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# MAIN STREET



For many years Lindsay has had a Chamber of Commerce, at one time called a Board of Trade, and this unit, an important link in the business, commercial and industrial life of this county town, has had its ups and downs the same as similar organizations across the continent. In a recent brochure issued by the local unit there appears this bit of interesting information:

Practically every town of any importance has a Chamber of Commerce, a body known by the name Board of Trade several years ago in Lindsay. And Lindsay has had its share. Always these units had a place to fill in "live" municipalities. Few citizens of Lindsay will dispute the fact that this, the County town of Victoria, has had its share. Decades ago the organization was called the Lindsay Advancement Club and some of the best "bargain days" were sponsored by this enthusiastic Club.

Other hectic days of town boosters included the year when Allan Gillies of the Watchman-Warder, Felix Forbert, boot and shoe merchant, Pat. Breen a real estate promoter, Harry Brimmell, clothier, Bill Ferguson, a dry goods man and others, put their "shoulders to the wheel" and organized shopping days and a big carnival with horse and cutter rides on Kent Street, a parade of mercantile and business floats and a sale of farm produce on the market square, a term often used.

Hind and front quarters of

beef, sides of pork, chickens and geese with and without feathers, butter from the farm, eggs which were not graded and bricks of butter, sage and at times, jugs of cider were on sale and although many customers had their regular sellers many citizens rushed to the market to pick up produce before Adams, the butcher and grocer, bought up everything for store customers.

The Board of Trade had its adventures with slick operators out to make an easy dollar. Like the time the town employed an Industrial Commissioner named McCombe, a glib tongued American. This individual sold the town fathers on the idea of securing industries and one was known as the Thomas Shoe Company.

A fine brick factory was built on the south-east corner of Sussex and Glenelg Streets and a number of girls hired. One morning the town fathers woke up to find that McCombe had "folded up his tent like the Arab of old" and vacated Lindsay. That was a sad and costly experience.

Before adding the word "finis" to the above ramble, it should be mentioned that the town was well served several years ago by Dan. McQuarrie as an Industrial Commissioner who brought a number of industries to the town and that the present commissioner Stan Pitts is also given credit for "landing" a number of industries, all doing well and giving employment to several hundreds of people.