

## **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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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## **MR. AND MRS. JOHN LAWSON.**

After our long conversation, Mr. Lawson invited me to his villa in a secluded nook of trees where the bend of Marine Drive meets the bend of shores, and here again were a number of holly trees, at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Bellevue Avenue.

Mrs. Lawson is a lady of splendid physique, behind whose gentle, gracious exterior the dominant personality of a mother of men of British Columbia was plainly discernible, one of those true types whose subtle encouragement has so contributed to the building of our homes where once forest grew; one of those who find expedients where others find difficulties; one of those women to whom British Columbia owes much. She welcomed us, and soon spread delicious refreshments.

They gave their only living son in the Great War; killed, near Cambrai, about a month before its end, whilst serving with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion—still another instance of the many only sons who fell in that awful conflict. Mr. Lawson himself joined the 158<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion (Duke of Connaught's Own) in September 1916, arrived in England November 1916, served in France at the age of 57, another of those splendid men who, rightly or wrongly, found the expedient of serving our land in the moment of its greatest distress by declaring, despite the natural debarment of age, that they were still under forty-five years old. Subsequently, he was president of the West Vancouver branch of the Canadian Legion. He is the tyler of St. David's Lodge of A.F. & A.M.

There is a rapture in listening to the narrations of such men and women. Here was a man who had seen the first trains of the Canadian Pacific Railway pass, who had himself helped in the difficult task of getting them over a roadbed and route through the mountains as yet in its raw state of rough newness, a difficulty not perhaps familiar to those who have not experienced it, nor lived in that age; who had carved out of the virgin forest his garden on the shore, and who, as others came, and it quickly grew into a self-governing municipality, became a ruler in its civic government; finally, as he grew older, to serve as a soldier in the greatest of all adventures.

And here was a woman who, after years of playing the silent part of a resourceful pioneer wife, not one whit less important than a man's because of its unobtrusiveness, finally gives her only son, their posterity, for Canada.

"I went there to become a millionaire," said Mr. Lawson. And then he smiled.

JSM

## **WEST VANCOUVER. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN W. WARDEN, D.S.O., O.B.E., 102ND BATTALION.**

West Vancouver was incorporated as a municipality in 1912. The first reeve was Chas. Nelson, a pioneer druggist and cricketer of Vancouver, followed by Mr. Lawson as reeve for 1913 and 1914. It was during Mr. Lawson's term that Col. Warden was councillor.

## **13 OCTOBER 1931 - CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL. DEAN RENISON, D.D., M.A.**

This evening attended meeting of Church Committee at which Dean Renison said that he had accepted, with much regret, the Bishopric of Athabasca.

He said he had gone east on his holidays without the faintest notion of what had since eventuated. At Hamilton he had been offered a rectory at one thousand dollars more than he was receiving here per year, but had refused it. He was coming home, when one quarter of an hour before he reached Winnipeg, a telegram was handed him saying that he had been elected, at the triennial synod of the Church of England in Canada then sitting in Winnipeg, and asking his immediate acceptance. He was met at the train by a delegation. He wired his wife in Hamilton, who advised acceptance as a call to duty. The remuneration as Bishop of Athabasca is one thousand dollars per annum less than Dean of Christ Church Cathedral. He said that he had been extremely happy in his charge at Christ Church Cathedral during the past four years, and had expected to remain here for an indefinite period. He realised the comfort he would probably have