

No. 20A.

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 Cascade Water, Power and Light Company, Limited, sheweth:—

That your petitioner was incorporated by special Act in the year 1897, known as "The Cascade Water, Power and Light Company Act, 1897," and was thereby granted certain rights and privileges to supply light, heat and power to the inhabitants of the cities, towns, mines, smelters and tramways within a radius of forty (40) miles from the Townsite of Grand Forks.

That your petitioner, in virtue of the powers and privileges thereby granted, constructed an electric power plant at Cascade, in the District of Yale, at a cost of approximately \$500,000, and has since supplied the Cities of Greenwood and Phoenix with electric light, and mines and smelters, situate within the area mentioned in its charter, with power.

That the West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited, incorporated by Chapter 63 of 1897, was granted certain rights and privileges to supply power to the inhabitants of the cities, towns, mines, smelters, railways and tramways in the District of West Kootenay, within a radius of fifty (50) miles from the City of Rossland.

That the said West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited, has introduced into your Honourable House a Bill for the purpose of amending the said Chapter 63 of 1897 by extending the area within which they may operate to include the District of Yale.

Your petitioner submits that when the special Acts of the said respective companies were passed, it was intended that each should have the area assigned to it within which to operate, and in virtue thereof the investments of each were made.

Your petitioner alleges that there can be no valid or sufficient reason shown why the said West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited, should be allowed to encroach upon its area.

That for three years it has been supplying power for the operations of the mines and smelters at Grand Forks, Phoenix and Greenwood. Its plant is modern and substantial, and its present installation is capable of maintaining an output of three thousand (3,000) net horse-power. It has received no complaints as to the quality of its service, and the average prices charged have been lower than any prevailing under similar conditions in the North-West. The volume of water in Kettle River at Cascade has been found to be sufficient at the

lowest stage for the generation of, at least, five thousand (5,000) commercial horse-power, except during a few days in January and again in February, 1905. This exception was the result of extraordinary conditions which prevailed throughout the North-West, but normally, at the lowest stage of water, a large volume passes over the dam, and for this there has been no use.

In the case of a twenty-four hour service, your petitioner's consumers pay only for the amount of power actually used, which during 1905 was less than eighteen hundred horse-power, being only 60 per cent. of the capacity of the present plant, and only 36 per cent. of the normal minimum commercial capacity of the river.

Your petitioner further alleges that its operating expenses have been exceedingly moderate, but only within the last year has its income been sufficiently in excess of the expenses to meet the interest on its bonds, and for previous years interest is still unpaid to a large extent. Its shareholders have never received a cent of income.

Your petitioner further alleges that it has been, and is now, ready and willing to extend its plant so as to satisfy all probable requirements of the public within the area mentioned in its special Act.

Your petitioner further alleges that the said West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited, possesses a very large water-power on the Kootenay River, near Nelson. That the capacity of its present plant is absorbed in the District of West Kootenay.

That it is now erecting additional plant for the generation of power which the District of West Kootenay does not now require.

Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that your Honourable Body will not pass the said Bill into law.

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

[L.S.]

SAMUEL S. FOWLER,
President Cascade W. P. and L. Co., Ltd.

Dated at Victoria, B. C., 31st January, 1906.

VICTORIA, B. C.

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, V.D., I.S.O., Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1906.