

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

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THE VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE, 9 JANUARY 1952.

'AT LAST,' SAYS MAJOR
ARCHIVES GET \$12,000.

Recommendations contained in an 18-year-old report of an investigation into the Vancouver archives were finally implemented Tuesday by City Council.

Aldermen voted unanimously in finance committee to double the \$6000 annual allocation for Major J.S. Matthews' beloved archives on the ninth floor of City Hall.

John Hosie, provincial archivist at that time, recommended in 1934, after carrying out an investigation into the archives at the request of the then City Council, that "the archivist receive a salary commensurate with the dignity and importance of his office, and to permit the employment of a paid stenographer to assist him."

Tears in his eyes

Tears sprang into the eyes of 74-year-old Major Matthews, fiery founder and custodian of the priceless files, records and photographs in the archives, when he was informed of council's action by a *Daily Province* reporter.

"At last, at last," he said. Doubling of his departmental appropriation was for him the heart-warming end of more than 20 years of constant battling for recognition and for additional money and equipment for his archives.

Started at nothing

Mrs. Jean Gibbs, the major's gentle, silver-haired assistant, herself a pioneer of Vancouver, will now receive a salary of at least \$180 per month, instead of the \$80 a month she has been receiving. The major's monthly salary will go up to \$300 from below \$250. He started the archives at nothing per month in 1929.

He will be able now to hire an additional assistant for stenographic work.

In committee, Mayor Hume led the fight for adoption of the report and its recommendations submitted jointly by Ald. Anna Sprott and Ald. Archie Proctor.

Major Matthews' former \$6000 appropriation was the only departmental allocation that had not been raised in the past six years.

NEWS-HERALD, MONDAY MORNING, 21 JANUARY 1952.

OUR PAST GROWS IN IMPORTANCE.

Vancouver city does itself a service when it gives a little more money to its civic archives.

Preservation of history is important; because we're a young city we haven't been much interested in the past. We're more concerned with the present, and looking forward to the future. That is a good thing too. People who live entirely in the past are dead people.

However, a city's past is important. Vancouver, though still young, has had a quite glamorous history. It should be better known. We should have more relics preserved—and that's the job of the city archives.

Archivist Matthews, working under many handicaps, has done a good job for Vancouver because he loves his work. He deserves the new financial recognition the city has given him and from it he should be able to do better work.

As Seattle and San Francisco are aware of their colorful backgrounds, so should be Vancouver.