

Canada Land Law Amendment Association.

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G. S. HOLMSTEAD.

TORONTO, January 5th, 1885.

SIR:

I beg to draw your attention to my circular letter to you, dated 14th November, 1883, enclosing a form of petition to the Legislature in reference to the law relating to the transfer of real estate.

In response to similar circulars sent to other municipalities and representative bodies, petitions from 16 County Councils, 112 Township Councils, 3 Town Councils, 25 Granges, and from the Toronto Board of Trade, the Corporation of the City of Toronto, and the Board of Arts and Manufacturers, in the form enclosed to you, were presented to the Legislature at its last session. A debate was had on the subject, which resulted in an expression of opinion favorable to the change in the law suggested by such petitions from members on both sides of the House, and an assurance from the Attorney-General that the matter would be dealt with by the Government during the recess.

This Association is of opinion that in order to show that the people are in earnest in demanding a reform in the land laws of this Province it is desirable that further petitions should be presented to the Legislature at its next sitting.

I would request, therefore, that my former letter should be read to your Council at its next meeting, together with this communication, and that they may take into their consideration the advisability of again petitioning the Legislature in the form enclosed herewith, or such other form as may in their judgment better carry out their wishes touching the matter.

As I understand that some Councils, though favorable to the change advocated by this Association, were nevertheless deterred from petitioning in favor thereof by reason of untrue representation set abroad by parties interested in maintaining the present order of things, to the effect that the expense of carrying the reform into operation would form an enormous tax on the municipalities, I beg to say such statements have no foundation in fact, as it is proposed to make the system self-supporting without imposing any burden whatever upon the municipalities. That this may be done has been clearly established in Australia, where the fees of the various land offices have invariably been in excess of the actual expense of working the Torren's System.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. HERBERT MASON,
President.

Beverley Jones

Secretary of the Canada Land Law Amendment Ass'n.

P. S.—I also enclose the last report of the operations of the Association, which may prove interesting to some of your members.