

Three score years ago the number of Merchant Tailor establishments in Lindsay exceeded the five fingers of one hand. Today they are nil. Fifty and sixty years ago the well dressed man had one good expensive suit. It was the one his devoted spouse allowed him to wear on the Sabbath day, at funerals and weddings and occasionally to a Lodge meeting. After the event this precious suit was carefully put back in the old clothes closet in the moth balls and it remained there until next Sunday. The wife looked after the suit and the big black hat received similar attention, but Dad was always dressed for special occasions. These Sunday best suits lasted a life time.

The other day the writer conversed with a senior citizen who still has one of these old, good material suits and another gentleman who has a real old overcoat hanging in the dark closet. "I bought the coat from Albert Blair, a good Merchant Tailor and it is just as good as new," said the owner.

Mentioning Tailors — Blair had a shop where Crest Hardware is today and he had a number of good tailors and pressers.

George Carruth and Charlie Davidson were with Blair and in later years Davidson had a repair business of his own, located over Graham's Bakery. This shop was the recognized place to visit, especially if young Masons and Oddfellows wished to improve their knowledge in fraternal and ritual studies.

One of the recognized best Merchant Tailors was Geo. A. Milne, a dapper, dressy man who had a shop where the Simpson Sears Order Office is now situated. He had a large trade, especially among members of the Anglican Church and among professional men.

A tailor named Johnston also had a good clientele and one of the oldest shops many years ago was run by Peter Mitchell who had a shop in the building which is today the Kent Hotel.

Alex. Cathro came to Lindsay from Scotland and he was a good craftsman, a reliable merchant who made good suits and coats. For many years Alex. Cathro and Son had a store situated about where Henry Houzer's haberdashery is now located. This firm had a standing order for suits from Pat Burns, the Calgary Cattle King. Burns was a native son of the Village of Kirkfield. Mrs. Ben Bateson, now residing on Cambridge Street South, is a daughter of the late Alexander Cathro.

One of the most widely

known Merchant Tailors in the past was Alex. Clarke, once a resident of Manilla. In his active life he was in charge of circulation for the Daily Post, and as such he established friends through the district. He was a loyal worker for the Liberals. He was perhaps best known in his later years as the founder of the Sunday night song services in the old Academy Theatre. Many will remember the small and kindly man as he stood in a dignified manner and with a long hickory pointer directed the large audience in the songs of the old time religion. Many people flocked to the Theatre to join with the "Billy Sunday" Gospel service.

Fifty years ago and beyond that time the firm of Dundas and Flavelle conducted a large men's furnishing business and employed repair and alteration men such as Harry White, Jack McAdam and others, and there was a time when a man could buy a very good suit for \$15 and \$18 including a vest and once in a while the clerk tossed in a pair of braces.

A Merchant Tailor who had a lot of friends was Lou Wickett who hailed from Little Britain. He was very friendly and a first class workman. His shop on William Street north next to the Daily Post was the gathering place for entered apprenticed Masons and others who wished to become more knowledgeable.

An Alterating and Pressing Shop was operated on William Street north by Bill Warrian. The shop was located where Lynn's restaurant is today and the friendly atmosphere was the lure which brought a number of cronies together. Three things were noticeable — the game of euchre, lots of tall stories and smoke fog. Warrian was fast and he was never too busy to enter discussion which was frequently argumentive and controversial.

Ernie Moore ran an alterating, mending and pressing shop on William Street south and in his later years on Peel Street in the old Orange Hall. Baseball and softball were his pet sports and for years he was the most familiar figure at the Victoria Park ball diamond. He was a staunch member and officer of the Loyal Orange Lodge.

This narrative is brought to a close by reference to the popular, active and capable tailor establishments which thrived in the village of Fenelon Falls for a long period of years, the Merchant Tailoring busin-

ess of Art and Bert Townley and that of H. McCallum and his brother Harry.

The Townley brothers were quite progressive and it is stated that when business was quiet in the winter months this firm sent out hundreds of cards to lumberjacks in many camps in Haliburton and further north. They read: "All right — we will be Right with you on (date), at the Right place, with the Right samples and the Right price." When the lumbermen left the bush and returned to their homes their suits were ready. The Townleys and McCallum's had a reputation for good clothes and Harry McCallum has today a smart haberdashery store in the Cataract Village.

Harry McCallum recalled: "Tailoring was a trade many years ago when apprentices were taught the rudiments of the business. Tailoring in Fenelon Falls goes back to the day of McDougal and Austin, then Townley's and they were experts.

The father of Art and Bert Townley was a good yarn spinner. One day back among the loggers he had a prospective buyer for a suit, an axe man who did not like the texture of the cloth. However Townley said that should an axe slip from the hands of the bushman in the tree and land on the shoulder of the buyer, the latter would not suffer as the cloth across the shoulder was so good and well made that the sharp blade would not even cut through the cloth." McCallum continued "Today we sell suits off the rack or they are made to the customer's measurements. Years ago we used to hang the goods like a sack over the body and mark the goods with a special kind of chalk and we had customers

back two or three times for fittings."

"I did hear that there used to be a clothier in Lindsay who did not know how to measure and he did not like to lose a sale. I heard that one day he actually had the customer lie down full length on a long table and he then drew chalk marks for the length, waist, width, shoulder spread etc. I never heard whether the customer ever wore the suit" added Mr. McCallum.