

A large barricade has been erected in front of the Kent Street store which was for several years occupied by the late Ernie Ferguson.

Occupants of this store date back well beyond the half century, one of the first having been a man named Duck, who operated a grocery store. A successor by the name of Ed C. Armstrong had a busy men's wear store. Armstrong learned the haberdashery business as a clerk in the Dundas and Flavelle big mercantile store at the north-east corner of Kent and York Streets, now Walker's.

Armstrong was followed by W. E. (Bill) Kelcher, who learned the rudiments of the trade while working as a clerk in the Barney Gough store at the south-west corner of Kent and William Streets the present home of the Victoria and Grey Trust Company.

The store now being remodelled was for years the leading young men's store with Bill Kelcher enjoying the patronage of members of the Oddfellows Lodge of which he was an active member. Men's Wear stores at the time included Dundas and Flavelle, M. J. Carter, now Rhys Williams, Harry and Frank Brimmell, Harry Morgan now Don Lytle's Store, Sutcliffe's now Zeller's, Claxton's, J. Houzer. Merchant tailors who sold made-to-measure suits included Geo. A. Milne, Alex Cathro, Alex Clarke, Albert Blair and Lou Wickett. M. J. Carter was followed by A. J. McBride, Harold Wood and Rhys Williams.

In days gone by before ready made suits were on sale the clothing store merchant carried a large stock — webbs and webbs of cloth — and many of them became experts while others did not handle the tape and measurements too well. However, these men

were excellent and honest salesmen and generally did a good job.

When a suit sale took place the storekeeper invariably tossed in a pair of braces, at times a tie, and thoughtfully decorated the coat pocket with a handkerchief. An extra 25 cents paid for a pair of arm bands, as sleeve holders were part of a man's wardrobe. . . Socks went above the calf of the leg, and at one time to the knee.

Remember the celluloid collar which was to a degree

washable and the high dress collar which buttoned at the back of the neck, and the choker collar which squeezed the Adam's apple and almost marked the ear lobe?

Remember when men wore a starched bib, a dressy garment and then came the rubber collar, also washable. The well dressed male wore a double breasted coat and they always were dressy.

Remember when it was stylish to wear cream flannel trousers — they always were dressy and required a lot of pressing to retain the crease. At one time men bought a pair of pants with a stitch crease. Some young "blades" greased their hair and slicked down the hair with a strong smelling lotion, sometimes called a balm.

Men were just as vain as the ladies and a dash of perfume did not come amiss. When dances were held in the town hall, never in a church hall, heaven forbid, men carried a pair of dancing slippers, at times called dancing pumps. A few dressy men wore swallow-tail coats and the dance shoes were polished leather with a bow across the instep.

Some dancers wore beautiful vests and the shirt bosom was decorated with pearl buttons. Black bow ties were popular and brocaded vests were stylish. Always the beau brummel wore a hard cadi, or bowler hat. If the gentleman sported a moustache, it was generally short and stubby but the man who sported a well waxed handle bar hirsuit growth on the upper lip was a real dandy.