

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Six**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1945)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.*

*Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.*

### **About the 2011 Edition**

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plant. We moved that plant; we started at 5 o'clock in the morning, moved all that machinery and had it in running order by 7 o'clock that night, and the town of Nanaimo was lit up, and the people never knew their electric lighting plant had moved. Bill Lewis was the manager. The people of Nanaimo had the light on after five o'clock in the morning, and had it on again in the evening at seven p.m. and in the interval the whole electrical lighting system of Nanaimo had been changed to a new location, and they were none the wiser."

#### **NELSON, B.C. SANDON, B.C. TRAIL, B.C. ASHCROFT, B.C.**

"My brother Fred put in the first lighting plant for the town at Trail; Heinz was the man who started the smelter up there. The C.P.R. took it over finally. Fred also put in the lighting for the town of Ashcroft, and pumping plant for the irrigation ditches there, and the C.P.R. water tower. And then at Sandon, we repaired their generators there; they could never get them to work right. And at Nelson, I looked over their plant, but did no work."

#### **FIRST ELECTRICAL FIRM.**

Major Matthews: Who was the first to establish an electrical business in Vancouver?

Mr. Hoffmeister: "I was the first electrical man in the city, and my business was the first electrical business in Vancouver. But you must remember that there was a company organised before I was here; it was called the Vancouver Lighting Co. or something like that, and they had two little 25 kilowatt generators down in a little bit of a building, wooden, I think, at the foot of Abbott Street. They were Edison type generators. Run on a three wire system, 110 and 220 volts; you see, 110 and 220 volts, and with the three wires you could get either 110 or 220. The idea, of course, was that 220 you could run your wires further out into the city, or you could use it on a motor for work purposes, and the 110 was good enough for lighting dwellings. The street lights were carbon filament bulbs on 110 volts."

#### **CONVERSATION WITH CALVERT SIMSON, STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL.**

##### **HASTINGS SAWMILL FIRE ENGINE.**

"I saw Arthur Hendry today" (13 October 1944.) "He says the old fire engine was broken up. And Harold Ridley told you he had a walking stick made out of it. So I suppose that was what happened to it. It seems one time, Arthur Hendry told me, they had it on a little trolley. But it wasn't a fire engine; it was just a bit of a thing with hose wound around on it. And it certainly wasn't the first fire engine north of San Francisco."

#### **SEYMOUR CREEK GOLD MINING SYNDICATE.**

##### **SEYMOUR CREEK.**

Conversation, 23 October 1944, with A.A. Brookhouse, 1872 Parker Street, who is editor, *Shoulder Strap*, semi-annual journal of B.C. Provincial Police:

"We thought we had a *gold* mine up there; put in a lot of sluice boxes and spent a lot of money; had a timekeeper and seven or eight men. We formed a syndicate, and staked gold claims all the way up the Seymour. There were a few flakes of gold up there, but not enough to make your wife a brooch. Some Australian man came here, and he could talk better than we could, and we formed the syndicate and lost our money. Never got a thing out of it, and found just enough gold to show us what gold looked like. That must be thirty-seven years ago. The only man living now who knows anything about it—he was in with us—is a man named Loutet, or Lewtet; he's over in North Vancouver; he was in the real estate business; I think he was Reeve of the District of North Vancouver one time."