

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Five**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 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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## The City Archivist And The Builders

Vancouver owes much, more than it can ever repay, to Major J. S. Matthews, its incomparable archivist. Not the least of the contributions made by Major Matthews to Vancouver's cultural heritage is the tribute to "The Builders" contained in the official Souvenir Booklet of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. His words are eloquent and impressive:

"The creation of Vancouver was no local incident, but an event in the chronicle of mankind which must forever interest all peoples. Who were 'The Builders?' Not supermen, but young British and Canadian men and women—there were no grey hairs in early Vancouver—of vision, courage,

energy, with the power of justice and the patience of strength; they built not a fort, but a garden on the shore; no sword was drawn, no bugle sounded, no blood is on our escutcheon. In the short span of less than a single life there arose, like a magic thing, out of the wilderness of forest and swamp, a metropolis, a world port—Vancouver, spreading ten miles wide by seven deep, of monumental buildings and luxurious offices, of beautiful homes and green lawns, with 150 churches, 100 parks, 75 public and 100 private schools, the beautiful home of a favored and benevolent people. The great city is the monument, the mighty illustration, of the achievements of men of peace."

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