

On The Main Street

July 29/61

Members of the Kiwanis Club have been favoured lately by a number of interesting speakers including a native son of Egypt, three radio officials from Russia, a native son of India and by a Lindsay business man who was born in Ireland. The latter gentleman, George McCombe, told of a recent trip to Ireland and the memories and stories recalled for the benefit of fellow Kiwanians proved to be of unusual interest.

Kiwanian McCombe, now the successful owner and operator of McCombe's Billiard Parlour, unfortunately lost his father when he was a lad of four years and his boyhood days were spent in two Institutions which had in their midst hundreds of homeless boys. George was apparently an average boy full of fun, daring in his adventures and at times mischievous for on two occasions he received unusual punishment for his pranks. While the boys of the school surrounded the long table for their main meal of the day young McCombe was

made to stand at the end of the table with his meal consisting of lots of bread and water and this punishment lasted several days. He was not famished but he did not put on any extra weight.

As time went on he was given the chore of learning to farm and he was fortunate enough to be the forty - fifth choice out of fifty boys who arrived in Canada to take up work on Ontario farms.

He was fortunate in securing employment with farmers in the areas of Ridgetown, Barrie, Greenbank and Sunderland. He could plow a furrow as straight as a flying ar-



with FORD MOYNES

row in the days when the plow was the chief instrument of labour and the day when man and his horse were the best of friends. Young McCombe could toss a bundle of new mown hay on the end of a long tynne fork from the ground to the wagon with its large rack and afterwards into the back end of a large barn mow. He worked long hours and was up in the morning when the dew was on the ground and often worked by moonlight in the fields. Being young and vigorous and full of fun, it was quite common for this young man to attend many a dance in the neighbourhood in the long evenings and he became an adept Caller.

For several months George McCombe was employed at the

Dominion Arsenal in Lindsay. Today he is the proprietor of a successful business on Cambridge Street known as the McCombe Billiard Parlour and Cigar Store.

In concluding his talk to the Kiwanis Club he told of visiting the place of his birth, meeting and conversing with old timers and younger people in Dublin, Ireland and concluded with a reference to his visit to London and its many places of historical and traditional interest.