

No. 2.

PETITION.

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To the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia:

GENTLEMEN,—The humble petition of Peter Ryan and Bernard Ryan, of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, John Shields, James Charles Stuart Shields, and Claude Rodolph Doxat, all of the Town of Ashcroft, in the Province of British Columbia, respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your petitioners are the chief shareholders in the Ashcroft Water-works Company, Limited, and the Ashcroft Water, Light and Power Company, Limited.

2. That the Ashcroft Water-works Company, Limited, was incorporated under the provisions of the "Companies Act, 1897," and the "Water Clauses Consolidation Act, 1897," for the purpose of furnishing water taken from the Thompson River to the inhabitants of the Town of Ashcroft, in the Electoral Riding of West Yale, Province of British Columbia, for domestic and fire purposes. The said Town of Ashcroft contains about five hundred inhabitants.

3. That the said Ashcroft Water-works Company, Limited, has put in a complete water-works system in the said Town of Ashcroft, and is now actively engaged in furnishing water to the inhabitants of the said town.

4. That the said Ashcroft Water, Light and Power Company, Limited, was incorporated for the purpose of furnishing power, light and heat to the inhabitants of Ashcroft aforesaid, and to the people within a radius of six miles from the site of the Company's works, about three miles from the Town of Ashcroft aforesaid, on the Bonaparte River, and also to furnish water for irrigation purposes to the people within the said radius. Said water for irrigation purposes is to be furnished from the Bonaparte River by means of pumps.

5. That the said Ashcroft Water, Light and Power Company, Limited, have erected a dam on the said Bonaparte River, and have installed a powerful electric plant, and are now actively engaged in furnishing light to the inhabitants of the Town of Ashcroft aforesaid, and power to the Ashcroft Water-works Company, Limited, to enable the latter Company to operate its water-works system, and are about to install suitable pumps for furnishing water for irrigation purposes within the said radius.

6. That your petitioners are desirous of being formed into a Company for the purpose of acquiring the franchises, rights and privileges of the said Companies, and are further desirous of enlarging the scope of the said enterprises now carried on by the said Companies, so as to enable them to operate within a radius of fifty miles from the said Town of Ashcroft (hereinafter referred to as "the said area"), and to engage in agricultural, manufacturing and industrial pursuits, so as to utilize thoroughly the power and water at their command.

7. That the operations of the proposed Company will be highly beneficial to the people of the said area, as the soil therein is very productive, but large tracts thereof suitable for cultivation are now lying waste, owing to the lack of water for irrigation purposes.

8. Further, that raw material for the establishment of lumbering and other manufacturing and industrial enterprises within the said area is easily procurable, and the establishment of the same heretofore has been mainly retarded by the absence of cheap power.

9. That the said Ashcroft Water-works Company, Limited, and Ashcroft Water, Light and Power Company, Limited, have been greatly hampered in financing their respective enterprises, owing to the fact that they are mutually dependent, but are separate and distinct Companies.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That they may be incorporated by a Private Bill as a Company for the purpose of acquiring the property, real and personal, and tolls, rights, privileges and franchises of the Ashcroft Water-works Company, Limited, and the Ashcroft Water, Light and Power Company, Limited, to exercise the powers and carry on the business of the said Companies, to issue preference stock, to sell fully paid up stock at a discount, and to sell or mortgage such acquired properties, and for all other purposes necessary, usual or incidental or conducive to the foregoing purposes, or any of them; with power to appropriate and use so much of the water of the Bonaparte and Thompson Rivers, and their tributaries, in the District of West Yale and East Lillooet as may be necessary for the purposes of the Company, to supply power, water, light and heat for domestic, mining and manufacturing purposes by compressed air and electricity to the inhabitants of the Town of Ashcroft aforesaid, and to the inhabitants, cities, towns, mines, smelters, railways and tramways within a radius of fifty miles of the Town of Ashcroft aforesaid, hereinafter to be called "the said area"; and to furnish water for irrigation purposes within the said area, and for all and any other purposes mentioned in sections 80, 81, 82 and 83 of the "Water Clauses Consolidation Act, 1897," and to do everything necessary or incidental to the carrying out of all or any of the objects referred to in said sections; with power to construct, operate and maintain a dam on the Bonaparte River, about three miles from the mouth thereof, and to construct and maintain buildings, erections or other works, and to enter upon and expropriate land for a site for power-houses, reservoirs and tanks, and to construct and maintain all works, buildings, pipes, ditches, poles, wires, appliances or conveniences necessary or proper for the generation and transmission of compressed air and electricity as aforesaid; with power to construct, operate and maintain saw-mills, sash and door factories, and other manufactories in said area, and to acquire timber limits, agricultural land and all kinds of real and personal estate.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Dated at Ashcroft aforesaid this 17th day of December, 1898.

PETER RYAN,
BERNARD RYAN,
JOHN SHIELDS,
C. R. DOXAT,
JAS. C. SHIELDS.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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