

And then on motion of Mr. *Solicitor General*, seconded by Mr. *Martineau*,

The House adjourned 'till Friday next.

*Friday, 21st March, 1800.*

UPON motion of Mr. *Planté*, seconded by Mr. *Berthelot*, the petition of certain *Maitres de Poste*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was brought up and read :

SETTING FORTH—That the Rate granted them by Law for driving the Post in the months of January, February, March, July, August and September is insufficient to defray the expences and charges they are put to in keeping up the number of Horses and Carriages to which they are subject by the Law.

That it is notorious that for some years past forage has been at a very high price and likely to augment every year as experience has demonstrated.

That formerly the Post Masters could drive the Post, and keep up, at a cheap rate several Horses, as they could purchase hay at 15 or 20 livres the hundred and oats at 15 and 20 sols the Minot, but of late years hay has been sold and is now selling at 60 and 72 livres the hundred, and oats at 2s 2/6 and as high as 3s the Minot.

That it is evident the Petitioners cannot keep up the number of Horses which the Law obliges them to, and earn wherewithall to defray their expences driving the Post at the rate abovementioned.

That it is also well known that the Posts from *Quebec* to *Jacques Cartier* are of great prejudice to those who drive them from the number of hills and stony roads, which create to the Petitioners considerable expence in the shoeing of Horses and Carriage Irons in all seasons, and consequently they cannot be indemnified holding the Posts at the rate aforesaid.

That the Rate allowed the Petitioners for driving in the months of October, November, December, April, May and June would only be what is reasonable towards enabling them to keep the Post agreeable to Law, was it granted for all the months in the year instead of six months.

That