
PETITION.

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To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Parliament assembled :

Whereas attempts are being made to induce your Honourable House to validate certain debentures, said to have been issued by the Corporation of the District of Surrey :

The petition of the said Corporation of the District of Surrey, humbly sheweth :—

1. That the Corporation of the District of Surrey has never issued any debentures.
2. That the Supreme Court of British Columbia has quashed the by-law under which it was proposed to issue debentures, on account of its being *ultra vires*; not assented to by the ratepayers; not re-considered as the law requires, and for other reasons.
3. That on the 23rd day of March, A.D. 1891, Henry T. Thrift, Esq., then Reeve of the Municipality, applied to the Council for permission to sign and issue certain forms of debentures, proposed to be issued as aforesaid, which permission was refused.
4. That your petitioners believe the said forms of debentures were afterwards signed by a person thereby purporting to be Reeve of Surrey, who was neither Reeve nor a Councillor of the same, and, therefore, that such proceeding was fraudulent, and greatly to the injury of your petitioners.
5. That as no debentures were ever issued by your petitioners, it is not true that the Bank of Montreal either purchased them or made advances upon them as securities; moreover, municipal debentures cannot, by law, be hypothecated or used as collateral securities.
6. That your petitioners believe the Bank of Montreal advanced money, not on the said so-called debentures, but upon notes of hand with collateral securities of certain members of Council and others, amongst them being Henry T. Thrift, Esq., who signed a note for \$3,000.00, and executed a mortgage in addition thereto in favour of the said bank.
7. That the moneys obtained from the Bank of Montreal were illegally expended without the consent of the majority of the owners of lands intended to be benefitted thereby, and also without the consent being asked of the ratepayers in general.
8. That the said expenditure amounted to about \$25,000, although contracts were let for the execution of the works for about \$9,000.00, with bonds and sureties to the amount of \$20,000.00 for their due fulfilment.
9. That no benefit can be shewn to have resulted to the Municipality of Surrey from the said expenditure, the said works being now useless on account of faulty construction and other reasons; a suit being now pending in the Courts of Law against the contractor and his sureties.
10. That your petitioners believe the existing municipal laws are for the protection of ratepayers and their property, and if reckless Councillors can obtain loans of money in spite of and utterly contrary to those laws, great injury will result to Her Majesty's faithful subjects within the limits of municipalities.

Your petitioners, the said Corporation of the District of Surrey, therefore, humbly pray that your Honourable House will be pleased either to utterly refuse to validate the said so-called debentures, or to direct (and that you will direct) that a local public enquiry be made into the whole circumstances by a Commission specially appointed so to do, and to report to the next Session of your Honourable House.

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

At a meeting of the Municipal Council of the District of Surrey, duly summoned and held at the Town Hall of Surrey aforesaid, on the fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, it was ordered:—"That the Corporate Seal of the Corporation of the District of Surrey be attached to the foregoing petition," and so done in the presence of the whole Council.

WALTER J. WALKER,
Reeve of Surrey. [L.S.]
EDMUND T. WADE,
C.M.C.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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