

## PETITION.

—o—

*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 Mayor and City Council of the City of Vancouver sheweth:—

That on the 23rd February, 1891, the following resolutions were duly passed by the City Council of Vancouver in open meeting assembled;

Resolved, that whereas the City of Vancouver has for some time past been desirous of entering into an arbitration to ascertain the value of the water works system of the Vancouver Water Works Company;

And whereas considerable correspondence has passed between the city and the Water Works Company with a view to carrying out the above object;

And whereas the city has exercised the privilege granted it by the 35th section of the "Vancouver Water Works Company's Act, 1886," and given notice of the intention to proceed to arbitration, and to acquire the said works under the provisions of the said section;

And whereas the Vancouver Water Works Company has introduced a Bill into the House of Assembly at the present Session, having the object of forcing the city to arbitrate and pay any award that might be arrived at within a too limited time; and have also in the same Bill provided that in the event of the city not purchasing the said works within such limited time, that an exclusive monopoly shall be granted to the Water Works Company to supply the said city with water for a period of 10 (ten) years;

And whereas no notice was given by the Water Works Company of its intention to apply for such an Act, and has thereby taken the city by surprise, and if such an Act is passed the Council is of opinion that a gross injustice would be done to the city, and the citizens be practically placed at the mercy of the Water Works Company for ten years:

Be it therefore resolved, that a petition be forwarded to the House of Assembly urgently protesting against the passing of the said Bill on the grounds, amongst others,—

(1.) That no legal notice of the said Bill has been given by the said Water Works Company;

(2.) That the city has already availed themselves of the powers contained in the said 35th section, and given the notice required by that section;

(3.) That it would work a great hardship and injustice to the citizens granting any exclusive monopoly to any Water Works Company to supply the city with water;

(4.) That the city, if such an Act is passed, will be absolutely without any adequate protection in the case of fire within the city, as there is nothing in the "Vancouver Water Works Company's Act" obliging them to keep up a proper pressure in the event of fire;

And it was resolved that J. M. Browning act as an arbitrator on behalf of the city in the matter of an arbitration to be held to decide on the value of the plant and property of the Vancouver Water Works Company, under the provisions of the 35th section of the "Vancouver Water Works Company Act, 1886."

Your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable body will be pleased to reject the Bill as introduced by the Vancouver Water Works Company, as no proper notices have been advertised, as provided by the rules for the introduction of such a Bill, and as it would work a great injury to the city if your honourable body granted any exclusive rights whatever to the Vancouver Water Works Company, and as the city are desirous of proceeding to arbitration under the provisions of the 35th section of the "Vancouver Water Works Company Act, 1886."

{ SEAL }

D. OPPENHEIMER,  
*Mayor.*

VICTORIA, B. C.:

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

# PETITION.

—o—

*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 RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER  
SHEWETH :—

That by the thirty-fifth section of the "Vancouver Water Works Company's Act, 1886," certain powers are given to the City of Vancouver, by which they are enabled to acquire, by purchase, the works and property of the Vancouver Water Works Company :

That the City of Vancouver is desirous of acquiring the said works and property, provided they can do so by paying a fair and reasonable price therefor :

That the City of Vancouver has, under the provisions of the said thirty-fifth clause, given to the Vancouver Water Works Company notice of its intention to proceed to arbitration, to ascertain the value of the said works and property :

That the Vancouver Water Works Company, before this present session of Your Honourable House, agreed, under certain conditions, to proceed to arbitration, to ascertain the value of the said works and property :

That without giving any notice, as provided by Your Honourable House for the introduction of Private Bills, the Vancouver Water Works Company have introduced to Your Honourable House a Bill to amend the thirty-fifth clause of the "Vancouver Water Works Company's Act, 1886," making it obligatory on the City to purchase the said works in a period of time within which it would be impracticable to do so, and in default of the City acquiring the said works, to grant the Vancouver Water Works Company the exclusive right to construct and maintain water works in the City of Vancouver for a period of ten years :

That the present works are not adequate for the supply of water to the said City, and if an exclusive right was granted to the Vancouver Water Works Company, it would be a great injustice and hardship to the said City, as the City would be at the mercy of a Company having for its sole object gain and profit to its shareholders ; and, moreover, the City would be left without adequate protection in the event of fire within its limits :

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Honourable House will be pleased to reject the Bill as introduced by the Vancouver Water Works Company, as no proper notices have been advertised, as provided by the rules for the introduction of such a Bill, and as it would work a great injury to the City, granting any exclusive right whatever to the Vancouver Water Works Company, and that the privileges and powers granted to the City of Vancouver by Your Honourable House in 1886—to acquire the said works, or to construct water works—should not be interfered with, as the City of Vancouver are desirous of and have given notice of their intention to proceed to arbitration, with the object of acquiring, by purchase, the said works :

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c.

CHARLES G. FORSBERG,  
S. HARCUS,  
THOS. GRAY,

JOHN J. IRWIN,  
FRANK LOGG,  
WILLIAM NEVARD,

and three hundred and fifty-four others.

[Two similar petitions received with one hundred and twenty-four and four hundred and seven signatures, respectively.]

VICTORIA, B. C.

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.