

24 FEB. 1965

ON THE MAIN STREET

with FORD MOYNES



Following a story in this column a few days ago regarding the early history of the Bell Telephone Company in Lindsay information was lacking regarding the early location of the business in Lindsay. It has since been learned that in the year 1888, the exchange was housed on a floor above the Dominion Bank building at the corner of Kent and William streets.

This building was demolished a few years ago following a disastrous fire. The same building was the first home of the Lindsay Public Library and Reading Room. Apparently the second location was on the second floor of the present building occupied by the J. C. Edwards Hardware store on Kent street, thence to a building on William Street south, now occupied by the Tom Jones Insurance Agency. From there it went to a building on the

east side of William Street north of the present Gregory building, thence to the west side of William street, now unoccupied and on to the present office building at the corner of William and Bond streets. Every step in the life of the company in Lindsay has been eventful and successful.

* * *

House of Refuge

Back in the year 1908 Victoria County Council built the House of Refuge, the new brick structure being erected on a first class farm of 140 acres. As time elapsed additions were made, the entire unit modernized and many improvements carried out and the name changed to the County Home.

Today the Home is in many respects one of the finest in the province of Ontario. Much of the success of the institution, in the well running of the home, as well as in good farm management has been due to such Superintendents as Fred Brass, Reg Cross, and at the present time Locke Keeler.

Today a suggestion has been made that the farm should be rented and not be under direct control of the county. The Board of Management, it is understood, will acquaint the County Council with facts, figures and recommendations in the near future.

The Home is strictly a county institution, substantially subsidized by the province. The farm has for many years been self sustaining, in fact has paid its way. The land has been cultivated and the crop yield has been good. First class cattle, pigs and poultry have been productive. Milk has been sufficient and has been sold to the dairy and returned in pasteurized form. Egg production has been used extensively in the home, a few cattle and a few pigs raised for different purposes, fattened and disposed off at prevailing prices. Apparently a successful, paying proposition.

It has been the custom in

It has been the custom in past years to have male inmates at the Home help in farm and garden work, but in recent years the trend has been to admit inmates of advanced years, but wherever possible several men have been used around the farm. No inmate has ever been compelled to work. Generally speaking, a recognized hired man has been employed yearly.

The institutions have been very fortunate in the selection of Managers and Matrons and first class reports concerning the operation of the Home proper have always been a source of satisfaction and pride to the Board of Management. Reports submitted to the County Council and to the province through the years have been highly satisfactory, and for several decades the institution has been on a paying basis. It is for these reasons that some interested people are a bit skeptical concerning the proposal to rent the farm. The entire matter will come up for discussion at a future meeting of county council.