
PETITION.

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

This petition from the coal miners and mine labourers of British Columbia, humbly sheweth:—

That whereas sundry accidents, resulting in serious injury and loss of life, have been caused in the various coal mines of British Columbia, in consequence of the ignorance and incompetence of certain men who are engaged by the respective managers of such mines as experienced coal miners;

And whereas the employment of such incompetent and ignorant men is a menace to the safety of all men working in such mines;

And whereas miners coming from other countries with a view to obtaining work in the mines of this Province, recognising the danger threatening them by the employment of such incompetent men, speedily leave the Province to seek work elsewhere;

And whereas there exists a law restricting the employment of such incompetent men and directing certificates of efficiency to be issued to men who are competent coal miners in the coal mines of the Province of Nova Scotia;

Therefore your petitioners humbly beg that the following amendment shall be made:—

That a committee consisting of two experienced miners shall be nominated and elected by the coal miners of each mine in the Province of British Columbia.

And it shall be the duty of each respective committee to examine personally each and every miner and mine labourer employed in such mine, in the presence of and with the assistance of the Government Inspector of Mines of that District in which such mine may be located.

And the nature of such examination shall be to ascertain whether such employees are, in the opinion of the said committee, competent to work in such mine.

And in the event of the said committee finding such employee ignorant of that knowledge which, in the opinion of the said committee, is essential and necessary to the safety of the men working in such mine, or unable to reply in the English or French languages to such questions as the said committee shall think necessary to put to him, then the said committee shall acquaint the Government Inspector of Mines of such finding.

And the said Government Inspector of Mines shall thereupon cause the removal of such man or men from such mine.

And in the event of such incompetent or ignorant man or men being employed in such mine after the expiration of three days from the date of such examination, then the employer

or employers of such man or men shall be liable to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50) in respect of each individual case.

And the said examination shall take place once every three months and at any intermediate time that the said committee shall consider necessary.

And the said committee shall, before each examination, notify the said Government Inspector of Mines of the date fixed for such examination and summon his attendance at such time, at such mine, and for such purpose.

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

ROBERT RICHARDSON,
SETH GODFREY,
JOHN MCKINNON,
MALK MORRISON,
ISAAC HARRIS,
and 814 others.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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