

I will conclude this Letter by observing, what is well known, that it is no small grievance, felt by many in the District of Montreal in particular, that tavern and shop licences are granted at the Quarter Sessions in the month of April, when the travelling and crossing the Rivers are attended with great trouble, danger and expense.

I am, Gentlemen, &c. &c.

### LETTER III.

GENTLEMEN:

I shall next mention the necessity there is of improving the method of laying out, and establishing roads in the Townships. The Grand Voyers reside at a very great distance from most places which they have to visit. They cannot undertake such journeys as the performance of their duties require, without adequate remuneration; and that remuneration must come from the individuals for whom the Road is to be established, and by whom the Road is to be made. The expense incurred in this way, and in homologating the Process Verbal may justly therefore be considered, if not the greatest obstacle, a very great one at least, to the making and improvement of Roads in the Townships. For the expense of laying out, and establishing the smallest piece of Road, cannot be less in most cases, than from thirty to fifty dollars, and sometimes more, which must all be paid in cash. To be relieved from the manifest hardship of this system (for there is no complaint against the worthy gentleman that exercises these functions in the District of Montreal) I would suggest that the Road Law should be so altered that, instead of one Grand Voyer for such an extensive territory as the District of Montreal, there shall be appointed in every Township, containing twenty families, and upwards, a Committee of three intelligent men, residing in that township for which they shall be appointed, with full powers to lay out all roads within the same; to appoint and commission surveyors of Roads, to act under them, and in short, to perform in their own township, all the functions that are now exercised by the present Grand Voyer of the great districts. This Road Committee might be elected by the Landholders of the Township, from among their own number, and commissioned or licensed to act as such in any way that the Legislature would deem proper. The Process Verbals of all such Road Committees should be homologated before the County or Circuit Courts, in case such an alteration in the Judicature should be made, but should the present system continue, I see no reason why the new Committees might not get their Process Verbals established in our present Courts as well as the Grand Voyer has hitherto done. Should this change in the mode of laying out Roads, or something similar be adopted, I am of opinion that the establishing of a Road which now costs the inhabitants of a Township the sum of seventy five dollars, may go through all the formalities for ten or twelve dollars, and not be subject to discouraging delays. The Road Committee, on receiving their Commission should be sworn, under a pecuniary penalty to perform their duties impartially and faithfully.

In cases where the families in a township are less than twenty, the committee of the adjoining Township should be held to perform unto them all the requisite duties of a Road Committee as in their own. Having thus