
PETITION.

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia:

The humble petition of the undersigned sheweth as follows:—

Whereas, under the “Explosives Storage Act,” which was passed in A. D. 1888, and is now contained in Chapter 74 of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1897, any greater quantity of gunpowder than two hundred pounds, or of any other explosive than ten pounds, may not be stored within two miles of the boundaries of any city, except in the case of explosives required by His Majesty’s naval or military forces, and except in the case of magazines erected by proprietors of coal mines in or about any colliery for colliery purposes, and also except in case of any magazine erected by railway companies in or about the line of any railway for railway purposes;

And whereas, since the passing of the said Act the mining of precious metals (other than coal) has become one of the most important industries of the Province;

And whereas the use of explosives in the mining of such precious metals is as essential as in the case of coal mines;

And whereas magazines can be rendered safe by the intervention of natural mountains or hills, or by artificial mounds of sufficient height and thickness which would ensure the public safety;

And whereas both inconvenience and expense and delay to the public are increased by magazines being maintained at such great distance from the centres of business as prescribed by the above Act;

And whereas the requirements of the mining industry demand that better facilities be afforded for the storage of explosives within easy access of the mines, and it is highly desirable that the privileges in this respect afforded to precious metal mining be co-extensive with those extended to coal mining, subject to suitable provisions for the protection of the public:

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray:

1. That the said Act may be amended accordingly.
2. That it may be provided that where mines are actually existing or become established in any city or town, within two miles of the limits thereof, magazines may be maintained within such limits or distance, provided that such magazines be rendered safe by natural mountains or hills, or by artificial mounds of sufficient height and thickness.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c., &c.

Dated the 6th day of March, A.D. 1901.

S. F. PARRISH, B. C. Mine.

H. JOHNS, Sunset Mine.

J. MASSAM, Marguerite, Greyhound Mines.

DAVID OXLEY, Athelstan Mine, B. C.

FREDERIC KEFFER, Mother Lode Mine.