

ed by Mr. Hiram Martin and two asheries were in operation. Mr. Wm. Wachsmuth, Mr. Jas. Nicol, Mr. Joshua Bowman and others came and started in business. Wm. Ellis, Mathias Kieffer, Conrad Rau, Henry Voelker, Broek Markle and Geo. Vogt were amongst the landlords of the various hotels.

The Elmira monthly Fair day was instituted and has kept its prestige ever since.

The usual ups and downs of business-life were encountered, nevertheless, the village gained in beauty and solidity and reached the per-

stood in need of improvements, which it was impossible to obtain as part of the municipality of Woolwich Township, an effort was made to incorporate the village. This was successful accomplished. The limits were defined, the charter obtained in December, 1886, and the first municipal officers were elected. These were: John Ratz, Reeve; August Blatz, John Ruppel, Henry Winger and Henry Dunke, Councillors. Mr. John H. Ruppel was appointed Clerk and Mr. Jacob Dunke, Treasurer. Both have held their offices to this day. The first Assessor was Mr. D. Levan. The Board of Health consisted of Messrs. Chas. Klinck,



Elmira House erected in 1861.



Fire Hall.



Fair-Day Scene.

iod which is closely identified with some of the business-men and enterprises of which the following pages are in a measure descriptive.

Elmira still was part of Woolwich and as such received only its percentage of the levied taxes. Improvements such as a growing village demands, could not be made with the funds available. Many necessary outlays such as the building of sidewalks, etc., were paid by private subscription. A fire hall and engine—the only fire-protection Elmira has to-day—were secured with funds raised in this manner.

In the year 1886, after it had become painfully evident that Elmira

J. B. Winger, R. Jackson and the Reeve and Clerk, while Dr. Walmsley was Medical Health Officer and Mr. Reuben Winger, Constable.

The population consisted of 760 souls and the total assessment amounted to \$87,000. At the time of writing (1903) the assessment amounts to \$343,000 and the population to 1350. The tax rate was then all told, 8 mills in the dollar. Now it is 13½ mills. This is a very low rate considering the number and extent of the improvements made and the aid given to manufacturing industries.

Three years after incorporation (1889) a bonus of \$10,000 was grant-