
PETITION.

To the Honourable the Speaker and the Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

The humble petition of the undersigned property owners and taxpayers in the City of Vancouver, sheweth :—

That your petitioners being owners of considerable property and large taxpayers in the City of Vancouver, view with alarm many of the amendments proposed to be made to the City Charter by the Council.

That your petitioners strongly protest against the proposal to pay salaries to the Aldermen. At the present time there is not sufficient money in the treasury to pay interest and sinking fund on the debt, therefore we emphatically protest against any proposal calculated to increase the already high rate of taxation.

That your petitioners desire, and they believe the great majority of those qualified to vote on money by-laws desire, that every possible restriction should be placed on further borrowing. The present debt of the City is close on \$2,000,000, on which the annual interest and sinking fund exceeds \$100,000 (an enormous burden for this small population to carry).

Your petitioners earnestly pray that if any change be made your Honourable Government will enact that for all money by-laws, a two-thirds majority of votes cast shall be necessary for their validity.

Your petitioners further pray that in any amendments made in the said Charter, it be enacted that Aldermen making or sanctioning any illegal expenditure, shall be held personally responsible for the same, as owing to the absence of any responsibility at present, work is undertaken and expenditures made recklessly without due consideration and authority, and they are satisfied great economy would be effected in the city finances were this amendment enacted.

Your petitioners would further present that the proposed amendments have been formulated in closed and secret meetings of the Council, and that voters and others interested have not had any opportunity to express an opinion upon them, which is sufficient in itself to condemn them.

That your petitioners are informed and believe that at the special meeting of the Council called to finally decide on the proposed amendments, before sending them up to your Honourable Body, so little interest was manifested in the matter by some of the Aldermen, that a quorum was not present.

Your petitioners further humbly submit that some of the amendments are novel, and have a far-reaching effect; some of them interfering with the liberty of the individual, and some in restraint of enterprise and trade; that too great powers are attempted to be obtained, and they therefore suggest that most careful scrutiny should be given to the possible results of such legislation before passing them into law.

That your petitioners earnestly pray that these proposed alterations, which have been hurriedly prepared in secret conclave, may be wholly refused, so that there may be an opportunity afforded the people of discussing and amending them, and for bringing in next year such changes as after free, full, and open discussion, are found to meet the wishes of the people most largely interested.

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

Name.	Address.	Taxes paid, 1894.
Vancouver Land & Sureties Corporation, Limited, William Sulley, Managing Director	Vancouver	\$3,000 00
Henry Toran, Executor Estate of Isaac Robinson, per Wm. Sulley, Agent	London	7,300 00
William Sulley	Newport, Isle of Wight	150 00
Mary E. Beckingsale, per W. Sulley, Agent	Vancouver	2,000 00
W. Farrell	Vancouver	50,000 00
H. Abbott	Cordova street	2,000 00
Thos. Dunn	Vancouver	9,791 25
Vancouver Improvement Company, Limited, D. Oppenheimer, President	Vancouver	5,000 00
J. W. Horne	Vancouver	8,000 00
E. B. Morgan, Manager B. C. Ld. & I. A., Limited	Vancouver	5,000 00
S. O. Richards, for self and others	Vancouver	5,000 00
E. D. Mackay	Vancouver	

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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