
PETITION.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

The humble petition of the undersigned miners and residents of the Cassiar District :

SHOWETH :

That the principal camps at present discovered in Cassiar, and where gold mining is carried on, are situated respectively at Dease Creek, Thibert Creek, McDame Creek, and Walker Creek. A sketch showing the relative position of each accompanies this petition.

The only present means of communication between the different camps is by water, by way of Dease Lake and Dease River. It generally takes two days to go from Dease Creek to McDame Creek, and three or four days to return at low water, and longer at high water.

Towards the close season, the lesser lakes marked upon the plan speedily freeze over and portages have to be made, and the ice not being of sufficient thickness to bear the weight of the boats and crews, travellers experience great difficulties and are exposed to hardships.

Most of the mining is done on McDame Creek, and fully two hundred men travelled up river last fall, on the way out of the country, when the ice was in the condition just mentioned.

On account of the state of the river, miners have to leave their claims in the fall from two to three weeks earlier than they need otherwise do.

Animals have been driven from the head of Dease Lake to McDame Creek in five days, and the parties driving report the line of country being such as a trail could be readily made over, and the distance is estimated at about sixty-five (65) miles according to the proposed line shown on the plan.

Were a trail made, the necessity for haste and the difficulty experienced in coming out in the fall would be avoided, and a section of country traversed by creeks would be opened up and probably many discoveries made, and a speedy means of communication between the creeks would be established.

It is estimated that a first-class trail (including bridges) could be constructed for an expenditure of three thousand dollars.

Your petitioners respectfully pray that a trail may be made over the line of country indicated.

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

(Signed) ANDREW DONAHUE,
 JAMES McLARTY,
 WILLIAM LARKIN,
 AND 178 OTHERS.
