

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). My hon. friend's motion is not to declare that the House shall sit until twelve, but that it shall not sit after. There is no interest because the House is going to rise at six to preclude his motion from keeping its place.

CLAIM OF GUNNER FARLEY.

Mr. FISHER moved for :

Return of copies of all claims, correspondence, papers and reports respecting the demand of Gunner Farley, of the Shefford Field Battery, for compensation for the loss of his horse, which died in consequence of injuries received returning from the camp at Richmond, P. Q., in 1886.

He said: In view of the fact that the object I had in view in making this motion has been attained, the hon. the Minister of Militia having complied with my wishes, I beg to withdraw it.

Motion withdrawn.

LÉVIS POST OFFICE.

Mr. GUAY (translation) moved for :

Copies of all petitions and resolutions forwarded to the Government by the citizens or corporation of the town of Lévis respecting the building of a post office in the town of Lévis.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I have but few words to add in support of the motion which I have just had the honor of making before this House. In accordance with the instructions which have been given me by the citizens of the town of Lévis—and I think that their information is well founded in fact—numerous petitions signed by the citizens of Lévis, and resolutions unanimously adopted by the municipal council of the town were forwarded to the Government some years ago, asking for the building of a post office, and a house to house delivery of letters and parcels within the limits of the town. My object in making this motion, is to engage anew the attention of the Government, and especially that of the hon. the Minister of Public Works, who is the dispenser of the beneficent favors of the Government in the district of Quebec, to the fact of the importance of these petitions and of these resolutions, and to insist upon the urgent necessity which exists for building a post office in the town of Lévis, and of providing for the house delivery of letters, as is done in a great number of towns and villages of less importance than the town of Lévis. I have ascertained, Mr. Speaker, since I have had the honor of occupying a seat in this House, that every year considerable sums of money have been voted away by this House, at the request of the Government, to build post and custom houses in towns which are far from occupying the important position which the town of Lévis does. In fact it must not be forgotten that the town of Lévis occupies the third place among the towns of the Province of Quebec from its population, the importance of its manufactures and the increase in its trade, and I might add from the number and superiority of its educational institutions. The population of the town of Lévis, is reckoned at the present day, to be from 8,000 to 10,000 souls. This town is the centre of a great number of manufacturing interests, and is the terminus of several railways; amongst others, the Quebec Central, the Intercolonial, the Grand Trunk, and I hope before long that it will be that of the Great Eastern also, which is destined to bind together all the parishes on the south side of the St. Lawrence from Montreal to Lévis. I take advantage of this opportunity to express the hope that the Government will find the means this Session to assist in the building of this railway, in order to prolong its line from Sorel to the town of Lévis. I think that the time has come in which the Government must take into consideration the requests of my constituents of the town of Lévis, and place in the Supplementary Estimates a sum sufficient to render justice to the citizens of the town of Lévis, by building

a post office in that city. One thing they may rest assured of, the expenditure which will be occasioned by an improved system will hardly cost more than the very primitive system which is carried on at the present time. There are now in the town four post offices spread over a distance of from five to six miles. A certain number of our citizens are at a considerable distance from any one of these offices. I am informed that the Government pays annually, for this very elementary postal service, nearly \$2,000. Well, I believe that after having built a post office, the Government might very easily pay the salary of a postmaster and three or four messengers to make a house delivery of the letters and parcels, without sensibly increasing the public expenditure. It must not be overlooked—and I trust that the hon. the Minister of Public Works has remarked it of his own accord—that this improvement in the public interest has been asked for not only by the citizens of the town in their petitions, but it has been asked for in a very pressing way by the Board of Trade, by the town council, by the press, and if I can credit the report, a deputation will shortly come to Ottawa to ask of the Government the realisation of this project so important to the petitioners. If I was asking for a special favor for the town of Lévis, Mr. Speaker, I might add that there is not probably in the whole Province a town which more than this one deserves favors from the hands of the present Government, the hon. the Minister of Public Works knows it as well as I do; but I do not ask for any special favor. I plead only for an act of bare justice, and I venture to hope that the hon. Minister will comprehend the importance of the request which I am making at this moment and that he will discover some way of rendering justice to the taxpayers and citizens of the town of Lévis, by providing this year for the construction of a post office, the need of which is so keenly felt in that town.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation.) I will only reply to the hon. member, after the deputation which he announces shall have come here, I will know then more fully what they desire, although the hon. member has given me his personal views on the matter. As to what the Government will do, I cannot say now, but we shall see when the deputation has arrived.

Mr. LANGELIER. (Translation.) It would be well, Mr. Speaker, for us to understand once for all on what principle the Government is guided in the building of post offices and other public edifices. Does it regulate its conduct in this respect by the political support given to it by various localities, or according to the requirements and rights of these places? If we take the estimates for the present year, we shall find there that several localities in the Province of Quebec—not to go beyond the Province of Quebec—that several localities are going to be presented with post offices. Now, many of these places have not one-half or one-third of the population of certain other places which are not mentioned there. For example, I find that this year a sum of \$6,900 is asked to build a post office at Aylmer; we have been already asked \$7,000 last year, for this post office, and Aylmer is a village. I see also that \$7,000 is asked to complete the post office at Joliette; we voted \$10,000 last year for the same purpose. I find further, that for a post office at Laprairie, which is but a small village, we are asked this year to vote \$7,000, over and above the sum of \$10,000 which we voted last year. We are asked to vote \$6,000 for the building of a post office at Lachine. But there is nothing whatever asked for towards the building of a post office in the important town of Lévis, in support of which my friend the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Guay) has just spoken. The hon. the Minister of Public Works knows better than any one in this House the importance of this town. It is at the present day the terminus of the Intercolonial Rail-