

No. 8A.
PETITION.

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

The humble petition of the South-East Kootenay Railway Company sheweth :—

That your petitioner was incorporated in 1906 by a special Act known as the "South-East Kootenay Railway Act, 1906," and was thereby granted the right to construct a railway from the International boundary at a point near the Flathead River, up the Flathead River to McGillvray, on the Crow's Nest section of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

That your petitioner has expended a large sum of money, viz., twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) and upwards, in making a survey of the route of the said South-East Kootenay Railway.

That your petitioner has complied with all the requirements of the said Act up to date.

That in addition to the said expenditure there has been acquired by the promoters of the said Company an option to purchase large quantities of coal lands along the line of the said railway for the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000), and has paid to the vendors in respect of the said option the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000), and have expended thereon the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in development.

That the said option is held by the promoters thereof for the benefit of and in trust for the said South-East Kootenay Railway Company, and it is the intention of the Company that the said lands and railway shall be operated as one undertaking.

That negotiations are now in progress in London for the interesting of capital in the proposed undertaking, and your Petitioner has every reason to believe that money will be forthcoming for the purposes of construction during the coming year.

That, in addition to the charter held by your petitioners, a charter has this Session been granted to D. C. Corbin and others to build a railway over the same area as that covered by your petitioner's charter.

That the said D. C. Corbin obtained a charter for a portion of the line at the last Session of this House, and as a direct result thereof your petitioners suffered irreparable loss, in that it caused the withdrawal of English financial support to carry out the construction of the railway which had then been arranged for.

That a Bill has been presented to your Honourable Body seeking to incorporate the Kootenay and Alberta Railway Company, and in the said Bill power is sought to construct and maintain a railway over practically the same line as that covered by your petitioner's charter.

That the topography of the country over the route of the South-East Kootenay Railway is such that it would be impossible to support three railways, and the granting of a third charter over the same section of country would be prejudicial to the interests of your petitioner, and liable to cause the withdrawal of the financial backing which your petitioner now has, and thus cause great loss and injury to the Company.

Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that your Honourable Body may be pleased to refuse the application for the incorporation of the Kootenay and Alberta Railway Company.

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

Dated at Victoria, B. C., this 17th day of February, A.D. 1909.

[L. S.]

SOUTH-EAST KOOTENAY RAILWAY COMPANY.

THOMAS DAVIS, *President.*

R. B. PUNNETT, *Secretary.*

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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