

No. 1A.  
PETITION.

*To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia:*

The petition of James Cooper Keith, Arthur McEvoy, and James C. Gill, all of the City Vancouver, humbly sheweth:—

1. That your petitioners have made application for the incorporation of a company, to be called the "B. C. Central Railway Company," for the purpose of constructing a line of railroad from Anderson Lake to Lillooet, and from thence by the Fraser Valley to Fort George.

2. That your applicants together form a majority of the Directorate of the Howe Sound, Pemberton Valley, and Northern Railway Company, and are acting on behalf of that Company in making such application.

3. That your petitioners gave notice of such application, in accordance with the Rules of the House, the first edition thereof appearing in the British Columbia Gazette of the issue of the 23rd day of September last.

4. That your petitioners are informed that a Bill has been introduced entitled "An Act to Incorporate the British Columbia and Alaska Railway Company," the petition therefor contemplating the construction of a railroad from Lytton, on the C. P. R., to the said Town of Lillooet, and thence by the Fraser River to Fort George.

5. That the first notice of the introduction of the said Bill appeared in the British Columbia Gazette of the issue of the 18th of November, eight weeks after the notice given by your petitioners of their application.

6. That your petitioners submit that it would be impossible for several years to come that there should be business enough in an entirely new and unsettled country for two railway companies occupying practically the same route.

7. That your petitioners, therefore, submit that the granting of two charters over the same route will render it impossible for them to make expenditures on surveying the said route, owing to the uncertainty which would be caused in the mind of their financial backers as to the earning power of the railroad should the business be divided.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honourable House will decline to grant the petition of the British Columbia and Alaska Railway Company in so far as it contemplates the construction of a railroad from the Town of Lillooet to Fort George.

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

Dated this 27th day of January, A. D. 1910.

J. C. KEITH,  
ARTHUR MCEVOY,  
JAS. C. GILL.