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## PETITION.

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*To the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia  
in Parliament assembled.*

We, the undersigned residents, miners, and electors of West Kootenay, respectfully petition your honourable body against the "Railway Act," lately introduced, granting a royalty of five per cent. on all ores shipped from mines which may be located on lands granted to railway companies, for the following reasons:—

1. It will seriously retard the development of this district, for prospectors and miners will shun land thus encumbered. At present, capitalists are none too eager to invest in mines, and they will be still more reluctant to invest where they would be obliged to pay a royalty of five per cent. to a corporation, as five per cent. is a higher interest than that for which money can be borrowed in the money markets of the world.

2. The proposed measure will give one class of miners an advantage over another, for the miner who is unfortunate enough to locate on railway land will be obliged to pay as much for freight, mining machinery, and supplies as the miner fortunate enough to locate on land outside of railway lands.

3. Miners who locate on railway lands will be obliged to pay for mining, freighting, smelting or crushing the whole amount of ore shipped, which makes the proposed royalty a much heavier tax than one would at first sight suppose; besides, in many cases, the miner would be well satisfied with a net profit of five per cent. We do not object to railway companies getting liberal grants of land, which in the near future must become very valuable, but we vigorously protest against our mining industry being in any way hampered by the proposed royalty. This country, if not a mining country, has no other resources to fall back on; therefore your petitioners trust your honourable body will reconsider the proposed measure, and so modify it that the successful prospector and miner in British Columbia will enjoy the full fruits of his labours.

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

J. W. W. Haskins,  
W. M. Brown,  
J. C. Steen,  
T. L. Haig,  
F. B. Wells,  
J. A. Gilker,

Guy Barber,  
C. B. Halpin,  
C. B. Hume,  
J. Fred Hume,  
J. W. Thomson,  
Samuel Hill,

and one hundred and eighty others.

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VICTORIA, B. C. :

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