

# On the Main Street

When the history of Lindsay is written it will undoubtedly contain the name of R. S. Porter, not because of any outstanding event in the civic life of the community or the political life of the state, but because he was in business in Lindsay in the same store, for 75 years, the store now occupied by Cliff Golden, and because he was recognized as one of the bulwarks in the business section for many years. In business he had the reputation of being "honesty personified".

Synopsis of his career brings to light the fact that he was born in Flushing, Cornwall, England and came to Canada with his parents in 1848. Like many other Lindsay pioneers he landed at Port Hope. He came to Lindsay in 1860 and started in the stationery and book store business in 1861. It will be remembered that he was not a lover of fiction but was a devout reader of devotional literature and for many years he was a communicant in Cambridge Street United Church.

He had a remarkable memory and was quite capable in knowing and relating the history of Canadian statesmen. For many years R. S. Porter was the agent for the Toronto Globe as well as the correspondent for that paper.

Mr. Porter believed in the old idea of trade stores and that merchants should represent one line of business rather than handle all kinds of merchandise. He found it difficult to concede that a hardware store, for instance, should handle dolls, wall paper and other articles, which rightfully belonged to other trade stores.

Mr. Porter was a lover of flowers and in many respects was a "fashion plate" in his own personal attire. It is also recalled that he invariably had a colourful flower in the button hole of his jacket. His recreation was riding a bicycle and he never used the horses and cab. It is also recalled that Mr. Porter was wont to talk about the early days of Lindsay dating back to the fire of 1861 when many Kent Street businesses were wiped out. He lived in the days when railways superseded the boats, and automobiles crowded out horse drawn vehicles.

Citizens of today remember well that his word was his bond and that the business he established was truly run as an honourable institution.