

In those early days there were also other sporting men in the city who were very fond of fast horses and horse racing. Among them were Roley Bunting, Sr., George Gilbert, Larry Stivers and McMonagle of Sussex, who with the officers of the army would frequently get up a race. The race ground was at that time on the flats, east side of Courtenay Bay, and the leading man among them was Roley. That man possessed a wonderful faculty for training and preparing a horse for the race. It has been said he lived and slept most of the time with the animal until the day of racing and generally succeeded in winning. Bets were made, as usual in horse racing, and large amounts exchanged hands, the officers generally coming off second best. Being the sons of rich men in the old country, whose fathers kept them fairly well supplied with means, they could afford, no doubt, to lose much better than our St. John men. Mr. Richard Sands, a retired merchant of St. John, took quite an interest in raising horses, some of which were fast, and Mr. Bunting, whose eye was as keen as a razor when selecting a good animal, would occasionally get a horse from him. The hardest race that I can think of in those days was one between Captain Hill, an army officer, and Larry Stivers, a noted horseman in St. John. The race was from St. John to Fredericton. Larry, I believe, had the lead when nearing the Celestial City, but one of his horses dropped dead and the captain drove on and won.

In closing my incidents of old times I will now briefly refer to our courts of justice. Every county in the province had its court house and jail, but the most prominent places in my mind were Saint John and Kingston, then the shire town of Kings county. St. John, I remember, was frequently disturbed by petty thieves, burglars and murderers who, no doubt, had fair trials and were justly convicted.