

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:

The petition of the undersigned, The Consolidated Railway and Light Company, humbly sheweth:—

That your Petitioner Company was incorporated by special Act of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia (Private Act), being Chapter 56, of 57 Victoria (1894);

That your Petitioner Company, in pursuance of the powers granted by the said Act, and in particular under the power contained in section 17 of the said Act, acquired the property, both real and personal, rights, privileges, and franchises of The Vancouver Electric Railway and Light Company, Limited Liability;

That a large amount of capital from abroad has been put into the Petitioner Company upon the faith of the rights, privileges, and franchises of the Petitioner Company;

That the Petitioner Company is now operating the tramway and lighting system lately operated by The Vancouver Electric Railway and Light Company, Limited Liability, in the City of Vancouver, in the said Province of British Columbia;

And whereas the City of Vancouver is applying for amendments to its charter, and an Act has been brought down to your Honourable House, styled the "Vancouver Incorporation Act Amendment Act, 1894;"

And whereas the said Act, as brought down and read a first time, prejudicially affects the rights, privileges, and franchises of your Petitioner Company;

Your Petitioner Company object to the provisions following of the said the "Vancouver Incorporation Act Amendment Act, 1894":—

(1.) The provision contained in section 22 of said Act, wherein it provides that the City Corporation may supply the inhabitants with electric light and street railway conveniences, and the operation of works and plant in connection therewith.

(2.) The provision under section 22 of the said Act, wherein section 142 of the "Vancouver City Incorporation Act" is proposed to be amended by adding a new sub-section, to be known as subsection (73b), as follows:—

"For preventing the erection of poles and the stringing up of wires in the streets for any purpose whatever."

(3.) The provisions whereby sub-sections (85) and (86) of section 142 of the "Vancouver City Incorporation Act" are to be amended, authorizing the City to subscribe for shares, and guarantee debentures and interest thereon, in any incorporated tramway (but, if granted, that the power be limited to the tramway company incorporated and now operated, unless it be that the tramway company now incorporated and operated refuse, under the agreement with the City, to operate upon streets that the City requires to be covered).

(4.) The provision whereby sub-section (88) of section 142 of the "Vancouver City Incorporation Act" is to be amended, authorizing the City to bonus a tramway company (but, if granted, that the power be limited to the tramway company now incorporated and operated, unless it be that the tramway company now incorporated and operated refuse, under the agreement with the City, to operate upon streets that the City requires to be covered).

(5.) The provision whereby section 142 of the said Act is proposed to be amended by adding a new sub-section, to be known as sub-section 125a, as follows:—

“For specifying and defining what streets, or portion of streets, may be used by any railway, tramway, or water-power company coming into the City, and regulating the terms and conditions under which they may be used;”

(unless the power be so limited as to not derogate from the powers and privileges enjoyed by your Petitioner Company.)

(6.) That there is a charge, by way of debentures, secured upon the property, privileges, and franchises of your Petitioner Company, and a very large amount of money has been invested thereon, and further moneys are about to be invested, and contracted to be invested, upon the faith of the privileges and franchises now vested in your Petitioner Company.

(7.) That any legislation that will operate to derogate from the privileges and franchises of your Petitioner Company, such as is herein set forth, will seriously impair, if not result in the cessation of, the operation of your Petitioner Company's tramway and electric light plant, and do irreparable injury and be of great inconvenience to the public at large in the said City of Vancouver.

(8.) That the powers herein set forth, for which legislation is asked, are a direct infringement upon the statutory powers and privileges and franchises enjoyed by your Petitioner Company, and privileges enjoyed by the said agreement with the said City of Vancouver.

(9.) That although your Petitioner Company has statutory power to operate as a tramway, street railway and electric light company, it is sought by sub-section 83d of section 142 of the said Act to impose a license fee, without limit.

(10.) Your Petitioner Company respectfully prays that your Honourable House may grant leave to your Petitioner Company to be heard by counsel and agents and witnesses in support of the objections to the provisions of the Act to which exception is taken, with the right to read documentary evidence showing the rights, powers, and privileges of your Petitioner Company.

Wherefore, your Petitioner Company humbly prays that your Honourable House may be pleased to give consideration to your Petitioner Company's objections herein taken.

And, as in duty bound, your Petitioner Company will ever pray.

Dated this 21st day of December, A.D. 1894.

[L.S.]

WILLIAM SULLEY, } *Directors.*
W. FARRELL, }
W. FARRELL,
Secretary, pro tem.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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