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# 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 John Nicolson Muir, of the City of Victoria, sheweth:—

1. That whereas sub-section (10) of section 6 of the "Public School Act, 1891," gives power to the Government to cancel teachers' certificates *for cause*; and whereas your petitioner's certificate was cancelled without trial because he criticised the actions of the Education Department over his signature in the public press; and whereas J. P. McLeod's certificate was cancelled because he endeavoured to get the proper marks assigned to his pupils on their examination papers; and whereas a teacher in English School was dismissed by his School Trustees for drunkenness, and the Department was officially notified of the fact, yet his certificate was not cancelled; and whereas a teacher was found guilty of deceit at Vancouver, yet his certificate was not cancelled; and whereas His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council did allow your petitioner's petition for relief against the illegal and unjust cancellation of his certificate to be brought into the Supreme Court, and did order right to be done, yet the Attorney-General did plead that said petition did disclose a wrong done, and that the Queen can do no wrong, and that therefore said petition should be dismissed from the said Supreme Court with costs against your petitioner, so that the order of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that right be done was not carried out. Your petitioner, therefore, prays that your honourable body may change the Statute so that justice may be done.

2. That whereas the Board of Examiners of Teachers, acting under section 56 of the said Public School Act, has for four years refused to grant your petitioner a teacher's certificate, without assigning any reason for the refusal, and your petitioner is not in a position to know how to avoid failure in future; and whereas the Minister of Education has stated that it is not the practice of the Board to allow candidates the opportunity of appealing before it to satisfy it that they are fit and proper persons to be granted certificates, therefore your petitioner prays that said section 56 be changed so that justice may be done.

3. That whereas section 64 of the said School Act places school buildings in rural districts under the control of the Lands and Works Department; and whereas the School Trustees in the rural district of Comox tried to induce the Education Department to give effect to sub-section (8) of section 8 and section 53 of the said School Act; and whereas the Education Department not only refused to grant a temporary certificate, but tried to induce the School Trustees to close the school against the person selected by them to teach; and whereas the School Trustees, backed by the unanimous wish of the parents, refused to close the school; and whereas the Government Agent at Comox did receive orders to demand the key and to close the said school, and he did close it; therefore your petitioner prays that said section 64 be changed so that justice may be done.

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

Dated this 5th day of April, A.D. 1894.

JOHN N. MUIR.