

On The Main Street

With FORD MOYNES

August 28, 72

Historical stories in the history of Lindsay were presented to the members of the Rotary Club by Ford Moynes, writer of Main Street column in the Daily Post. The speaker enlarged on three stories, the Thomas Shoe factory, the story of the \$20 counterfeit bills printed in Lindsay and distributed in North Bay, and the International Mexican Bull Fight.

Years ago, like today, Lindsay had a Board of Trade and an American fast talker sold the Town Council on the idea of bringing industries to the town. The first hand out of \$500 was a small bite into the town treasury and was soon succeeded by a bigger bite of

\$700, then the "bird flew the coop" and like the Arab of story days "folded his tent and vanquished into thin air". However the red brick factory was built at Sussex and Glenelg Streets and it still stands. In fact, this building is now an apartment block. Thomas had 20 girls on the job and paid them well, except for the final week.

The counterfeit money deal exploded before the instigators reached first base. The brains of the happening turned out a good engraving, the printer on the Watchman-Warder staff turned out a beautiful specimen but the whole bubble burst when the

time came to put the bills into circulation. Two middle-aged men who passed the bills in North Bay, were apprehended in the old Union Station at Toronto. They died in the Kingston "Pen". The printer got off free through the influence of two gentlemen, J. D. Flavelle and Sam Hughes MP.

The famous Mexican bull fight could have been a big success but for the fact that the bulls were detained at the Canadian border until they underwent tests. The idea was a good one but fate was unkind. Daring promoters have suffered financial setbacks but actually the public was not gypped.