
PETITION.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia:

GENTLEMEN,—My attention has been called to a letter dated the 18th March, 1897, addressed to the Honourable J. H. Turner, Minister of Finance and Premier, and ostensibly signed by a number of residents of Trail.

The letter requests that an exclusive franchise be not granted by the Legislature to the Trail Water Supply Company, giving as the reason that the water supply is insufficient and the Company's pipes are too small, being not more than four inches in diameter.

The signers of the letter allege that they each and all signed a certain petition praying for the granting of an exclusive right to the Trail Water Company, and that when such petition was signed by them they did not read same carefully and were not aware that said petition asked for exclusive rights.

I beg to inform you on behalf of the Trail Water Company, that the Company does not ask for any exclusive privileges in its Bill and had no intention of doing so.

Only about eight of the signers (thirty-one in all) of the letter referred to placed their signatures to the petition of the Trail Water Company. About fifteen of the signers of the letter are not property owners or business men in Trail, while every one of the petitioners (seventy-eight in all) for the Trail Water Company's Bill are either business men or property owners.

I desire to call your attention to the following facts:

1. That the Trail Water Company, if granted all the water applied for, can supply water for 20,000 people.

2. That the entire main of the water works, passing through the centre of the town, is six inches in diameter, and all lateral pipes are four inches in diameter, and at no point will laterals be compelled to supply more than 800 feet.

3. That the reservoir will hold one and a half million gallons of water, and can be enlarged cheaply by excavation. The present reservoir can furnish water for 4000 people, while only about 500 are now using it. The said plant is so constructed that it may be extended from time to time.

I might mention that the matters regarding the efficiency of the plant was thoroughly gone into by the Private Bills Committee, and the plans and specifications have been placed in Mr. Kellie's hands for the convenience of the Members of the Legislature.

The letter does not represent the voice of the citizens of Trail as a body, but is given out for the purpose of prejudicing the Legislature against the Trail Water Company and with the object of furthering personal and private interests.

I would further call your attention to the following paragraph being part of an application which appeared in the November issue, 1896, of the Victoria Gazette, signed by Davis, Marshall, Macneill & Abbott, solicitors for the applicants, read as follows:—"To supply water for mining, domestic or other purposes to the inhabitants of the Towns of Rossland and Trail, and the inhabitants adjacent thereto, or to take, and divert, and use any of the waters of the Columbia River or its tributaries, or any river, stream or creek within a radius of ten miles of the Townsite of Rossland."

The above notice alarmed the Trail Water Company, and caused them to present your Honourable Body with a petition from the citizens of Trail because the above notice covered all the water applied for by the Trail Water Company. While there is water everywhere, still the Trail Water Company would not own one drop for the supply of the citizens of Trail.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. T. DANIEL,

President Trail Water Supply Co.