PETITION.

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

The humble Petition of William Teague and Alfred St. George Hamersley, of Vancouver, British Columbia, sheweth:—

1. That one Eben E. Olcott, of the City of New York, Mining Engineer, has introduced a Bill into your Honourable House for the purpose of granting to him, the said Eben E. Olcott, certain exclusive rights and privileges to mine certain grounds on Yale Flat, in the Province of British Columbia, and of granting him a lease of certain lands mentioned and described in the said Bill, and also granting to him the right to use certain waters of Yale Creek and Hill's Bar, and the exclusive right to use the said waters.

2. That your Petitioner, William Teague, in conjunction with Benjamin Douglas, in November, 1887, applied to the Government of the Dominion of Canada for the right to mine by hydraulic powers over the 600 acres at Yale Flat, which includes the land over which the said Olcott is now applying to mine.

3. That by an Order in Council of April, 1888, the right to exclusively mine over the said 600 acres was granted to the said William Teague and Benjamin Douglas.

4. That in consequence of such right as aforesaid being granted, the said William Teague and Benjamin Douglas entered into negotiations with the persons now composing the Fraser River Gold Gravels Syndicate, Limited, to lease the said piece of land, to wit: the 600 acres, provided the said Syndicate made arrangements to mine the same by hydraulic process and agreed to take all necessary measures to develop the same.

5. That, relying on the said Order in Council and on the arrangement made as aforesaid, the said Syndicate purchased a large quantity of machinery and have forwarded the same to Yale, where it is now ready to commence work, and expended a large sum of money in and about the same and sending engineers to report on the said lands.

6. That by a decision of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, given in April, 1889, it was decided that the precious metals within the Railway Belt—to wit: within 20 miles of either side of the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—were the property of the Provincial Government of British Columbia and not that of the Dominion Government.

7. That, in consequence of such decision, the Order in Council hereinbefore referred to, became of no use to the said William Teague, Benjamin Douglas and the said Syndicate, as far as the precious minerals in the said land are concerned;—that the said parties immediately took such steps as were necessary to secure the rights they had previously granted them, and have introduced a Bill to your honourable body to grant them the privileges aforesaid.

8. That if the Bill of the said E. E. Olcott is passed it will have the effect of taking away from the said Syndicate forty acres of the best and most payable land; that the leasehold of the land belongs to your Petitioners and Benjamin Douglas; that without the said forty acres it would be useless for the Syndicate to enter largely into the undertaking, and would have the effect of terminating the agreements made with the Syndicate in good faith and relying on the Order in Council and the statements made by the Honourable Minister for the Interior and by the Honourable the Premier of British Columbia, that the two Governments wished to forward the undertaking; that the water rights of Yale Creek have been purchased from the Dominion Government by William Teague and Benjamin Douglas, and granting the right to the said Olcott would give him practically the monopoly of the said water and seriously interfere with the working of the said lands by the Syndicate and other parties.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will not pass the said Bill into law:

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc., etc.

WILLIAM TEAGUE,
A. ST. GEORGE HAMERSLEY,
Interested in the said Syndicate.

VICTORIA, B. C.:
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