

of the Bath, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the
Lower & Upper Canada &c. &c. &c.

The LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, and to the Honourable the Knights, Citizens and
Gentlemen of the Province of Lower Canada, in Parliament assembled.

PETITION of the Inhabitants and Citizens of the District of Montreal.

There has hitherto been and still is experienced by the Inhabitants of this Province, and more especially by those of
the more populous parts of its District, from the inequalities (commonly called Cahots) in the surface of the Winter
roads heretofore established has proved insufficient to remove, and which increasing with the Population, constitute a grie-
vous and to become utterly) insupportable to the Proprietors and occupants of Lands and Houses, who are compelled
to repair the Roads in front of their premises.

The Roads in the Sister Provinces, in the neighbouring United States, our own Eastern townships, and those on the Ot-
tawa, are so constructed that this inconvenience is solely attributable to the low, close-runnered Trains and Carriages, used in this

Province, and therefore fully convinced, that this evil can only be effectually remedied by an adoption of open, high-runnered Winter
roads in the countries just mentioned.

It is also to be observed that it is a prevailing idea, that the excellence of the roads in those Countries is imputable, rather to the mode
of construction than to the construction of the Carriages; but this objection is fully refuted by the fact, that in two of them, viz.
New York and New Jersey (where the snow is equally deep as in this Province) Horses are driven singly, and the roads are quite as good as in
England.

The present mode of repairing the Roads now exists, is harassing and unequal in its operation, all persons being obliged to keep in repair the Roads in front of
their premises, in proportion to the number of Carriages that pass it, and no distinction being made between those who, by the
use of the low runnered Carriages, cause the evil complained of, and those who, by using the high runnered Sleigh exclusively, do not contribute thereto.

It is also to be observed that all knowing the great bulk of the population to be attached by habit to their present description of Winter Vehicles,
and that a change can only be attained indirectly, by subjecting those who use them upon the Public Roads, to an assess-
ment, the kind of Carriage herein recommended shall be exempt.

Your Memorialists (with due deference to your superior wisdom) beg leave humbly to recommend that the Road Act be amended, so
that the same shall be kept in repair at the Public expence, and the Fund therefor be levied by an assessment upon the Occupants of
the Roads in proportion to their respective Fronts; exempting therefrom, (as before proposed) all persons who use exclusively, upon the said
Roads, Carriages drawn by horses, single or abreast, with the Shafts or Pole affixed to the Runners in such manner as that the said
Carriages (when the latter is used) shall not hang lower than the bottom of the Vehicle.

The use of a Sleigh, so constructed as to answer upon the Winter roads in Upper Canada, (where, owing to the Horses
being used, the length of the road) is an important consideration, inasmuch as it will enable the people of Low-
er Canada to be on equal terms with those of the Upper Province in the Transport business between the two Countries; a source of profit
to the use of the Sleigh in a great measure deprived:—A Sleigh upon the plan now proposed, possesses the advan-
tages of being beaten by horses singly, and of being easily adapted for travelling, on those beaten by horses driven abreast.

To secure the proper and cheap repair of the Roads (until the general use of high runners shall make them good with-
out) your Memorialists further respectfully propose, that some time in the month of October, in each and every year, public notice be given
by the proper authorities, that a day to be fixed, the keeping in repair the public Roads in each parish shall be separately set up at Auction, and ad-
vertisement, who shall be required to give good and sufficient security for the due performance of the Contract.

Your Memorialists also suggest, that a facility to the accomplishment of the desirable object of this petition, Your Memorialists would also suggest, that a
sum of money have now the honor to recommend, should be deposited with the Inspector of Roads in each Parish, to which all
persons shall have free access.

Your Memorialists most respectfully express their hope and desire, that should you in your wisdom deem it inadvisable to extend the
measure at large, it may in the first instance be applied to the District of Montreal alone—Your Petitioners feeling perfectly
convinced that it will be found to confer upon that portion of the Province, will, in the course of a few years, convey conviction to the
rest of the Province, and thus every objection to the universal adoption of the measure throughout the Country be removed.

Your Memorialists beg permission to remark, that the beneficial effects of the enactment now solicited will be particularly experienc-
ed in the more populous parts of the Country, and which, as the Road Act now stands, are never kept in repair,
and those who are bound by Law to repair them, live at so great a distance as to render it impracticable.

And Your PETITIONERS

Will ever pray.—