FORGOTTEN BUSINESSES

When one thinks of a pioneer village, one pictures a business community consisting of millers, blacksmiths, taverns and storekeepers. It is interesting to look back to 1900 in Walkerton and see the unusual businesses that flourished at that time, but no longer exist.

To start with, the town of Walkerton at that time had a

population of 3,500 people, and a total of about one hundred businesses were operating here.

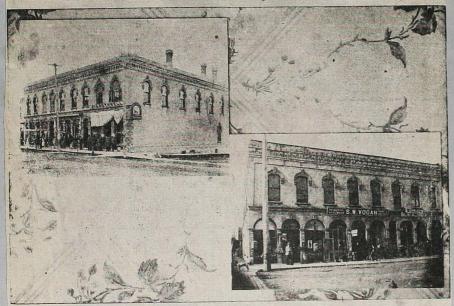
It took two laundries, J. P. Lee, and J. C. Bauman to keep the shirts clean, and one broommaker, C. Patrick, to keep the floors well swept. When people were all dressed up they had a choice of two photographers to visit to have their pictures

taken: J. W. Trussler and F. J. Fraser.

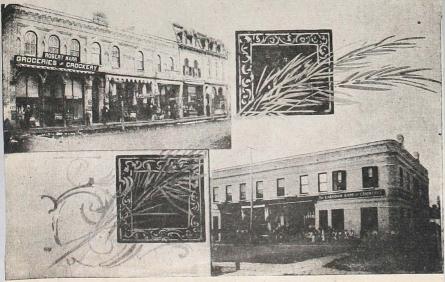
One business long gone was a dyer, such being operated by John Ruhl. I don't know if he dyed hair, but probably he was in business to dye the homespun fabrics of the day. Walkerton had two auctioneers; Eyra Biggs and J. W. Johnston, and one junk dealer, named Albert Gibbon, who bought what the auctioneer couldn't sell.

It seems that life was not all work, because in 1900, Walkerton had a brewery run by Farquharson and Grainger, as well as a pop manufacturer called R. Hill and a wine merchant, Richard Hanley. There were also two coopers to make barrels in which to store and age local cider and wine.

It is also of interest that a cigar manufacturing business was carried on by Mr. Schnitz-ler - and to add to all this merriment, G. Rife and Son had a business that sold musical instruments.



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