

FORD MOYNES

on the **MAIN STREET**



How many of the 12,000 citizens of Lindsay have visited the Town Hall? They pay ever soaring taxes without wincing, but they fail to step foot inside the big front door. The building is ancient but has never lost its perhaps antiquated appearance, and that is good. The building has from time to time had a bit of face lifting but the general outward appearance has been the same through the ages. The interior has been modernized many times.

What a change from the "old days"! Many taxpayers can look back to the days when the entire main floor was as barren as a barn. It was a market where farmers' wives placed their baskets of butter, eggs, sage, honey in the jar and in the comb, on the long wooden and sometimes very shaky tables and some of the "horses" supporting the tables were often short on one leg. No table cloths, no dainty china, and at times sawdust on the floor. This did not bother sales women or buyers. A fine gentleman named Neill Callaghan, had the title of Market Clerk and as he once taught school he could handle the small rental paid by the sellers, look after the market weigh scales where cattle, ewes, swine and coal tipped the scales. Every load of coal sold by Baker Baldwin and others had to be weighed on the town scales. Clerk Callaghan always car-

ried a stub lead pencil and at times chewed on the abbreviated pencil. He was the personification of kindness.

Until recent years the hall upstairs was large and extended from west to east with a balcony on the south side near the east end and it was from this frame structure that visiting dignitaries, including Sir John A. MacDonald eloquently addressed the citizenry, for he was reported to be eloquent, witty and quick on the retort.

In these pioneer days the hall seating arrangement included a gallery at the east end, or rather a high tier of seats. The platform at the west end was over four feet high and at the north corner and the south-west corner there was a round enclosed "well" reaching the ground level with narrow winding stairs. The ceiling in the hall was very high and the windows were long and resembled the windows shown in the old pictures of the first Confederation building used by the first Canadian Parliament.

In recent years the hall has

been entirely revamped and today it is quite modern and the money spent on improving the acoustics has been well spent.

Marked changes in recent years has been the illumination of the wide stairs at the east end of the building and the building of modern stairs running upwards from the main doorway. Old and antique front doors were replaced by large modern doors some years ago.

The business office which years ago was on the top floor, is now on the main floor and quite convenient for visitors.

A question asked from time to time: What has become of the big bell which had a resting place in the tower or belfry and where is the old four-sided clock removed from the Post Office tower at a cost of seven hundred dollars?