

On the Main Street

Kent Street with its 100 feet width is one of the widest main streets in the province and many business men of former years made a good living by running good stores. Utilizing the north side and starting at Lindsay Street, can be mentioned the variety store of Miss Hetgher, followed by a man named Riggs and then R. L. Morgan who sold everything "from soup to nuts" but specialized in instruments as large as a piano and the smallest mouth organ, and a large aquarium filled with a castle and beautiful gold fish swimming in and out of port holes.

Lindsay's first picture house was operated by a man named Lamb, a relative of Mrs. Harry Peirce and later on the popular Hi Meehan started in show business in the same stand and the former Miss Dora Roenigk, pianist, was an entertainer.

William Tresidder ran a grocery store and Jim Appleby had a barber shop. Peter Karrys operated a cigar store, a shoe shine and had three billiard tables. Mike Georgas made and sold all kinds of candy and bon-bons and had a dozen tables for ice cream and soda water customers. Harold Mercer ran the drug store now Tamblyn's, and previously George Brady was a grocer. A busy business in the block

was W. E. Baker and his son Jack Baker. It was in that store George Baldwin received his start in the business world.

The hotel Benson has been in continuous operation for

over one hundred years in the same location and was once owned by George O'Neill who later became owner of the King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

The present Walker Store was built by Dundas and Flavelle.

Men were known as tailors and made the finest clothes before the made-to-measure

suits became popular. The same firm made overcoats for men, the kind that almost covered the ankles. The department for making suits for women was also busy and the

millinery department employed a number of women fashioning and turning out the largest and the smallest hats and bonnets. The hat with the largest and widest brim and

the bonnet with the greatest showing of beads and sequins was the best seller and at one time the bonnets had two long ribbons, fastened under the chin. The ladies who wanted

to be leaders in styles at one time wore a funny bundle around the hips known as a "bustle" and girls were in style when they had padded hips.