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# PETITION.

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*To the Honourable the Speaker and the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Parliament assembled:*

The humble petition of the undersigned, the British Columbia Fishing and Trading Company (Limited) of Vancouver, humbly sheweth:—

That if certain Bills, numbered 61 and 62, respectively, become law they will certainly operate injuriously against private enterprise and private interests in connection with the development of the "Deep Sea Fisheries" of British Columbia.

Our Company was organized and established for the purpose of developing and carrying on the deep sea fisheries in the waters of British Columbia, and has been in active operation for the last seven months, and has expended large sums of money in labour, surveys, examinations and explorations and experiments in locating fishing grounds and in establishing markets for the fish, all of which has been done in a legitimate manner by private enterprise without Government aid or assistance, and are now actively engaged in conducting and developing the business.

By the provisions of the Bills referred to we see that it is proposed to withdraw from entry and occupation, and to grant to the Company proposed to be organized under these Bills, and to their control, 500,000 acres of land, including the foreshore and harbours adjacent to and controlling the fishing grounds and banks discovered, located, and now being fished upon by this Company. If the Bills become law without provisions being made in them for the rights of other companies and parties engaged or to become engaged in the fishing business, a manifest wrong and injury will be done them, and private enterprise in that direction will be checked, if not crushed out, and an exclusive monopoly established by the Government, against which we protest, as, not anticipating such legislation, the Company has not secured the stations necessary for its use, having given its attention more directly to the development of actual fishing than to the acquiring of lands in connection therewith.

Trusting, therefore, that your Honourable House will grant us such relief as you may consider desirable,

Your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

B. C. FISHING AND TRADING COMPANY,

T. W. CLARK, *President.*