
PETITION.

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

The petition of the Corporation of the City of Victoria humbly sheweth :—

That under the Municipal Acts your petitioners were empowered to make regulations for preserving and improving the streets of the City of Victoria, and also to make regulations to prevent the incumbering, injuring, or fouling of the streets of the said city :

That your petitioners observe a Bill entitled “ An Act to amend the ‘ Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone Company’s Act, 1880,’ ” has been brought before your honourable body, wherein power is sought to be acquired by a private company to erect and maintain poles in the highways, streets, bridges, and other places throughout the said city for a term of fifty years :

That the number of poles carrying electric wires which have been erected in the city is becoming a nuisance, and, it is feared, may jeopardise the lives and property of the citizens :

That in the opinion of your petitioners it would be injurious to the interests of the people of the City of Victoria to grant, for so long a period, the powers and privileges asked for by the Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone Company (Limited) within the said city :

That, from time to time, science and experience suggest improved methods of dealing with wires carrying electric currents, and your petitioners respectfully submit that no powers should be granted to this company which might hamper the city of Victoria in future, in enforcing any regulations in respect to wires which might be deemed necessary to the safety of the public :

That in the opinion of your petitioners, the granting or refusal of such privileges as sought to be acquired by the Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone Company (Limited) within the corporation limits should constitute a part of the powers of the municipality :

That in granting to or extending the corporate powers of a private company of this nature, your petitioners are of opinion that a proviso should be inserted in the Bill of Incorporation, enabling the city to acquire the property of the company at a valuation to be fixed by a board of arbitrators, whenever it shall be deemed in the public interest so to do.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

[L.S.]

ROBERT BEAVEN,
Mayor of the City of Victoria.

Victoria, February 18th 1892.