

PETITION.

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, now in Session.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURABLE HOUSE:—

We, the undersigned, residents of Nicola Division, humbly pray that your honourable body may be pleased to grant unto the Nicola, Kamloops and Similkameen Railway promoters a charter to construct, equip, maintain and operate said line of railway, from Spence's Bridge through Nicola Valley to Kamloops and some point in the Similkameen District.

We believe that were such a line constructed through our rich coal fields at the Forks of Nicola, and the silver mines at Stump Lake, connecting with the Granite Creek and Similkameen sections, rich mineral developments would be one result, in addition to a vast expansion of the agricultural and pastoral resources of a section now, through isolation, comparatively worthless, but from climatic influences capable of being converted into the greatest and best fruit-growing centre of the Mainland interior, as it is well known that peaches are grown to perfection on several ranches in the Valley of the Similkameen.

It is also more than likely that the "Nicola, Kamloops and Similkameen Railway" would connect with proposed extension of "Shuswap and Okanagan" line to Osoyoos.

Feeling certain that the importance and provincial value of any section of railway is more correctly estimated by your honourable House than it can possibly be by us, your humble petitioners, we, with all confidence in the wisdom of your deliberations, cheerfully submit proposed scheme to your consideration.

And are, respectfully,

Robert Smith.
C. E. Thomas, Nicola Lake.
Clair Smith, Nicola Lake.
A. H. Owen.
Sam Sturch.
John Corbett.
John Gilmore.
Geo. C. Bent, Quilchenna.
R. Charters, "
Richard Clarke, "
Neil McInnis.
George Stuart, Douglas Lake.
William Kraft.
Charlie Barrett.
Ralph Ross.
John Beak.
Fred. J. Crake, Rockford, B. C.
R. Scott, "
W. G. Lauder. "
R. J. Scott, "
John Keyes.
George Richardson.
William Charters, Coutlee.
G. B. Armstrong, Lower Nicola.

A. E. Howse, Nicola Lake.
Samuel Moore, Quilchenna.
John Wilson.
J. W. Winslow.
H. Richardson.
James Corbett.
E. O'Rourke, Quilchenna.
S. B. Stott, "
Alex. McEachern, "
R. O'Rourke.
Joseph Guichon, "
John Blackwell.
William Lunn.
William Charters.
Archie McInnes.
Thomas Tannahill, Rockford, B. C.
Dan. McInnes, "
W. A. Scott. "
S. J. P. Scott.
J. C. Moore.
John Moore.
George Forsyth.
James Darrah, Coutlee.

Nicola Valley, February 10th, 1891.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER,—Your Select Committee appointed to enquire into the attack made on the funeral procession of the late Ellis Roberts, of Wellington, on the 4th inst., beg respectfully to report as follows:—

That we proceeded to Wellington on the 14th instant, and held an enquiry at the Court House at Wellington on the same day, and examined witnesses, and we consider that the question of the conduct of the people at Northfield towards the funeral procession which carried to the grave the body of Ellis Roberts, may be divided into three parts:—

- 1st. The procession to the grave.
- 2nd. The service at the grave.
- 3rd. The return of the funeral procession.

The Union men had assembled for a procession at the starting point of the funeral procession of non-union men, and waited for them. They parted to let the funeral procession through, and lowered their flags to the corpse.

With regard to procession to the grave there is little or no evidence to show that any very hostile expression of opinion was exhibited. During the service at the grave there was nothing to call for comment, and the minister who conducted the service testifies that he heard no unseemly interruption. The return of the procession from the grave was evidently seized upon by the inhabitants of Northfield at the Half-way House (who were Union men) as an opportunity for an exhibition of their hostile feelings towards the non-union men who formed the funeral procession, but care was evidently taken that there should be no violence. That the demonstration was premeditated is shown by one or two effigies which had been previously constructed, and were placed on the side of the road, and these effigies from their character were intended to indicate blacklegs. As the procession passed the Half-way House it was assailed by insulting cries and jeers from several men there. As it approached and passed through Northfield large bodies of women and children lined the road and flung snowballs at the procession, and by their jeers and insulting expressions showed plainly that the intention was to indicate their hostility to the non-union men, but the men of Northfield took no part in the snowballing, and confined themselves to encouraging the women and children. In fact it appeared as though care had been taken that no act of violence should accompany the hostile expression of feeling.

Having considered all the evidence available, your Select Committee is of opinion that the conduct of the people of Northfield to the non-union men returning in procession from the funeral was unseemly and insulting.

All of which together with further evidence is

Respectfully submitted.

GEO. W. ANDERSON,

Chairman.

18th March, 1891.