

No. 16.

PETITION.

—:—

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

The petition of the Corporation of the City of Victoria humbly sheweth:—

1. That your petitioners have prepared for presentation to your Honourable Body a Bill to amend the "Corporation of Victoria Water-Works Act, 1873," as amended by chapter 64 of the Statutes of 1892, and to give to your petitioners certain additional powers.

2. That under the authority given to your petitioners by the said Acts, your petitioners established a system for the supply of water within the Municipal area as existing before the year 1892, in which year the area was largely extended.

3. That during the past five years, owing to the growth of population, the supply of water has proved deficient, and complaints on this heading have been made to the Council of your petitioners by citizens, which complaints are admittedly well founded, and, in consequence of a more rapid growth of population and very rapid increase in the number of buildings during the past twelve months, and which growth it is anticipated will continue in increased volume, your petitioners are satisfied that the provision heretofore made for the supply of water for the use of the inhabitants will shortly prove insufficient.

4. In some measure to meet the demands of the inhabitants, your petitioners have, under the advice of an eminent engineer, arranged to expend a large sum of money in reconstructing the distribution system within the City, as also in enlarging the capacity of their reservoir at Elk Lake, and the means of conducting the waters to the City, and are advised that the works that are being constructed may possibly meet the demands of the inhabitants of the City for the next four years, based upon the City attaining a population of some 45,000 inhabitants, but your petitioners are advised that the sufficiency of supply is dependent upon a restriction upon the free use of water by the inhabitants brought about by the metering of the supply, and your petitioners have taken steps to meter the supply throughout the City.

5. It is known to your petitioners that the large majority of the inhabitants of Victoria deprecate the necessity for restricting the quantity of supply, and apprehensions are entertained that the restriction of supply will retard the growth and progress of the City as a residential resort, one of the principal attractions of the City being the cultivation by the inhabitants of ornamental gardens and grounds appurtenant to their residences. Under the advice of the eminent engineer aforesaid, your petitioners have determined, in order to make provision for the certain growth of the City beyond the population allowed for by the present works of construction, to seek to utilise the abundant water supply of the Sooke water-shed, situate within the radius of 20 miles of the City, being the area granted to your petitioners by the said "Corporation of Victoria Water-Works Act, 1873," and your petitioners have caused

surveys to be made of the means of conducting the waters of Sooke Lake and water-shed to connect with the City water-works system, and your petitioners are advised that the waters can be so conducted into the City and connected with the existing water-works system without too burdensome an expense.

6. Your petitioners are advised that, before burdening its ratepayers by raising the necessary moneys to defray the cost of the works contemplated as herein set forth, an assurance should be sought from your Honourable Body that the rights granted to your petitioners by the said Acts are valid and subsisting, and in no way disturbed by general legislation, and your petitioners, with this object, have in their said Bill asked for a confirmation of the powers given them.

7. Other minor amendments are needed in the said Acts effectively to enable the provisions of the same to be carried out.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray your Honourable Body to be pleased to grant to them the additional powers and privileges sought by their Bill, which the occasion and facts herein set forth demonstrate to be necessary.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Signed on behalf of the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of Victoria, B. C., and the seal of the said Corporation affixed hereto, this 26th day of January, 1909.

[L.S.]

LEWIS HALL,

Mayor.

W. J. DOWLER,

Clerk of the Municipal Council.

VICTORIA B. C.:

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