

PETITION.

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

The petition of the Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Company, Limited, humbly sheweth :—

That your petitioners object to any Bill or Bills granting powers to another Company to construct and operate an Electric Tramway between the Cities of Vancouver and New Westminster, on the following grounds :

1. That the population of the Cities of Vancouver and New Westminster is only 21,000, and communication is already established between the two cities by means of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which runs *via* Westminster Junction, and the tramway of your petitioners, over which cars are run in each direction every two hours between 8 o'clock a. m. and 10 o'clock p. m., making the journey in about an hour, and the facilities thus established for communication between the two cities are sufficient for present requirements.

2. That your petitioners have expended the sum of \$300,000 upon its line, plant and equipment, and in order to provide for the safety and comfort of the public have obtained the most modern cars, heated and lighted by electricity, and have otherwise spared no expense to secure the best system and material required.

3. That the fare between the two cities has been cheapened 50 per cent. by the construction of your petitioners' tramway, being reduced from \$1.50 to 75c., and the round trips between the cities are eight in number instead of two, and your petitioners are at the present time arranging for shortening the length of its line between the cities to 11 miles, reducing the grades thereon and duplicating the motive machinery so as to reduce the time occupied on the journey, which they expect will not exceed 30 minutes, and that about the first of April an hourly service will be inaugurated between the two cities, commencing at 6 a. m. and closing at 11 p. m., from each end of the line, with special accommodation provided for travellers and their baggage.

4. That the revenue so far obtained from the undertaking by your petitioners has barely been sufficient to defray the working expenses, and they realize that if the traffic is divided under existing circumstances it would be a great hardship, as they would suffer certain loss on their investments.

5. That your petitioners have by reason of the charter granted to them last session spent very large sums of money as aforesaid, and are still spending large sums in perfecting their system, and that in order to provide funds necessary to complete their tramway your petitioners issued mortgage bonds, the sale of which are now being negotiated in the foreign money market, but the granting of a new charter will prevent any outside capitalists from purchasing the bonds, and your petitioners will suffer great financial loss.

6. That in the case of the Bills for new tramways between the said cities the rules in regard to the publication of notices have not been complied with.

Your petitioners would humbly present that when the charter for the construction of their tramway was granted obligations devolved on your petitioners that they would provide an adequate and convenient service for the public, which they have endeavoured to perform, and they considered that in granting the charter this Honourable House gave them reasonable grounds for believing that if such a service was provided due protection would be afforded the capital invested in the enterprise; with this view your petitioners invested their money, and pray that this Honourable House will not pass "The Vancouver and New Westminster Short Line Tramway Bill," or any other Bill which will render your petitioners liable to suffer loss.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc., etc.

THE WESTMINSTER AND VANCOUVER TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

[L. S.]

D. OPPENHEIMER, *President.*