**Early Vancouver** 

Volume Two

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

## 2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.

### 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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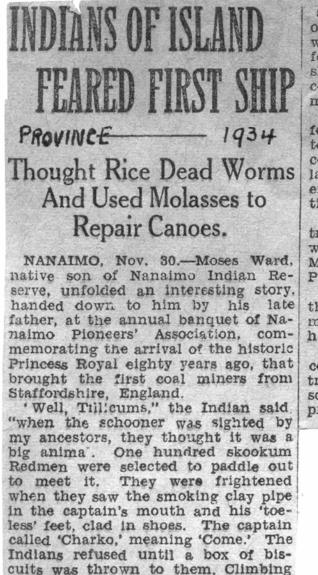
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### **MOLASSES FOR STIFF LEGS.**

"Then whitemans on schooner give molasses, same time biscuit. Indian not know what it for, so Indian rub on leg" (thighs and calves) "for medicine. You know Indian sit on legs for long time in canoe; legs get stiff; rub molasses on legs make stiffness not so bad. Molasses stick legs bottom of canoe. Molasses not much good for stiff legs, but my ancestors think so; not their fault, just mistake—they not know molasses good to eat." And then August Kitsilano laughed heartily.

There are, at this moment, well over 6,000 white families supported by "relief" in Vancouver, where formerly three to five thousand Indians lived off land, water and beach.



aboard ship they were given presents of rice, which they thought were dead worms, and molasses, which they used for pitch to repair their cances. A shining axe blade was attached to a cedar bough and worn as an ornament by the chief."

When its use was explained the following day, the new axe was rented to the Indians for a blanket, which collected enough blankets for a potlatch. Two thousand Indians were encamped at Departure Bay at that time, the speaker said.

Ex-Mayor Busby, the chairman, introduced Mrs. Tom Glaholm, first white child born here, and John Meakin, who came to Canada on the Princess Royal.

John Shaw reviewed the history of the society, which started with thirty members three years ago, and now has two hundred.

Folks of all ages joined lustly in community singing, led by J. Bertram, and Mrs. H. Freeman, D. Manson and R. Robertson took part in a programme that followed the supper.

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