

ON THE MAIN STREET

with FORD MOYNES



One by one pioneer tradesmen and artisans are passing. The latest gentleman in this category to pass away is the late Louis Cain.

Louis Cain was for many years, since his teens, a blacksmith, and in this respect, he was predeceased by another tradesman, William Cain, and several years ago by the founder of the business, the late Andrew Cain.

For over half a century the Cain blacksmith shop on Lindsay Street south was more than a "smithy". It was the gathering place for farmers and horse race men who had expert work to be done, horses to be shod, shoes to be made, and at times buggies and wagons to be repaired.

It was a gathering place for friends. Farmers recall when Andy Cain sat in a rocking chair in the front shop, as did Bill Cain. The talk did not always have to do with horse

shoes and horses, but with the old story of the farmers having a tough time bucking the elements, the low prices of potatoes, corn, wheat, and oats, and the ever increasing demand made on the women folk in the wake of high prices for dress goods, dresses, hats, shoes, and groceries.

The late Louis Cain was an expert tradesman and although for some years past he did not shoe horses, he had a far reaching specialized business because he was an artisan at the business. One farmer said recently, "All I had to do was to roughly trace the outline of the horse's hoof on a piece of paper, tell Louis that the horse was knocking at the knees, ran a bit free on one leg, and had a peculiar little limp and he knew exactly what to do, where to place the lead lifts, the cork, and what not." "I also have race horses and he fitted them in this manner," the farmer con-

tinued, "I did not bring a horse to his blacksmith shop in recent years."

The late Louis Cain was an expert and he prided himself in turning out a very light shoe for race horses, and in fact the racehorse men from distant places depended on his product.

One of the last of a pioneer family of blacksmiths has departed this world, but his place of business and his proficiency in the application of his trade which is fast disappearing, will be missed for some time to come.