

PETITION.

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

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 changes 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 expenditure made recklessly without due consideration and authority ; and they are satisfied great economy would be effected in the city finances were this amendment enacted ; and, further, that the qualification for Mayor and Aldermen shall not be less than \$2,000 for Mayor and \$1,000 for Aldermen, clear of all encumbrances :

That your petitioners are informed and believe that at the special meetings 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 :

That 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 are advised that the notices and procedures generally have been irregular, and earnestly pray that these proposed alterations, which have been hurriedly prepared, 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 :

That your petitioners pray to be heard against the Bill by themselves, their solicitors, or agents.

F. COPE,
A. M. BEATTY,
H. THORPE,
JNO. WILLIAMS,
A. G. THYNNE,
R. PURDY,

And 140 others.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

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