

PETITION.

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Session assembled:

The petition of the British Columbia Southern Railway Company humbly sheweth:—

1. That under the provisions of the “British Columbia Southern Railway Act, 1894,” passed by the Legislature of British Columbia in the 57th year of Her Majesty’s reign, the undertaking of the British Columbia Southern Railway Company was to be completed in three sections, namely:—The eastern section on 31st December, 1896, the central section on 31st December, 1897, and the western section on 31st December, 1898.

2. That since the passing of the said Act your petitioners have caused surveys to be made of the route proposed to be covered by their railway, and have expended a large amount of money in preliminary work in the field and in an examination of the country to ascertain the most feasible and economical railway route from Crow’s Nest Pass westward.

3. That your petitioners have also endeavoured to procure the additional capital necessary for the construction of the railway, but owing to the unprecedented depression prevailing throughout the commercial world during the last five years, and the thoroughly bad financial condition of American and Canadian railways during the last two years, a majority of the railways, particularly of the former country, having passed into the hands of a receiver, your petitioners have so far been unable to sufficiently interest capitalists to advance the necessary amount.

4. That your petitioners, under the circumstances, are unable to complete their undertaking within the terms prescribed by the said Act.

5. That your petitioners believe that better financial conditions are now in sight, and that as the capabilities of the Kootenay District and its enormous mineral wealth are now more widely known, they are of opinion that the Company’s railway scheme will be more favourably regarded by capitalists during the next few months than it has been at any time during its existence.

Your petitioners therefore pray that Your Honourable Body may be pleased to pass an Act at its Session for 1896 extending the time for the completion of the undertaking of the Company.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Dated this 8th January, 1896.

[L.S.]

J. A. GEMMILL,
Secretary, B. C. Southern Railway.

SAM’L FINLEY,
Vice-President,

VICTORIA, B.C.:

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