

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 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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had some; I have never tasted them since; but they were good—I should like some again; we stayed there one night.

“We got to Victoria in October 1885; my eldest child was with me, I was only 20. Then in December we went to Westminster because we were in New Westminster for Christmas 1885, and we moved over here as soon as our hotel was ready; it had been open just three weeks when it was burned, and when the fire came we just ran out of it with nothing but the clothes on our backs; we ran off up towards False Creek” (the False Creek bridge, now Main Street) “and sat around, and then there were a number of stages and rigs came, and took us to New Westminster.

“After our hotel at the corner of Columbia and Hastings was destroyed, we built another at the corner of Carrall and Cordova” (note: this must have been the old Balmoral) “and in 1887 we moved up to Langley, then to Donald, then back to Langley for fourteen years.

“My children were one son, Harry, and five daughters; Harry is working for the C.N.R. in Montréal, has been for twenty-six years; he has two sons and two daughters. Of my five daughters, the youngest, Marjorie, died in 1927; another, Mable, unmarried, died in 1934. The remaining three daughters are still living in Vancouver:

“Mrs. Helen Bawden, eldest daughter (printers, Water Street), no children of her own, but three as stepmother;

“Mrs. (Alberta) Aubrey Tomlinson, has a son Robert;

“Miss Beatrice, unmarried.

“All resident in Vancouver, 1936.

“My two children who were with us in our new Burrard Hotel when it was burned were Harry and Helen, June 13, 1886.”

Read and approved by Mrs. Robert Balfour
9 June 1936.

J.S. Matthews.

Mrs. Balfour died about the end of 1937 or January 1938.

THE BAND FUND.

The citizens of Vancouver will learn, with much pleasure, that upon the strength of the net receipts of the recent concert and ball, and the liberal subscriptions made by the people of this city, Campbell Shaw has ordered a set of instruments for the Vancouver City Band. It is expected the order will be filled in about four weeks, the delay being necessary in bringing the instruments from the East by freight. Police Magistrate Boulton has generously offered the band a cheque for the balance of the amount required; the money to be returned as soon as another grand concert can be given.

The people of Vancouver, prostrated but a short time ago by fire, deprived now of the increased activity which the arrival of daily trains would bring, are yet so public-spirited that any demand made upon them for a worthy improvement met with a most hearty response. The committee of management for the band will back this statement up with argument that the biggest sore head in the country will agree with without a murmur. Bound to be right from the start, the committee resolved to pay for the instruments upon their arrival, and they have worked successfully to that end. Mr. Louis Carter has had charge of the subscription list, and very cleverly he has managed his big part in providing a band for Vancouver.

Here are some more of the subscriptions:

Thos. Dunn, \$5; J.R. Northcott, \$2.50; J.S. Clute & Co., \$2.50; R. Balfour, \$2; Malee and Brown, \$5; Rev. Thompson, \$2.50; A.C. Muir, \$2.50; J.R.B. Smith, \$2.50; Dr. Lefevre, \$2.50; Allen & MacPherson, \$5; total, \$32; past subscriptions, \$70; grand total, \$102.

From the *Vancouver News*, 13 October 1886. In City Archives, City Hall, Vancouver. (Austin File.)

(Note: the first brass band on Burrard Inlet, approximately 1884, was the Squamish Indian Band at the Indian Reserve at Ustlawn [North Vancouver.] See Mrs. A. Crakanthorp conversation, 7 July 1938.)

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH W.J. BARRETT-LENNARD, IN CITY ARCHIVES, 16 NOVEMBER 1936, WHITHER HE HAD COME TO HAVE A CUP OF TEA AND A BUN WITH THE CITY ARCHIVIST.

W.J. Barrett-Lennard, of Foster and Barrett-Lennard, chartered accountants, is now engaged at the Temporary City Hall, 16 Hastings Street East (His Worship G.G. McGeer's second year), to make an examination extending over about nine months, and for a fee of \$10,000 (*NOTE ADDED LATER:* Actually, I think, paid \$9,000) into the interior economy of the City Hall, and its several departments. He is the son of W. Barrett-Lennard of Manitoba, and grandson of W.J. Barrett-Lennard, and in addition to many other activities in Vancouver, is past Worshipful Master of Western Gate Lodge, No. 48, A.F. & A.M.

The conversation turned to the Dominion Government's scheme in operation now for providing single unemployed with winter work on farms, the Dominion Government paying them a small remuneration, etc., etc.

Mr. Barrett-Lennard: "I replied to the young fellow, when he approached me on the street asking for a 'handout,' that most of the single unemployed had taken advantage of the offer, and had left Vancouver for the farms; nearly five hundred of them had gone in three weeks. Why did he not want to go?"

"He" (the young unemployed) "replied, 'Nix on that stuff. No farms for me.'"

Mr. Barrett-Lennard continued: "What do these young fellows want? Why, I 'rode the rails' when I was a boy; ran away from home when I was twelve; worked on farms on the prairie, up around Edmonton, Calgary, etc.; hard work, too, daylight to dark, but we always had plenty to eat, and that was the main object when I was boy, to keep the 'tummies' full. Of course, the fellows used to 'grouse,' swear they would never come back again, but I noticed they were usually back next year.

"And I have worked for fifteen dollars a month, too, and glad to get it. Why, I rode" (drove) "cattle in northeastern Saskatchewan for twenty-five cents a day."

Approved after being read to him.
24 November 1936.

J.S. Matthews.
City Archivist.

EXCERPT, "REPORT ON THE REORGANIZATION OF CIVIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER," BY W.J. BARRETT-LENNARD, DECEMBER 1936, PAGE 40.

CITY ARCHIVIST.

Of all the persons who are serving the city's interests none is devoting himself more whole heartedly or conscientiously to the carrying out of his duty than is the City Archivist, and not one is placed in the position of having to work for such meager remuneration. The total cost of the archives office, salary and expenses, for the latter part of the year 1933 and for the two full years of 1934 and 1935 was \$1,503.58. The budget for 1936 provided \$600 for salaries and about \$725 for expenses (the archivist employs his own stenographer). The budget allowance has been increased, slightly, but when one contemplates the amount of work he undertook in connection with the preparation of data which later appeared in approximately 200 of the leading British papers respecting Vancouver's Jubilee year, there can only be one conclusion, that his treatment by the city is a public disgrace. Mr. McAdam, the Agent-General, deserves full credit for his splendid assistance in obtaining advertising of tremendous value. Some have estimated it at over