

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Four**

**By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.**

**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 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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 4. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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In the spring of 1890, a lot of clearing on the Brockton Point Athletic grounds was done; work was pretty slack just then; axemen and laborers were being paid two dollars per day, though the C.P.R. were said to be paying only \$1.50 for the camp kind of labor. Men would go to a certain employment agent; if found a job they paid a dollar and were sent to work somewhere. This agent sent them to the park; they worked a day and were fired; there was a new crew next morning; the man in charge of the work was splitting the dollar with the agent. Started quite a scandal till it got to the ears of the Park Commissioners who put a stop to it. For a couple of weeks before building the arch we were putting up some enclosures for a few small animals, then in temporary cages; except a bear chained to a stump there were two eagles enclosed in wire netting between two trees.

W.M. Horie.

**CONVERSATION WITH W.M. HORIE, OF BAYNES AND HORIE, CONTRACTORS, VANCOUVER, AS HE RODE IN THE STREET CAR THIS MORNING FROM KITSILANO BEACH TO HIS OFFICE AT THE HOTEL GROSVENOR, 24 APRIL 1939.**

**RUSSIAN WARSHIP, 1889. DUNN-MILLER BLOCK, CORDOVA STREET.**

Mr. Horie said: "I got to Vancouver on May 28<sup>th</sup> 1889, and the next day went looking for a job.

"I watched some men trying to remove the old wooden houses, so that the Dunn-Miller Block on Cordova Street near Carrall could be erected, and asked them for a job, but the boss said, 'No,' so I stood and watched, and I saw they were having trouble rigging their tackle and blocks, so I went over and watched, and then finally took a hand, and worked for a couple of hours; no one said anything to me. I was accustomed to blocks and tackles, and showed them how to do it.

"Then, as no one spoke to me, I started to go, but the boss called to me and said, 'Young fellow, I think we'll want you for a day or so,' so I went back to work. I know that was the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of May 1889, because the previous day, the 28<sup>th</sup>, I had arrived from the east.

"There was a man working on the job, and he was a Russian, and I talked to him, and he told me there was a Russian warship in the harbour, and that he hated Russians; don't know why; something. Anyway, he said he had been on board here on Burrard Inlet, and she was dirty; nothing like the clean ship-shape British navy ships."

J.S. Matthews.

See photo, P. Vu. 96, erection of Dunn-Miller Block, or next block, the Lonsdale Block.

Note: in May 1909, two Japanese warships, the *Aso* and the *Soya* visited Vancouver. One of them was the captured Russian warship, *Bayan*; I don't know what the other had been; perhaps captured, too. I noticed the guns on the former *Bayan* had marked on them "Armstrong" (British guns).

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH A.P. HORNE OF 4025 GRANVILLE STREET AND OF THE FIRM OF HORNE, TAYLOR AND COMPANY, LTD., REAL ESTATE AND FINANCIAL AGENTS, WITH REFERENCE TO THE SEYMOUR CREEK MILK RANCH.**

**A.P. HORNE. PHIBBS AND THOMPSON. SEYMOUR CREEK.**

"I came here in November 1889, and about the only person I knew was F.J. Thompson (whom I knew in the North West Territories), who with J.C.P. Phibbs owned and operated the Seymour Creek Milk Ranch. This property was situated at the mouth and on the east side of the creek, and contained approximately 160 acres—formerly owned by Burr, who I understand was one of the first of the Sappers and Miners who came to this province. There was a nice house, and a short distance from it on the edge of the creek was a large cow barn. The principal pasture was a short distance east of the house, on the flats—dyked. At Thompson's invitation, I spent that winter, 1889-1890, and worked on the ranch with them. They had about twenty cows."