

No. 1B.
PETITION.

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To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia:

The petition of the Howe Sound, Pemberton Valley, and Northern Railway Company humbly sheweth:—

1. Your petitioners were incorporated under special Act of the Province of British Columbia on the 25th day of April, 1907 (Statutes 1907, chapter 53), with power to lay out, construct, and operate a standard gauge railway from the mouth of the Squamish River, at Howe Sound, to Anderson Lake, in the Lillooet District.

2. That your petitioners, since incorporation, have proceeded continuously with the work of laying out and constructing said line of railway, and have now an actual location survey made to within four miles of Pemberton Meadows, a distance of sixty-four miles from Howe Sound, and have actually constructed their first section, some nine miles and a half of railroad, from tide-water to the Chee Kee River.

3. That the headwaters of Howe Sound, being the natural seaport for the upper Fraser Valley, your petitioners determined to apply for a charter for a railway which should be in continuation of the railway they are at present authorised to build from Anderson Lake to Fort George, by way of the Town of Lillooet.

4. That certain arrangements having been entered into for the disposal of the bonds of the Howe Sound, Pemberton Valley, and Northern Railway, it was inexpedient to apply for an amendment to the special Act of the Company increasing the length of its road, even should it have had the corporate right to make such application, which may be doubted.

5. That your petitioners, acting by and through three of their Directors, therefore caused application to be made in the individual names of said Directors for a charter to construct a railroad from Anderson Lake to Lillooet, and thence by way of the Fraser Valley to Fort George.

6. That the publication of the notice of such application was duly made in accordance with the Rules of the House.

7. That your petitioners are informed that a Bill has been introduced entitled "An Act to Incorporate the British Columbia and Alaska Railway Company," the petition therefore contemplating the construction by railroad from Lytton, on the C. P. R., to the said Town of Lillooet, and thence by way of the Fraser River to Fort George.

8. That your petitioners submit that it would be impossible for several years to come that there should be business enough in an entirely new and unsettled country for two railway companies occupying practically the same route.

9. That your petitioners further submit that the granting of two charters over the same route would render it impossible for them to make expenditures on surveying the said route, owing to the uncertainty which would be caused in the minds of its bondholders as to the earning power of the railroad should the business be divided.

10. Your petitioners further submit that from a geographical standpoint the headwaters of Howe Sound is the natural southerly outlet for central British Columbia, the distance to tide-water being some sixty miles less than by any other route.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honourable House will decline to grant the petition of the British Columbia and Alaska Railway Company in so far as it contemplates the construction of a railroad from the Town of Lillooet to Fort George.

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

Dated this 27th day of January, A. D. 1910.

[L. S.]

J. C. KEITH, *President.*
W. L. GERMAINE, *Secretary.*

VICTORIA, B. C. :