

PETITION.

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, who are interested in the obtaining of remedial legislation in connection with Deep Placer Mining in the Province of British Columbia, sheweth :—

1. That the shallow placers of the Yale, Cariboo, Omineca and Cassiar Districts produced about sixty millions of dollars from the date of the discovery of gold on the Fraser River in 1857, until 1872, when they became practically exhausted, causing the merchants and business men of the Province great loss financially and causing a depopulation of these mining districts.

2. It is conceded that the above districts include extensive areas of deep auriferous alluvials and systems of ancient river channels of stupendous proportions, the deposits of which are claimed by experts to contain higher values in gold than any known deep placer mining field in the world.

3. That after a trial of about ten years, Part VII. of the Placer Mining Act of 1891, which was passed for the direct purpose of encouraging the exploration of these deep placer mining districts and the development of the industry of hydraulic and deep gravel mining, has failed to so encourage these industries, or to encourage the investment of capital in deep gravel mining enterprises to the extent warranted by the nature of the ground in these districts.

4. That the records of California and British Columbia show that after the lands of the United States were thrown open for exploration and development under the provisions of the 1866 and 1872 Acts of Congress, whereby satisfactory title was given under United States patents, at a reasonable figure, the population of the deep gravel mining districts in Central California increased from fifteen thousand in 1866, to about seventy-five thousand in 1882, and that within that same period over one hundred millions of dollars of capital was invested there in the construction of extensive water supply systems and hydraulic mining enterprises, that have shown the good common sense of the investors by producing ten to fifteen millions of dollars worth of gold annually.

5. That we firmly believe that if remedial legislation were adopted in British Columbia to place deep placers on the same footing as mineral claims, a large number of prospectors would enter our fields, and capitalists having assurance of a good title would be encouraged to invest in deep gravel mining enterprises, and as a consequence the development of a great and permanent mining industry would soon follow, and prosperity would return to the now almost abandoned placer mining districts of Yale, Cariboo, Omineca and Cassiar.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray that Your Honourable Body may be pleased to cause an Act to be passed by your present Legislature, remedying the present law in connection with Deep Placer Mining.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

[L.S.]

FRED. F. BURNS,

President, Vancouver Board of Trade.

WM. SKENE,

Secretary, Vancouver Board of Trade.

And 34 others

[A similar petition from Ashcroft, signed by OLIVER HARVEY and 67 others.]

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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