
PETITION.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned Lumbermen and Loggers of the Province of British Columbia, sheweth :—

1. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works may grant licences, to be called special licences, to cut timber on Crown lands and patented lands at the rates by this Act imposed, and subject to such conditions, regulations and restrictions as may from time to time be established by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and of which notice may be given in the British Columbia Gazette. (R. S. B. C., Chapter 113, sec. 50.)

2. No special timber licence shall be granted for a larger area than one thousand acres of land, nor shall the licence be granted for a longer period than one year. The licence shall not be transferable, and may be surrendered at any time. No person shall be entitled to more than one special licence at the same time. The licensee shall pay to the Chief Commissioner, for the use of His Majesty, the sum of fifty dollars for said licence, payment to be made upon the granting of the licence. In default of payment, the licence shall not issue. Such licence may be renewed at the discretion of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. (R. S. B. C., Chapter 113, sec. 53.)

3. That by reason of the above legislation, mill-owners are forced to hold timber licences in the names of other parties, who are in a position at any time to exclude said mill men from working any timber limits which may be held in their names, thus working great hardship on mill-owners.

4. That on account of licences referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 hereof, being not transferable, loggers are not able to sell their claims to each other, thus entailing great hardships upon lumbermen of this Province.

5. That, under the existing conditions, a logger might expend \$1,000 or \$2,000 upon a limit in improving the same, putting in roads and ways, etc., but in the event of his becoming insolvent or getting under hard circumstances, he could not sell his limit to another logger on account of the licences mentioned in sections 2 and 3 hereof not being transferable.

6. That this condition even entails great loss to lumbermen in this Province, and operates greatly to the prejudice of your petitioners.

7. That such licences are now renewable only at the discretion of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

8. That the Government of this Province would not be prejudiced, in any way, by the introduction of legislation enacting that timber licences should hereafter be transferable, and also that in future such licences should be renewed, as a matter of right, in the event of such limits being worked by the licensees thereof.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray that your Honourable Body may be pleased to cause an Act to be passed by your present Legislature, to prevent the injustice complained of in this your petitioners' prayer, and that the said Act should provide that timber licences shall henceforth be made transferable, and that henceforth it shall be compulsory upon the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to renew timber licences upon which the licensee has, during the existence of the licence asked to be renewed, done work to the extent of

, and that henceforth licences in the hands of transferees shall be renewed, as well as those in the hands of the original holders thereof.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

W. A. McDONALD,
T. H. POWERS,
THOS. McLINNIS,
JOHN WEST,
and 127 others.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

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