

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

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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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH DR. BRYDONE-JACK, PIONEER MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, NOW CORONER, AT ACACIA MASONIC LODGE, 5 OCTOBER 1934.

EARLY STREET CARS.

"I used to live on Westminster Avenue" (about corner of 4th or 5th Avenue) "just above the old car barn down near Dufferin Street, where the first car line stopped, and, if I got a night call, I used to take a car out of the barn, and drive myself downtown. The motormen had shown me how to run the car; I just hopped on, and went off; oh, just perhaps as far as Cordova Street or Carrall Street; I was motorman, conductor and only passenger all in one; little open end street cars, open both ends."

FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT STATION.

The first electric light steam power house was a low, one-storey shed, perhaps 50' by 60', on the south side of the lane between Pender Street and Hastings Street, and about fifty feet east of Abbott Street; it had a wide door facing Hastings Street—vacant land between Hastings Street and lane, and a very tall narrow black smokestack. (See *World* newspaper illustrated panorama of Vancouver, 1890, and photo No. ?—Bailey—of Peter Claire's garden on Cordova Street, showing power house in background; also see *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 1.)

The second steam power house was built on the same ground, but it was of brick, and still stands, 1934.

12 FEBRUARY 1935 – HIS WORSHIP L.D. TAYLOR (LATE MAYOR OF VANCOUVER). THE WORLD NEWSPAPER. BRIGADIER-GENERAL VICTOR W. ODLUM, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

His Worship: "No. Victor Odlum did not put up any money, nor his father, when he joined me in taking over the *World* newspaper about thirty years ago. He promised to put up half, and on the strength of that I gave him a five year contract to employ him; he was just a young fellow then. At the end of two years I got sick of him. He had not put up any money, left me to carry the whole load; I had to find security, and every time I went away he would change the policy of the editorials. So I told him I wanted his resignation. He replied that he had a contract and said, 'I've three years to go.' I said that didn't matter, I wanted his resignation and was going to have it. I got it. I was afraid he would go around saying that I had gypped him; he was a Methodist. So I signed an agreement to pay him \$35 a week for three years and he got it, and then he left the *World*."

CONVERSATION WITH MR. J.W. SENTELL OF SENTELL BROS. ON BOARD PRINCESS JOAN PROCEEDING WITH 295 PASSENGERS, PIONEERS AND CHILDREN OF PIONEERS, TO NEWCASTLE ISLAND FOR THE ANNUAL PICNIC, 14 JUNE 1933.

Mr. Sentell is now aged 75, and lives at 1908 West 8th Avenue.

FIRST CITY HALL (1886).

Major Matthews: Is that story that you would not let the city occupy the City Hall on Powell Street, after it was finished, true, Mr. Sentell? When did you start to build it?

Mr. Sentell (who is up from California for a visit): "Well, yes, it is true; I kept them out for about two weeks after it was finished. I started to built it about August 24 after 'the fire,' and had it finished about the end of September or first few days of October. The contract price was \$1,200, and there were to be a lot of extras, but when it came to getting my money for it there seemed to be a bit of a hitch somewhere. I only had \$2,000, and to tie up my money at that time would have crippled my activities; I couldn't afford to loan the city \$1,200. So I went up to James C. Keith, who was the manager of the bank" (Bank of B.C.) "down opposite the C.P.R. offices, and saw him once or twice, and finally he made me promise I would not tell if he told me, and I promised I would not, and never have. He said that the city hadn't the money to pay; so I would not let them in; only old John Clough, the jailer, I let him in. I kept them out of it for about, say, two weeks. They never forgave me for that."