

**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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Footnote or Endnote Reference:

Major James Skitt Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5 (Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011), 33.

Bibliographic Entry:

Matthews, Major James Skitt. *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 5. Vancouver: City of Vancouver, 2011.

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**EXCERPT, *PROVINCE*, WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 1905.**

**SOCIAL HEADQUARTERS**

In it was held all the swell social functions of Vancouver's Pioneers. Furniture partly insured, but building was not. Guests lost clothing.

The building that in early days was the scene of all swell functions held by Vancouverites is no more.

The old Brighton Hotel at Hastings has been destroyed by fire. The building was put up by the late George Black twenty two years ago. There was no Hotel Vancouver then to hold balls in, and the big ballroom of the Brighton, overlooking Burrard Inlet, was the social headquarters. The hotel was run by Mr. Black up to the time, of his death eight years ago. After that, for a time, his daughter, Mrs. Ryan ran it. The building was owned by Mr. Black's widow, who now resides in Portland, and it is understood that it was uninsured.

"The lessee was J.H. Travelbea, formerly of the Colonial Hotel of this city. When he took it over he refurnished it and the furnishings were valued at \$4,000. There was an insurance of \$2,000 on the furniture held by Hobson Bros. Very little was saved of the furniture or of the private belongings of the four guests who happened to be in the house.

Mr. K. Brown, who resides near the hotel, first saw the flames bursting out of a corner of the roof. He gave the alarm quickly and although the residents there were willing to do all they could, there was no apparatus with which to work. Owing to the burning out of the telephone, word could not be sent to the city until the fire had almost destroyed the building—Chief Carlisle, when he got word, went out with the hose wagons from No. 1 and 2 Halls, and the engine from No. 3. He organized a bucket brigade, and by strenuous efforts succeeded in saving the cottage adjoining on one side, and the barn on the other.

The old hotel that was such a welcome shelter to many after the big fire in Vancouver in 1886, has itself been a victim of destroying flames. No intimation has been received yet from Mrs. Black as to the likelihood of her rebuilding, but it is very likely that the hotel will be replaced, even if by a smaller building.

**MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. CALVERT SIMSON, THIRD STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL, WHO CALLED THIS AFTERNOON AT CITY ARCHIVES, 20 DECEMBER 1939.**

**ROYAL CITY PLANING MILLS. GEORGE BLACK. SLAUGHTER HOUSE. JOHN HENDRY. HASTINGS SAWMILL. C.W. MURRAY.**

Mr. Simson: "The Royal City Planing Mills bought the property at the foot of Carrall Street, and erected a sawmill and planing mill on the site of George Black's original slaughter house. John Hendry came from Fredericton, New Brunswick, and so did R.C. Ferguson, who was manager. C.W. Murray, who had been out at Jericho as bookkeeper and timekeeper for Angus C. Fraser, was bookkeeper for the Royal City Planing Mills.

"The Royal City Planing Mills sold the property, together with the foreshore rights, to the B.C. Electric Railway, or Vancouver Gas Co., I don't know just which, and it is my surmise that, before they handed over the money, the Royal City Planing Mills may have had to produce the deed to the foreshore rights."

Major Matthews: Well, what does Harry Hooper mean when he says the Hastings Sawmill had not got the deed to their property until long after 1900.

Mr. Simson: "That must be wrong; Capt. Stamp got the deed to that property. What I think Mr. Hooper knows about is the foreshore rights to the Royal City Planing Mills on False Creek. There was a man in Ottawa, McGivern, or McGovern, or something, and he was all powerful; if you wanted anything in the way for foreshore rights, you had to see him, and that was all there was to it, and, I suspect, Harry Hooper is referring to those rights on False Creek; Hooper was only a servant of Hendry, a driver of his