

A miner's capital is small as a general rule, and that of the explorer is no exception : they work long with no results, eventually find valuable ore, and after having spent their all in the research, are unable to get it crushed, through no facilities for that purpose presenting themselves at a nearer point than San Francisco, a distance I need scarcely say they could find no means of their own to transport any quantity of Quartz.

I would therefore recommend to His Honor the Administrator of the Government the propriety of offering a Premium for the first Quartz Mill erected on Williams Creek, in the Cariboo District, such Mill to be worked by steam, the engines to be 80 horse power, to be fitted, in the first place, by four stamps, and to be in working order by the 30th September, 1866.

* * * * *

I have, &c.

(Signed.)

W. G. COX.

NUMBER 6c.

WILLIAMS CREEK, B. C.,
17th November, 1865.

To His Excellency Frederick Seymour, Governor of British Columbia,
&c.,
&c.,
&c.

The Petition of the undersigned Miners, Merchants, and Traders in the Districts of Cariboo East and West, would most respectfully represent to Your Excellency, and to the Honourable Members of your Legislative Council, that any and all delays in the decision of disputes in litigation between miners, touching mining interests of all kinds, are productive of great injury to the general welfare, progress, and development of the whole mining interests of the Colony.

The expenses of working and prospecting the mines are large, the seasons for mining operations are short, and the residence and future settlement in the Colony of a large proportion of the mining population, is almost entirely dependent upon the constant and steady employment of such miners.

Your petitioners have learned from experience, that where mining ground can be and is withheld from the work of the miner, by the "delays of the law," the immediate result is to drive good miners from the Colony, who go to return no more, instances of this kind, which have occurred on Williams Creek during this past season, might be cited, but it is deemed unnecessary.

The nature and character of a miner's interest in a mining claim, taken in connection with the climate of the District, and the cost of working such an interest, will convince Your Excellency and Your Honourable Counsellors that all time lost by the miner tends to discourage mining operations, and so cripples and destroys the miners' energies and pecuniary circumstances, that he is compelled to seek employment elsewhere than in the mines.

Wherefore, your petitioners would humbly and most respectfully pray that a law be enacted, which will prohibit all disputes concerning mining interests from ever being heard in a Court of Chancery where delays are inevitable, and otherwise to provide for the speedy hearing and determining of all such cases, in every case.

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

JOHN J. BRAMLEY,
JOHN R. ADAMS,
AND 350 OTHERS.

NUMBER 7.

To His Honor the Administrator of the Government of British Columbia,
&c.,
&c.,
&c.

May it please your Excellency, we, the undersigned, desire respectfully to represent to your Excellency the expediency of abolishing the system of Road Tolls and Tonnage Dues at present imposed on goods shipped for the Upper Country.

Should the present hopeful anticipations of rich Gold Fields on the Columbia River be realized, an important market will be afforded to our Traders by the opening up of that District, and it is of great importance to the interests of this Colony that the facilities of access possessed by other Territories by way of Columbia River should not be unduly increased to the detriment of our own commerce, by any imposts levied on goods which do not also bear on those shipped by way of Columbia River or otherwise. But by the present system, goods by way of Fraser River are burdened by an impost of Forty-three Dollars per Ton, which is escaped by our American neighbours, thereby favouring them in competition with British Columbia Traders to that considerable extent.

Your petitioners also respectfully submit that if these imposts were abolished, and, if necessary, a higher import duty substituted, not only would the Merchants of this Colony be able to compete on equal terms with those of neighbouring States, but the whole cost of collecting these tolls, which is considerable, would be saved to the Colony.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

KIMBALL & GLADWIN,
JAMES BLACK,
AND 79 OTHERS.