

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the third session of the Second Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: William Vondenvelden, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1799.

39 George III – Chapter 8

An Act for granting further encouragement, and a more ample allowance to the Maitres and Aides-de Poste in this Province. [3d June, 1799.]

Whereas it is expedient and necessary, that farther encouragement and a more ample allowance should be granted to persons keeping horses and carriages to let and hire, for the accommodation of Travellers, commonly called and known by the name of Maitres and Aides-de-Poste; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower-Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of, and under the authority of An Act, passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province;" and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful for every person or persons keeping horses and carriages to let and hire, commonly called and known by of Maitres de Poste and Aides-de-Poste, to demand and receive, from and after the passing of this Act, of every Traveller or Travellers at the different times and seasons of the year, herein after mentioned, for every league measured and ascertained by Posts or Pickets, already erected or that may be hereafter erected, or in proportion for every part of a League, that the said Maitres or Aides-de-Post shall drive, the respective rates and fares following, to wit, from the first day of June to the thirtieth day of September inclusive, and from the first day of January, to the twentieth day of March, also inclusive, in every year, for the hire of a Horse and Carriage for one person, the sum of twelve pence, current money of this Province, for the Hire of a horse and carriage, for two Persons, the sum of fifteen pence, same money; for every additional horse, that such Traveller or Travellers may require to be added to such carriage, the sum of six-pence, same money; for every saddle horse that shall be demanded and required with the saddle, the sum of nine-pence, same money; for every horse and sleigh, or horse and cart, that shall be required for the purposes specified by the second section of the Ordinance of the twentieth year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled " An Ordinance for regulating all such Persons as keep horses and carriages to let and hire for the accommodation of Traveller, commonly called and known by the name of Maitre-de-Poste," the sum of ten-pence, same money: and all and every person or persons travelling in their own carriages, said carriages being either covered or uncovered, shall pay over and above the Rates and allowances established by this Act, for one or two horses and for one or two persons, two-pence, same money, in addition for every League, and in proportion for every part of a league.

II. And whereas it is just and reasonable to grant an additional allowance to the said Maitres and Aides-de-Poste, at such times of the year, when the severity of the seasons in this Province, break up the Roads; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that, from and after the first day of October, to the thirty first day of December inclusive, and from the twenty first day of March, to the thirty first day of May, also inclusive, in every year, there shall be allowed and paid by the said Traveller or Travellers, to the said Maitres and Aides-de-Poste, for every part of a League as above mentioned, the rates and fares following, to wit, for the hire of a horse and carriage for one person, the sum of fourteen pence, current money of this Province; for the hire of a horse and carriage for two persons, the sum of eighteen pence, same money; for every additional horse, that such Traveller or Travellers may require, to be added to such carriage, the sum of seven-pence, same money; for every saddle horse, that shall be demanded and required with the saddle, the sum of ten pence, same money; for every horse and sleigh, and horse and cart for the purposes specified by the second section of the aforesaid Ordinance, of the twentieth year of His present Majesty, the sum of twelve pence, same money; and all and every person or persons travelling with their own carriages, said carriages being either covered or uncovered, shall pay, over and above the rates and allowances established for one or two persons, and for one or two horses, as the case may be, three pence, same money, in addition for every league or in proportion for every part of a League as herein before mentioned.

III. And whereas it is just and reasonable to grant an additional allowance to the Maitres and Aides-de-Poste of the Towns of Quebec, Montreal and Three-Rivers and also to the Maitres and Aides de-Poste, who drive Travellers into the said Towns; Be it therefore enacted by the aforesaid authority, that from and after the passing of this Act, all and every Traveller or Travellers as aforesaid, shall pay to the said Maitres and Aides de-Poste, residing in the said Towns of Quebec and Montreal, a further allowance of one half over and above the different Rates established by this Act, and according to the various cases and seasons herein before mentioned, and they shall pay the Maitre and Aide-de-Poste, residing in the Towns of Three Rivers, a further allowance of one third over and above the Rates as aforesaid. And the said Travellers shall pay to the Maitres and Aides-de-Poste, who shall drive them into the Towns of Quebec, and Montreal, a further allowance of one third over and above the said Rates, and to the Maitres and Aides-de-Poste who shall drive them into the said Town of Three Rivers, a further allowance of one fourth, over and above the Rates as aforesaid.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be Lawful for any Traveller or Travellers, to stop and detain on the Road, when driving from one post to another, any horse, horses or Carriages, that shall or may be furnished to him or them, by the said Maitres and Aides-de-Poste, for the space of one quarter of an hour, and not more without being liable to pay for such stoppage or detention and for any space of time, after the expiration of the said quarter of an hour, (which time, shall in no case whatever exceed one hour) there shall be paid by the said Traveller or Travellers to the Maitres, or Aides-de-Poste, whose horses or carriages shall have been so stopped and detained, an indemnity, equal to the rate, payable, as the fare for half a league for every quarter of an hour, the

horse and carriage shall be so detained, agreeable to the rates, fixed for the different cases and seasons herein before mentioned.

V. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all and every Maitre or Aide-de-Poste shall be and are hereby held and obliged to take care of, and deposite, or cause to be taken care of, and securely fixed or deposited in or on their carriages, all and every Portmanteau, Trunk, Package or Baggage, that all and every Traveller or Travellers have a right to travel with, as stated by the Ordinance of twentieth year of His present Majesty herein before mentioned, under pain of being liable for the damages that may arise or be occasioned by their neglect, or that may arise or be occasioned by the fault or neglect, of their hired servants or drivers, (Glass or Earthen ware, nevertheless excepted.)

VI. And whereas the provisions and stipulations of the second Session of the Act of the Thirty fifth year of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act to amend and make perpetual, An Act passed in the twentieth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Ordinance for regulating all such persons as keep Horses and Carriages to let and hire for the accommodation of Travellers, commonly called and known by the name of Maitres-de-Poste," subject travellers to many inconveniencies; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said second section of the said Act of the thirty fifth year of His present Majesty as above cited, is hereby repealed; And it is enacted by the said authority, that all and every person or persons, who shall arrive at the House of any Maitre-de-Poste, or at the House of any Aide de Poste, with any other horse or horses, than such as may belong to such person or persons, or that belongs to the neighbouring post houses, and shall ask and demand a relay, shall be and they are hereby obliged to pay to such Maitre or Aide-de-Poste, who shall furnish such relay, the sum of two shillings and six pence, current money, over and above the rate fixed by this Act, for the different cases and seasons herein before mentioned.

VII. And in order to enable the said Maitres and Aides-de-Poste, to provide good and sufficient drivers, capable of conducting their horses with safety to Travellers; Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every Maitre-de-Poste, may employ two hired servants or drivers, and every Aide-de-Poste, may employ one hired servant or driver, who shall be, and such hired servants or driver are hereby exempted, from serving personally, or by substitute in the Militia, except in cases of actual invasion of the Province; any Law, Custom or Usage to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall continue and be in force until the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and two, and from thence, to the end of the then next Session, of the Provincial Parliament, and no longer.