

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.

About the 2011 Edition

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INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE

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The resources of British Columbia thus briefly enumerated, being of just the very kind in which so large a portion of the North West Territories are conspicuously deficient, will find a home market by means of the railway. Calgary, Regina, Qu'Appelle, Brandon, Winnipeg may before long draw their chief supplies of lumber and coal from the Pacific Slope, while fresh salmon and other fish from the Fraser River and the Gulf of Georgia, together with such fruits as cannot be grown to advantage in the prairie region will, in a few years, be articles of common consumption in the Territories and Manitoba.

In return the prairie farmer will be able to furnish the hardy miner, the industrious lumberman, and the skillful fruit grower of British Columbia with the staff of life in highest perfection, together with pork, beef, hides and wool.

Interprovincial intercourse will thus become highly advantageous, and should do much, not only to stimulate the development of the latent resources that Canada possesses in such great variety, but to increase the home and foreign trade of her merchants.

JSM 1932

OUR FIRST MAYORESS (MRS. MALCOLM A. MACLEAN).

Memorandum of an evening spent with Mrs. M.A. MacLean, first mayoress of Vancouver, who, tomorrow, Easter Sunday, 27 March 1932, will be 84. She is a very gracious lady, mentally alert, and with a sweet smile, but feeble and not very well, but sufficiently active to participate in a quiet birthday party with a few relatives and friends, including her son (only), two unmarried daughters, Dr. Perry, a nephew, Mr. Tom McInnes, the historian, and his sister Miss McInnes.

Mrs. MacLean was charmingly gowned in a mauve satin dress of mid-Victoria design which, purchased in Toronto about 1882, lace V front and cuffs, its longish train supported by an ornamental rope slipped by a loop over her left wrist, and so well preserved as to appear almost a new dress. She made a delightful picture of old fashioned grace and graciousness.

During short bits of conversation Mrs. MacLean said:

"I was not in Vancouver at the time of my husband's election, nor at the time of the Great Fire; we came here in the fall of 1886, that is, the children and I, came by the C.P.R. to Port Moody and thence down the inlet by the old *Princess Louise*. There were but five passengers on the train. Mr. Melville Thomson of the Thomson Stationery Co. was one, and there was a woman who got off at Port Moody, I forget her name, her husband worked there.

"The train trip to Vancouver was terrible; the worst of it was the trains did not connect, they were short of rolling stock or something. We had to go through the United States, and at some place, I forget where it was, we had to walk through a field of snow, one of the children clutching my dress, the other on one hand, and the third in my arms. At some place we stopped one night at a hotel, and the snow came into our room. There were just five of us on the train, that is, adult passengers; we got off at Port Moody and came down the inlet on the *Princess Louise*.

"On my arrival, of course, Mr. MacLean was mayor, and we had such a busy time. Mr. A.W. Ross, M.P., my sister's husband, was away in Ottawa, so at first we went to live with her in some rooms over a store. Then we went to stop at the Gold House on Water Street; it was just finished and was so nice. I must try and think who were stopping there. Well, there was Mr. and Mrs. H.T. Ceperley," (Note: of Ross and Ceperley and the Ceperley Playgrounds, Stanley Park) "and, oh, I forget! After we built our own place on Dunlevy Avenue, but I have not seen the old home for years; they tell me it is almost falling down now." (See photograph taken in 1931.)

"Those were the *busiest* times, so much entertaining, so many dances, so difficult to get help in the household. White help at any price was almost impossible, and the Chinamen were so independent; if

there was an extra person in for dinner, or something the Chinaman did not like, they would pack up and walk out without saying a word.

"The dances were mostly in hotels, or big rude halls built for the purpose; no one had a ball room; we went out to George Black's at Hastings a great deal, he had a hall for dancing there.

"No, we did not go to Stanley Park for our picnics; there were no trails over there. When someone would say, 'What shall we do? Go for a drive or take a boat?' well, if we took a boat—one of those big boats—we went across the inlet in the direction of the Mission, or perhaps it would be to Seymour Creek that we would go, but it seems to me the waters of Burrard Inlet were smoother in those days."



