

Early Vancouver

Volume Four

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1944)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1935-1939.

Supplemental to Volumes One, Two and Three collected in 1931-1934.

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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Church) "at Napanee, Ontario. We have been married fifty-four years now. We had four children, Arthur, the first, who died in infancy; Charles, who is with Dale & Co. of this city, has four children; Irene is Mrs. Robert C. Moody of Eugene, Oregon; and Florence is Mrs. W.G. Easterbrook of Eburne; we have ten grandchildren altogether."

Note by City Archivist: The inability of John McConnell's party to find water is not unaccountable. He was a brilliant journalist, and a splendid companion, and he would have considered it a waste of good "ammunition." The recollections of many yachting trips with him tells me so. J.S.M.

Correction: Jack McConnell was not with the thirsty party. Sorry. J.S.M.

In a letter written 28 June 1937, Mr. Dickens approves, in the main, of the above, but objects to it being in the first person as too egotistical, but adds, "I am amazed that you were able to put our disconnected chat into such good form considering the hurried notes."

J.S.M.

He also sends more regarding formation of "Progress Club."

28 JUNE 1937 – (COPY OF WRITING ON PIECE OF CARDBOARD BY MR. DICKENS.)

(VANCOUVER) PROGRESS CLUB. PROGRESS CLUB. VANCOUVER PUBLICITY BUREAU. VANCOUVER TOURIST ASSOCIATION. "100,000 MEN IN 1910." HUNDRED THOUSAND CLUB.

Mr. Dickens writes:

Vancouver at that time had a population of perhaps 50,000 or 65,000, so Mr. D— thought it a proper time to introduce a proposition for Vancouver similar to one being sponsored by Dallas, Texas, called the "HUNDRED THOUSAND CLUB" to boost Dallas population to one hundred thousand by 1910, so the "World" [*newspaper*] leased the old O'Brien Hall on Homer and Hastings Street, and through some appropriate publicity in the "World's" columns, succeeded in packing the hall with an interested body of business and professional and labor men wanting to know what it was all about.

There was a little difficulty in getting the meeting started, no one seeming to know just how to get organised.

ALVO VON ALVENSLEBEN.

At this stage a loud voice called out from the back of the hall and moved that a chairman be elected. It was the voice of Alvo von Alvensleben, who afterwards became a very active businessman in Vancouver. Soon a chairman, a secretary, and other officials were appointed and the meeting started off with a bang.

The object of calling the meeting was explained, which met with an enthusiastic reception. The object was to build Vancouver up to 100,000 population in 1910; the slogan, "IN NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TEN VANCOUVER THEN WILL HAVE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN" was adopted.

The "100,000 Club" made good, Vancouver had 100,000 and more by 1910. The 100,000 club campaign had the best form of community spirit ever shown in the city either before or since 1910.

The campaign was concluded with the best commercial parade ever seen here, and is remembered by all old timers with a feeling of pride.

PROGRESS CLUB.

The 100,000 club was the germ from which sprung the "Progress Club," the Vancouver Tourist Assn., and the Vancouver Publicity Bureau.

Note by JSM: The slogan commonly used was "100,000 men in 1910."

[LETTER FROM GEO. DITCHAM.]

1090 Victoria Avenue,
Oak Bay,
Victoria, B.C.,
Dec. 2, 1936.

J.S. Matthews Esq.,
Vancouver City Archivist.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your favour of 28th ult. in re Methodist Church building at old Granville, I regret that I am unable to give you information required.

I do not remember any Methodist building in 1880—the ministers Bryant and his successor Thompson, I do remember—Turner was up in the Nicola Valley 1876 when I went through to Kamloops.

The Sullivans, coloured, were Methodists in Granville. Arthur was organist at St. James, Milligan lived at Moodyville.

It runs in my mind that Methodists held services in the school at Hastings Mill.

Yours very truly,

Geo. Ditcham

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. AND MRS. JACOB DORMAN, OF SNUG COVE, BOWEN ISLAND, WHO CALLED AT THE CITY ARCHIVES, 11 FEBRUARY 1937.

Mr. Dorman, despite his age, is very active, hair steel grey, ruddy complexion; Mrs. Dorman, much shorter, very demure and quite, with a charmingly faint smile, and twinkle in her eyes.

Mr. Dorman said: "I served with Lord Roberts's army on his march to Khandahar; I was not actually at Khandahar; was in the Indian army four years; then in 1882 I married Miss Sarah Adams in London, England, and we have been married fifty-five years and have twenty-four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Then, in the Great War, I managed to squeeze in despite my age and eyesight, but it was quite a task dodging the doctors; I got by through subterfuge; learnt the letters of the eye test off by heart, but got them wrong, and got caught, but a sergeant passed me without the officer's knowledge, and I served with the Engineers. Was at Vernon camp first; then enlisted for overseas at Vancouver.

"I went to Yale, B.C., from Carlton Place, Ontario, and came on to 'Yaletown,' Vancouver to again work for the Canadian Pacific Railway in March 1887 when the machine shops at Yale burned down; we came through Port Moody, and down the inlet on the *Princess Louise*."

ARRIVAL FIRST TRAIN VANCOUVER, 23 MAY 1887.

"I was working at the machine shop and roundhouse down on Drake Street—the first machine shop which I will give you a photo of; here it is; you will see me in it" (in the light coloured overalls, with arms folded, beside man in white overalls seated on ground.) "This photo is of the entire machine shop crew in 1888 or 1889; it was taken by C.S. Bailey; you can tell the date from that. All the bosses went to see the first train come in." (Photo N. Can. 23.)

FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT, VANCOUVER.

"The first electric light plant in Vancouver was down on Abbott Street between Pender and Hastings; they were having trouble down there, so Lacey R. Johnson, master mechanic of the C.P.R., asked me to go down there and take charge.

"Our children now living are:

1. Robert, in the *Sun* office, Vancouver. Born in England, 12 December 1884.