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# PETITION.

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*To the Hon. the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia :*

The petition of Robert T. Ward, owner of the "Harper Leasehold," Horsefly River, B.C., free miner, humbly sheweth as follows :—

1. The Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company, Limited Liability, have introduced into your Honourable House a Private Bill (No. 23) intituled "An Act respecting the Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company, Limited Liability."

2. Your petitioner submits that the said Act, if passed, will prejudice your petitioner and all other free miners in the Province in that—

(1.) The granting in fee simple of mining lands, as is proposed to be done by section 5 of said Act, retards the development of mining districts and discourages the inflow of a mining population :

(2.) The Company is thereby relieved from the regulations of the mining laws, and the authority of the Gold Commissioner, and from obligation to carry on mining operations :

(3.) The Company is thereby (section 6) permitted to hold land gratis for three years, and discard such portions thereof as prove unprofitable :

(4.) Persons holding properties under bad titles, or for limited terms, are enabled to procure absolute title thereto in fee through the said Company :

(5.) The existing rights of persons affected by the Bill are not preserved.

3. Your petitioner submits that whereas, under the present mining laws, water rights are appurtenant to the separate claims with respect to which the same are granted, and cease upon the abandonment or working out of such claims, and become open to the public, the Company, under section 8 of said Act, are enabled to retain such water rights permanently, even after the ground with respect to which such water rights were granted has been abandoned or worked out, and so deprive free miners of water which they may need and have expected to obtain in due course for the working of their claim.

4. For the foregoing and other reasons your petitioner objects to the said Act, and prays to be heard in opposition thereto.

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

ROBERT T. WARD.