SEYMOUR CREEK
Early holiday resort

Boating Seymour Creek

H. D. EVINE
VANCOUVER

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"Oh, yes! It would have made a great difference to Mr. MacLean if he had not lost his property in the Great Fire of 1886; it might have been very much different for all of us. He had been to San Francisco to buy a lot of beautiful furnishings for our home; all were destroyed. Then he had two buildings, two store buildings, both were burned, and nothing was insured. The insurance papers were to have come by the boat the next morning.

"I have had Mr. W.H. Gallagher's story which you have written" (*Early Vancouver*, Matthews, 1931) "read to me, and enjoyed it. I think his story of the Great Fire is the best I have ever read, and as to the rest, I am not familiar with all of it; what I do know is correctly told. He was, as you say, without salary or expenses during both years of his term of office."

Did he not receive anything? we asked.

"Nothing," was Mrs. MacLean's positive answer.

"You have heard of the Hobson-Taylor Missionary Party; they were the first which went this way to China. Well, they wrote asking if there was any sleeping room in Vancouver, and when they arrived the whole twelve of them came to our house, our small house; such a crowding. And the next morning I asked them what they would like to eat; I thought perhaps fish. They said they had not had any fish, and would like fish very much, so I gave them fish, fish, fish," and Mrs. MacLean laughed as heartily as her years permit.

"The Rev. Mr. Thompson was our Presbyterian minister.

"I was through the North West Rebellion of 1885; I saw it all," and by her countenance and intonation, it must have been a trying experience. "I was in the house by myself a good deal of the time. There was a looking glass in my bedroom, and as I lay in bed I saw lights in the looking glass. I thought I must be losing my senses. Each night I could see moving lights in the looking glass. Some gentlemen came for a meal, and I told them I had a pretty good meal for them this time, but that it might be the last if things kept on the way they were; I might not be in my right senses to make another. Then they explained to me about the lights that I had seen in the glass. They were the reflections, through the window into the looking glass, of the Indian signal fires; different shapes to communicate from one Indian band to another how matters were progressing during the day; semaphoring, as it were, to each other, and, their fires were all around."

His Worship Mayor MacLean was born at Tiree, Scotland, went to live in several places in Ontario, then, with his wife, lived in Winnipeg, afterwards had a farm either at Qu'Appelle or near Wolseley, Manitoba (see *Early Vancouver*, Matthews, 1931), participated in the North West Rebellion, and came on to Vancouver, put all his money into real estate and property, then came the fire which "cleaned him out"; one of his store buildings was so new when it was burned that it was without occupants. His house was built out of funds sent from distant points for the relief of Vancouver after the devastating fire six weeks after his election as mayor (June 1886). He died in Vancouver in 1895, being survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret A. MacLean, an only son Cluny, now of MacLean's Ltd., Tea Importers of 150 Alexander Street, and two daughters, Miss Isabella at home and Miss Ethelwyne, now employed in the Dead Letter Office. Mother and daughters have resided for many years at 883 Broughton Street. Mrs. MacLean's grandmother was a granddaughter of the celebrated Scottish heroine Flora Macdonald.

On Easter morning (Sunday, 27 March 1932) being Mrs. MacLean's 84th birthday, a basket of beautiful Easter lilies was sent to her by His Worship Mayor Taylor with the compliments of the citizens of Vancouver.

W.H. Gallagher: (see elsewhere) "MacLean, before he went to Winnipeg, had been a merchant in Oshawa, Ontario."

DEATH OF HIS WORSHIP EX-MAYOR MALCOLM ALEXANDER MACLEAN.

Conversation with his daughter, Miss MacLean, 10 February 1932.

"It was Joe Fortes, the bartender at the Sunnyside Hotel, who helped to save Mrs. A.W. Ross, and her son Don, escape the fire on 13 June 1886."