

Early Vancouver

Volume One

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1932)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1931-1932.

*A Collection of Historical Data, Maps, and Plans Made with the Assistance of
Pioneers of Vancouver Between March and December 1931.*

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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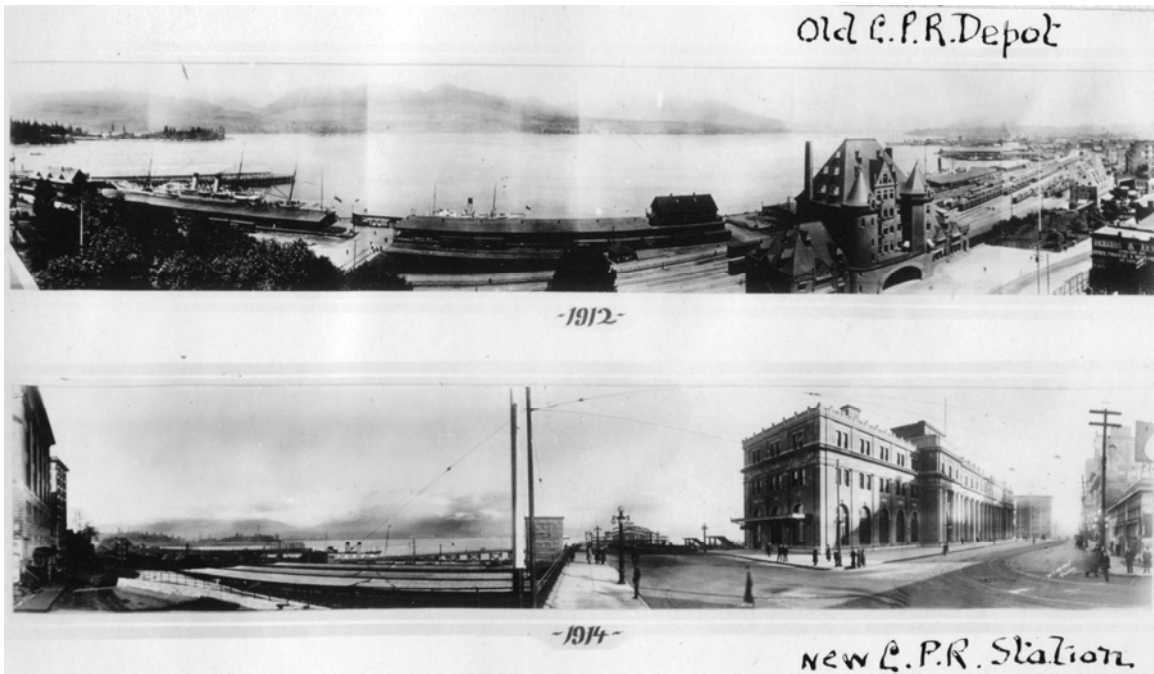


ARRIVAL OF FIRST TRAIN.
C.P.R. Station, 23 May 1887



The station was almost exactly at foot Granville St

Item # EarlyVan_v1_0022



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12 JUNE 1931 - EARLY C.P.R. TRAINS. FIRST C.P.R. DEPOT.

“Grown men, the silly things, would run across the street” (at New Westminster—Columbia Street) “to see the train ‘pull in’ or ‘pull out’; they had never seen a train in their lives. My father had to assure them that it was quite safe to go on board; but even then, some of them would feel the seats, to see if they were loose or fastened. They did amuse me when the first trains arrived.”

Mrs. McGovern, sister to Miss A.A. Fagan, and daughter of Fagan, says that her father was the first agent of the C.P.R. at New Westminster, and was also agent of the C.P.R. at Port Moody at the time the first train arrived, 4 July 1886. She resides at 1727 Macdonald Street, and was a member of the first Town Planning Commission formed in Vancouver, and still retains her seat.

THE FIRST C.P.R. DEPOT, VANCOUVER.

“Of course, you know the first C.P.R. station in Vancouver was built over the water, on stilts; the water was underneath the station. The cliff at the foot of Granville Street was so steep that, at one time, it must have dropped almost straight into the water. It was cut away to make a bed for the railway tracks.” – Geo. L. Schetky, pioneer of February 1886.

A photo of the “First Train in Vancouver,” well known, and also in Archives, shows the branches of trees, and other debris, just to the left of the engine; just as it would appear if the cliff had recently been pulled down.

J.S.M.