

Early Vancouver

Volume One

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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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the schools, and we conversed about it at length. At first it was in a very small way—one afternoon per week.

Mr. Bundy dabbled a little in real estate in the boom days, and made a little. He retired as sergeant major of the Sixth D.C.O.R. some years before the Great War, about 1910–12, to devote his whole time and effort, an onerous duty, to the rapidly increasing numbers of school children throughout Vancouver and, after 1928, Greater Vancouver. He lies buried in Ocean View Cemetery, and to his memory we can, with one accord, exclaim, “Well done; thou true and faithful servant.”

18 JUNE 1931 - UNION JACK, CANADIAN ENSIGN (FLAGS.)

It will be noted that, in many of the earlier photographs of Vancouver scenes, indeed even as recently as 1910, and perhaps still more recently, that the most common flag flown in Vancouver on holidays and ceremonial occasions is the Canadian naval ensign, and not the Union Jack.

The practice dates back to Dominion Day, 1887, and has a connection with the earlier history of Vancouver, its association with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the “Confederation Terms,” all of which are insolubly linked with the establishment of Vancouver as a city. In Vancouver, there was a distinct “Canadian” atmosphere, as opposed to the “British” atmosphere of crown colony days, and the older cities of Victoria and Westminster.

As an instance of the extensive use of the Canadian merchant vessel ensign (red field) there is cited a brochure entitled *Educational Institutions of Vancouver—VANCOUVER CITY SCHOOLS* issued in 1910 by the Board of School Trustees of Vancouver, showing the Canadian merchant vessel ensign being hoisted by school boys on the school flagpole. The Union Jack is now used.

Today probably three quarters of the flags used are Union Jacks, and one quarter Canadian ensign. A campaign, sponsored by the Canadian Club and other patriotic institutions before, during and after the War, together with numerous articles explaining the structure of the Union Flag, and editorials and letters pointing out that the ensign was not the national flag, gradually turned the scale of sentiment in favour of the use of the Union Jack. The Elks, a fraternal organisation, did splendid service; they annually distributed thousands of small Union Jacks at their great Children’s Picnic in Hastings Park. Ignorance, more than anything else, of what was the national flag of Canada, was responsible for the earlier use of the merchant ensign; many thought it was the especial flag of the Dominion. Major C. Gardner Johnson presented one, purchased at his own expense, to fly over the Court House. The court registrar, Mr. Beck, declined to accept the Canadian ensign.