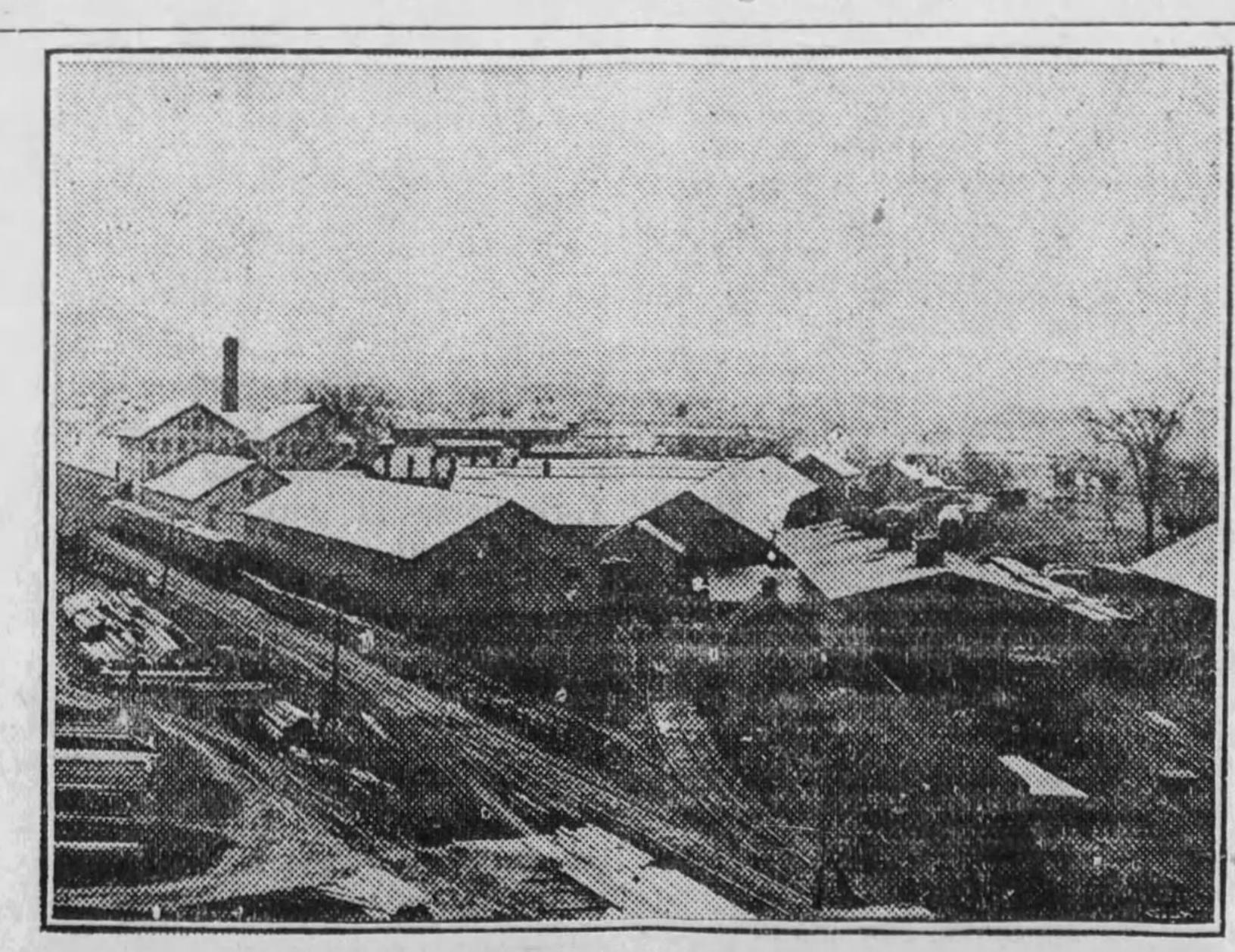
Baxter National bank and has continued in that position ever since.

tutions is shown by the fact that whenever stock was offered for sale he always purchased the same.

Mead In Public Life.

Dr. Mead's public life includes the following: In 1892 he was state senahe was elected lieutenant governor.

In all his public life he has acquitted himself with distinct credit. Although not a seeker for the limelight or a lover of notoriety, he has made a decidedly favorable impression whenever brought into contact with public men, and should the state of Vermont see fit to advance him to the highest executive office in its gift he promises that the qualities that have made him



THE HOWE SCALE WORKS. [These Buildings and Yards Cover Over Sixteen Acres of Ground.]

and told him that he was willing to at one of the larger medical schools "give him his time" and that he must of our country and determined to earn make his own way as best he could.

of an agricultural school and model he received from his father was string of old fashloned sleighbells. will equalize the burden, minimize

the money to do so. He worked in Then began the slow, steady saving Surgeons, being the medical depart tending the usual social functions that ministration of public finances.