

---

---

# PETITION.

---

---

*To the Honourable the Speaker and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia in Parliament assembled.*

The humble petition of Francis Bourchier, real estate broker, Robert T. Williams, printer, and Arthur L. Belyea, barrister-at-law, all of the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, sheweth :—

That it is in the interest of the public that a line of railway should be constructed and operated from the City of Nanaimo, in the Province of British Columbia, to some point on the north of Vancouver Island.

That the construction of the said railway would be of great public utility.

That it is the intention of your petitioners to apply at an early date for authority to construct, operate, and maintain such a railway.

That in view of the Provincial importance of the proposed railway in opening up the rich and varied resources of the Northern part of Vancouver Island, consisting of mineral, timber, and agricultural lands, your petitioners pray that your Honourable Body will be pleased to grant permission to present a petition for leave to bring in a Bill to incorporate a Company to construct, maintain and operate the proposed railway, and to confer upon such Company all powers, rights, and privileges necessary to carry out effectually such undertaking, notwithstanding that the time limited by the Standing Orders of your Honourable House for presenting such petition has expired.

Your petitioners are impelled to present this petition to your Honourable Body at this late day in view of the proposed connection at an early day of the Island of Vancouver with the railway system of the United States by means of a railway ferry across the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and the great importance of an early extension of railways on Vancouver Island.

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

*Dated the 31st day of March, A.D. 1891.*

FRANCIS BOURCHIER,  
R. T. WILLIAMS,  
A. L. BELYEA.

---

---

## REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed to enquire into the circumstances under which Local Partners were admitted by F. B. McNamee & Co. in the Contract for the construction of the Graving Dock, what rate of interest (if any) was to be allowed on the \$10,000 deposited as security for the contract, and the financial position of matters at the present time.

—o—

MR. SPEAKER :

1. Your Committee find that by clause 25 of the specifications, work upon the Graving Dock was to be commenced immediately upon receipt of a written order from the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and the contractor was to complete the work within twenty-eight months from the order to commence.

2. That a letter was sent by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, dated 11th June, 1880, mailed to Messrs. F. B. McNamee & Co. at Montreal on the same date, directing him to commence work, and on the same day a telegram was sent to Messrs. F. B. McNamee & Co. apprising them of the mailing of the written direction to commence work. That the said notification, dated 11th June, was the first intimation given to Messrs. McNamee & Co. to commence work.

3. That the said written direction to commence work was received by Mr. McNamee in the ordinary course of mail, which would take about sixteen days to reach Montreal, and Mr. McNamee on the 1st July, 1880, started for British Columbia, taking with him his mason foreman.

4. That Mr. McNamee proceed *via* San Francisco—which was in those days the shortest route to Victoria,—and whilst in San Francisco engaged a foreman carpenter for the work of the Graving Dock.

5. That Mr. McNamee and his mason foreman arrived here about the 24th July, 1880, and the foreman carpenter arrived some days afterwards, and immediately upon arrival Mr. McNamee set about preparing for work, and gave out several contracts for supplies.

6. That a close calculation demonstrated a profit of \$150,000 to be realized by the contractor upon the work, and both the Government and Mr. McNamee believed that that profit was derivable.

7. That Mr. McNamee carried on active preparations for work until towards the end of August, when he was induced to enter into a partnership with Messrs. Nicholson, Huntington, and Robertson (hereinafter referred to as the "local contractors"), under the terms of which Messrs. McNamee & Co. (which firm had theretofore consisted of F. B. McNamee, A. G. Nish, and James Wright, and is hereinafter referred to as the "Montreal firm") relinquished all benefit of the contract to the local contractors in consideration of a cash payment of \$1,000, \$15,000 payable on 28th August, 1881, and ten per cent. on \$351,000 to be paid after the completion of the contract, it being also a term of the agreement that upon payment of the