

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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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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some sort of surly answer. I wouldn't be surprised if it happened that the minutes in the Minute Book were not actually written up for a week after the meeting."

W.H. GALLAGHER, SEPTEMBER 1933 – OUR FIRST CIVIC ELECTION.

CHINESE.

(See *Early Vancouver*, volumes 1 and 2, etc.)

"The Victoria boat came in whistling, and the band on board playing 'Hail to the Chief'—only they played 'hail' to the wrong chief from their point of view.

"Soon after that the Hastings Sawmill people collected together their Chinese employees and sent them up to vote. It was perfectly legitimate, they were bona fide residents; there was no law against it; there was nothing you could say why they could not vote; it was open voting too, and mighty little qualification necessary; no voters list.

"The Chinamen—and their pigtailed—came on up Hastings Road, lined on both sides with bushes, came on up in twos and threes, some on the road, some on the two-plank sidewalk. Then someone shouted, 'Here's the Chinamen,' and that started it.

"There were a lot of navvies around Granville for election day; rough customers from the railroad gangs and bush fellers from the C.P.R. clearing" (West End), "and they shouted at the approaching Chinamen, and began to move towards them. Then one or two of the Chinamen decided, I suppose, that they did not like the look of things, and that they did not want to vote anyhow, and turned around; then one or two more came to a standstill, the rest came on up, until there was a little crowd of them, standing, and the white men advancing towards them. The white men shouted at the Chinamen and the Chinamen turned tail and ran.

"Charlie Queen, who drove stage and was drowned up north afterwards, was sitting on his seat on his stage—up on the driver's seat. He shouted too, then whipped up his four horse, and roars, and takes off after the Chinamen, stage horses and all, roaring as he went. There was a mighty clatter with Charlie roaring and the stage rattling down the road—a terrific noise, and the Chinamen went faster; so did Charlie and his stage. He chased them all the way to the Hastings Mill, and the Chinamen never stopped running 'til they got there."

(Then Mr. Gallagher laughed at the recollection of it—almost fifty years ago.)

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING.

"Alderman Balfour was from Winnipeg. He built the bridge over the Red River at Emerson, Manitoba. Dr. McGuigan and Tom McGuigan were also from Winnipeg. MacLean had his Winnipeg friends around him. Alexander's crowd, and the Victoria bunch, were beaten and stayed out of sight."

27 JUNE 1934 – MAYOR MACLEAN.

Geo. Bartley, printer on old *World* newspaper, remarks, "We called him 'Squire MacLean'; his hair was, well, not red; it was a brown, part grey."

Miss MacLean, his eldest daughter: "Father was a typical Highlander; light blue eyes, ruddy complexion, and his hair was white; his hair had turned white about thirty; he belonged to a family whose hair turned at an early age."

Miss MacLean, his youngest daughter: "Blue eyes, glowing complexion, not all over his face, but in parts; a Highlander's complexion, and his hair grey, went grey early, and a darker colour."

These answers made to John Innes, now painting first meeting of first City Council of Vancouver.

THE BURIAL OF MRS. M.A. MACLEAN, FIRST MAYORESS OF VANCOUVER, MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY, 5 JULY 1934.

Mrs. MacLean died on 4 July; she had been ailing for several years. About four days before her death, she fell and cut her head. The doctor put in stitches. She was frail and feeble, and then after the shock of falling, she did not take nourishment, and passed away without pain. The funeral was private, and was held from Nunn and Thompson's undertaking establishment on South Cambie Street at 10.30 a.m., 5 July 1934. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Dr. E.D. McLaren, the first minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and one who still remains Presbyterian; did not join the United Church. The mourners numbered about 30; largely pioneer ladies; there were nineteen wreaths, including one from the Mayor and Council of Vancouver. In the absence of His Worship Mayor Taylor in Seattle, the city was represented by Major J.S. Matthews, V.D. Burial was in the family plot in the old section of Mountain View Cemetery, beside the grave of her husband, who had predeceased her in 1895.

MAYOR MACLEAN.

The inscription on Mayor MacLean's tombstone, a granite Celtic cross, is:

In Loving Memory of
Malcolm Alexander MacLean,
First Mayor of Vancouver
Born at Tiree, Scotland
Died April 4th, 1895, Aged 51 years

"After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well."

(Compare with *Hamlet*.)

EXCERPTS FROM EARLY NEWSPAPERS, 1886.

INAUGURAL MEETING, FIRST CITY COUNCIL.

Vancouver Daily Advertiser, Vol. 1, No. 3, Tuesday, 11 May 1886.

First meeting
Of our City Council Characterized
by Harmony and Intelligence.

The first meeting of the Vancouver City Council, reference to which was made in yesterday's issue, was held in the Court House at 2.30 p.m. There was a full attendance of the newly elected Aldermen, his Worship presiding. In another column we publish in full the inaugural address of the presiding officer, and it strikes the reader as such a fair, outspoken, and business like address that comment is unnecessary.

The proceedings were opened by the appointment of J. Huntly as City Clerk pro. tem. The applications for city clerk with their testimonials were then read by the city clerk. [*Note: it would seem this should have read "acting city clerk" or "city clerk pro. tem."*]

J. Rooney, John Pemberty (applied for city clerk and city engineer), Amas Morrison, Thos. F. McGuigan, Michael Picken (applied for clerk and assessor), O.D. Sweet (assessor, clerk and collector), Geo. F. Baldwin.

ABRIDGED PROCEEDINGS FROM REMAINDER OF NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT.

Moved by Coun. Dunn that "a clerk be appointed temporarily."

Moved by Coun. Balfour that "G.F. Baldwin be appointed temporary City Clerk."

Moved by Coun. Northcott that J. Rooney be "appointed temporary City Clerk."

Moved by Coun. Hemlow that Thos. F. McGuigan be "appointed temporary City Clerk."

Coun. Northcott's amendment carried. J. Rooney appointed.