

**Early Vancouver**

**Volume Seven**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1956)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected between 1931-1956.*

**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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**EPILOGUE.**

**SCENE:** Granville Street sidewalk. His Worship Mr. Taylor is approaching his apartment, Granville Mansions, corner Granville and Robson streets. Major Matthews meets him. Both men stop and greet each other, then converse:

Matthews: "Thank you very much for what you did."  
(He is referring to his appointment as City Archivist and the gratuity of \$25 a month, Council resolution, 13<sup>th</sup> June 1933)

Taylor: "I'd have done more. But those aldermen—they are only a lot of ignoramuses. They never read."

**[LETTER FROM CHARLES E. TISDALL.]**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1935.

His Worship the Mayor,  
and Members of the City Council,  
City Hall,  
City.

Your Worship and Gentlemen:

Budget Committee.

Your Special Committee appointed to deal with Budgetary Matters, begs to submit the following report for adoption:

.....

4. Re City Archivist.

Details were submitted with regard to various matters which have been under consideration during recent months in connection with the activities of the City Archivist, and your Committee has further considered the joint report of Alderman Lembke and the City Comptroller, with regard to the City Archivist, dated June 20<sup>th</sup> last, which report was submitted to Council on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and referred back. Your Committee has amended the report in some particulars and now presents it herewith for favourable consideration:

"Pursuant to a recommendation of the Budget Committee of April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1935, that Alderman Lembke and the City Comptroller be appointed to interview Major Matthews, City Archivist, and bring in a definite proposal as to the further operation of the City Archives Department, your Committee has had several interviews with Major Matthews, and begs to report as follows:

"Major Matthews was appointed as City Archivist under a recommendation of the Finance Committee, dated June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1933, which was adopted by Council on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1933. Under this resolution an honorarium in the sum of \$25.00 per month was granted to Major Matthews, who has devoted the whole of his time to this work, and apparently has expended a considerable amount of personal cash in acquiring material of an historic nature.

"Your Committee is of the opinion that this honorarium of \$25.00 is insufficient, and that some increase should be granted, also that as stenographic help, stationery, postage, supplies, etc., are necessary if the Archives work is to be carried on, some appropriation is necessary in this connection.

"In view of the City's present financial position, your Committee feels that it cannot recommend too large an increase at this time, but it would suggest that the honorarium to Major Matthews should be raised to \$50.00 per month as from July 1<sup>st</sup>,

1935, and that an appropriation of \$50.00 per month to cover stenographic help, stationery, postage, and miscellaneous purchases should be provided. This would mean a total of \$600.00 for the six month period to the end of 1935, or an additional \$450.00 to the existing appropriation. These appropriations would come under the same control as other Civic appropriations, and would require that Major Matthews should submit payrolls and requisitions for supplies, which would pass through the regular channels for approval.”

.....

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles E. Tisdall, Chairman  
Acting Mayor.

### **NEWS HERALD (FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY, 1939.)**

#### Mayor In Role Of Prince Charming

#### ARCHIVES, CIVIC CINDERELLA, MAY BECOME TOURIST ATTRACTION

City Archives, Cinderella department of the civic machine, has found its Prince Charming in Mayor J. Lyle Telford.

Nobody's baby, a branch of civic endeavor without a city father, the department has been buffeted about from once council to the next. It has come under the wing of no aldermanic committee; it has been starved financially to the point of almost death.

It has been the joke and at the same time the mystery department at the city hall. The mystery has been caused by the way in which it has survived, continued to function and develop; by the fact that while elected representatives could see no great use for it, outside bodies have found it a mine of useful information.

Now everything is to be changed.

Escorted by Sergeant-at-Arms Alex. McKay his Worship made a tour of each department of the city hall Tuesday. And arrived finally on the ninth floor where Major J.S. Matthews has his heirlooms.

Mayor Telford had not got far inside the room before he was obviously enthusiastic. "I have only a minute to stay just now," he said, "but I'll come back"—but he stayed nearly half an hour. Later he went to the tenth floor where he inspected the wonderful collection of Indian relics to be found there.

In conversation with *The News-Herald* later his Worship frankly admitted his enthusiasm. "Why we have something really worth-while there," he exclaimed.

He then related plans already under consideration for having motion pictures taken in the department for presentations to audiences throughout the city.

"The people know nothing of the valuable and interesting relics of old Vancouver the city has stored there," Mayor Telford went on and suggested they would make a new attraction for tourists to view; and those who could not see them at the hall could see them on the screen.

Mayor Telford visualized Major Matthews with a set of interesting colorful and instructive films being in considerable demand as a lecturer. The lectures might even be made self supporting, he suggested.

To Major Matthews, who only last week found the door to his loved valuable relics locked against him, the enthusiasm of the mayor came like a tonic. "Give the archives recognition, give us