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## PETITION.

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

The Petition of the "British Columbia Board of Trade" humbly sheweth:—

That the Board having had under consideration the projected scheme of A. J. Ainsworth and others, as explained by Captain Blasdell personally, which scheme the Board understands to embrace the opening up and working of certain mineral claims on Kootenay Lake in this Province; in connection therewith, and in order to draw supplies from the markets of this Province and transport the product of said mineral claims to the seaboard by connecting with the Canadian Pacific Railroad at or near Eagle Pass, the immediate construction of a waggon road from Shuswap Lake by way of said Pass to Columbia River; building and maintaining a line of Steamers on that River to connect said waggon road with a Railroad to be constructed to Kootenay Lake, and there connecting with another line of Steamers to the locality of said mineral claims; and (without having had an opportunity of examining the Bill which is to be introduced to the House) beg respectfully to represent that, in the opinion of the members of this Board, the project is worthy of the favourable consideration of your honourable House, for the following reasons:—

1. That it will be the means of developing a section of this Province which at present is of little or no value.

2. That in order to secure the trade of that section to British Columbia it is very desirable to take advantage of the opportunity of connecting it with the present settled and producing portions of the country, and thus initiate a connection with the valuable mines about to be opened out.

3. That the opening of these mines will attract a large mining population to this Province, which would materially add to the revenue, furnish a market for the productions of the interior, and by affording prompt facilities of communication be the means of securing an important branch of trade to British Columbia which might otherwise find an outlet through the United States.

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

Signed on behalf of the British Columbia Board of Trade.

R. P. RITHET,  
*President.*

ROBT. WARD,  
*Acting Secretary.*