

In a recent historical article regarding barbers in Lindsay, and the great service rendered to the public it was regrettable that the name of Marshall "Mike" Stephens was omitted. This gentleman was one who at all times manifested considerable interest in public and municipal affairs and was a member of the board of health for a long time. His shop was the gathering place for many men and almost every topic under the sun was discussed and matters of political interest, matters pertaining to all lines of sport and municipal business were debated.

"The Book of Knowledge" was fine for boys, girls and adults in the home but for the latest activities in sport, church or politics the barber shop presented an every day forum and debating society.

It was the custom for visitors to sit up on the high cushioned seat not merely for a shoe shine, but to chin-wag on almost every topic under the sun, however sports was the best topic. The proprietor spent hours promoting, managing and even financing hockey teams. He tried curling for pleasure but did not reach the enthusiastic stage, but he was right at home as a lawn bowler. In this same period there seemed to be ample time to play checkers and different card games were popular and a "bit" of side betting was a habit for a number. The printed racing form was always available and at times bets were placed on the pacers and trotters. It was fun and a pastime and no one ever "lost his shirt" to use an old saying.

In the days of long gone by occasionally the conversation was in subdued style, as some "sport" related the story of a cock and spurred roosters entertained ringside fans. The sport was against the law but as is often the case, it was carried on. Cock fighting was so popular in Lindsay and Peter-

borough and other points that as many as half a hundred and more enthusiasts gathered in some farmer's barn, placed their bets and watched the "battle". Fighting birds were bred and sold by local breeders to buyers from different points in Ontario.

Many people watched the heavyweight pro boxers fight to a "bloody finish" in the roped platform and this was and is legal, but rooster fighting was always banned as a public attraction.

It is interesting to note that many of the fighting birds bred and raised in this district were sold in Ontario and some were shipped to the USA.

The other world renowned fight which focused the eyes of two countries on Lindsay was the much heralded "Bull Fight" when an energetic few sportsmen brought in fighting bulls from Mexico and staged the attraction at the Lindsay Fair Grounds — remember? But this is another story.