

on the *Nov 6/70*
MAIN STREET



"Big trees from little acorns, provisions, hardware and jewelry" is a quotation which is as old as the hills. It can be applied to Cambridge Street United Church which attained its 138th birthday on Sunday last. History records the interesting information that Rev. John Sanderson was one of the first to bring the gospel to a wee flock of faithful men and women when prayer meetings were held in the humble homes of frugal God fearing people. A delightful historic book entitled "John Sanderson the first" graphically describes the manner in which this Apostle of the old time religion travelled from Cavan, Township on horseback to Lindsay, walking and riding along crooked trails through bush and primitive jungles to Lindsay. This "sky pilot" was preacher, choir leader and evangelist.

His early acquaintances, and best friends included the Roman Catholic Parish Priest, and a gentleman named Jeremiaah Britton, whose store handled

provisions, hardware and jewelry. In later years the store was operated by a son Jerry Britton, who learned the business in Montreal and later the store was owned and operated by another son, Sam Britton. Printed records tell the story of the growth of the Methodist Church, which saw the light of day in a small brown house on the south side of Wellington Street, near William. Worship was at one time held in a church on the west side of Sussex Street, near Wellington Street. This small and courageous congregation expanded and by careful planning and after considerable effort a beautiful church was built on the south-west corner of William and Wellington Streets, and this building is remembered when it was occupied by William Skitch, a citizen who used the old church as a cartiage shop and carpenter shop. William Skitch, father of Percy Skitch, is credited with building Skitch's terrace on William Street. For some years Mr. Skitch never disturbed the old pulpit, the platform, and the choir members sat and it is reported that the same gentleman was leader of the choir, and as there was no "music box" he used a tuning fork to establish the right pitch for the choir.

When the congregation outgrew this one-time modern church, the decision was made a momentous one, to build a new church and following a spirited spiritual and financial drive the present beautiful edifice was erected at the corner of Cambridge and Bond Streets, a beautiful location on a high rise of ground. The erection of the edifice was locally marred by a workman falling to his death from a high scaffold. Under the regime of many deeply devoted clergymen and hard working lay leaders the congregation increased to the extent that the pews were well filled and at times people could not be accommodated and although the congregation was not wealthy, it took on the hurculean task of enlarging the edifice by adding galleries along two sides and across the east end.

So the story grows and the congregation grew, the spacious choir loft was altered and enlarged and as time sped on a new and wonderful pipe organ was donated to the congregation by the Flavelle family. In later years the beauty of the building was enhanced by the building of a new and beautiful nave and the installation of a number of highly complimentary stained glass windows in the main body of the church and in the nave and vestibule.

Through the century and a quarter the pulpit of the church has been blessed by a large number of preachers and the church has a reputation in the Bay of Quinte Conference for the high standard of incumbent clergymen.