

## **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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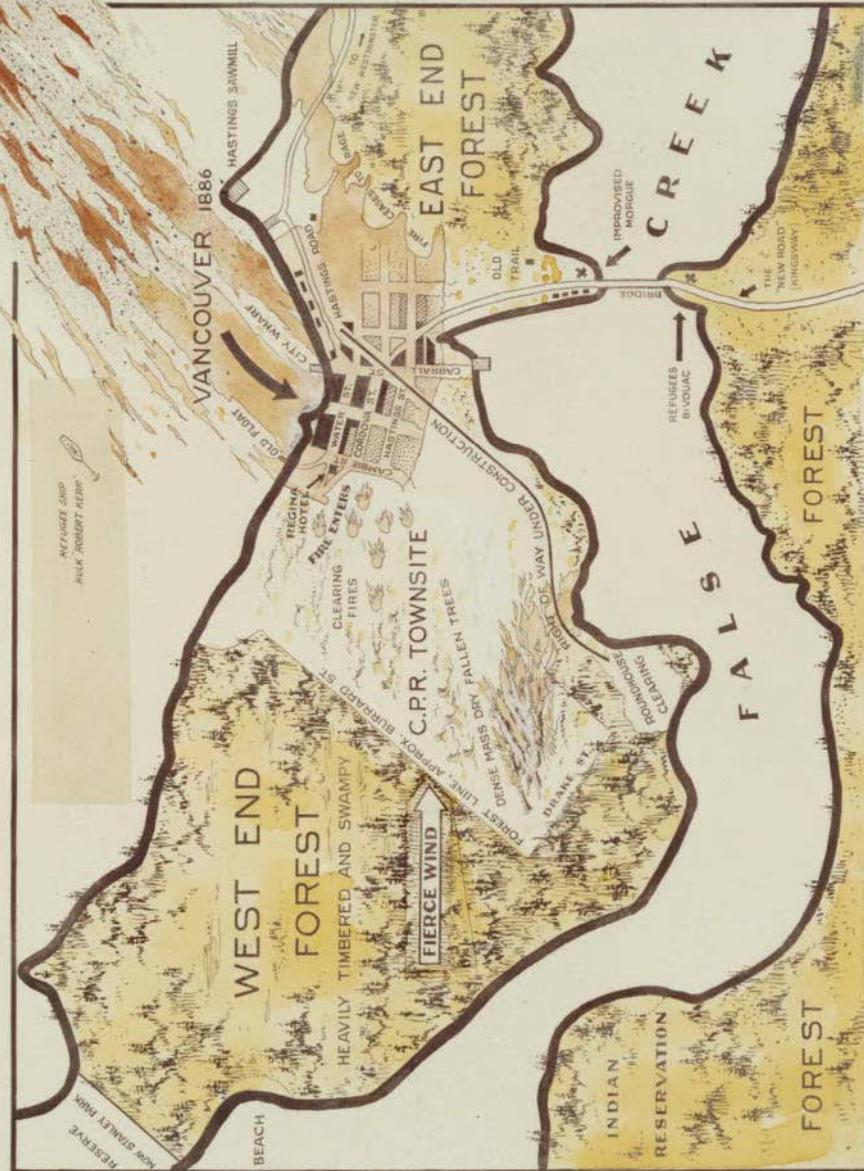
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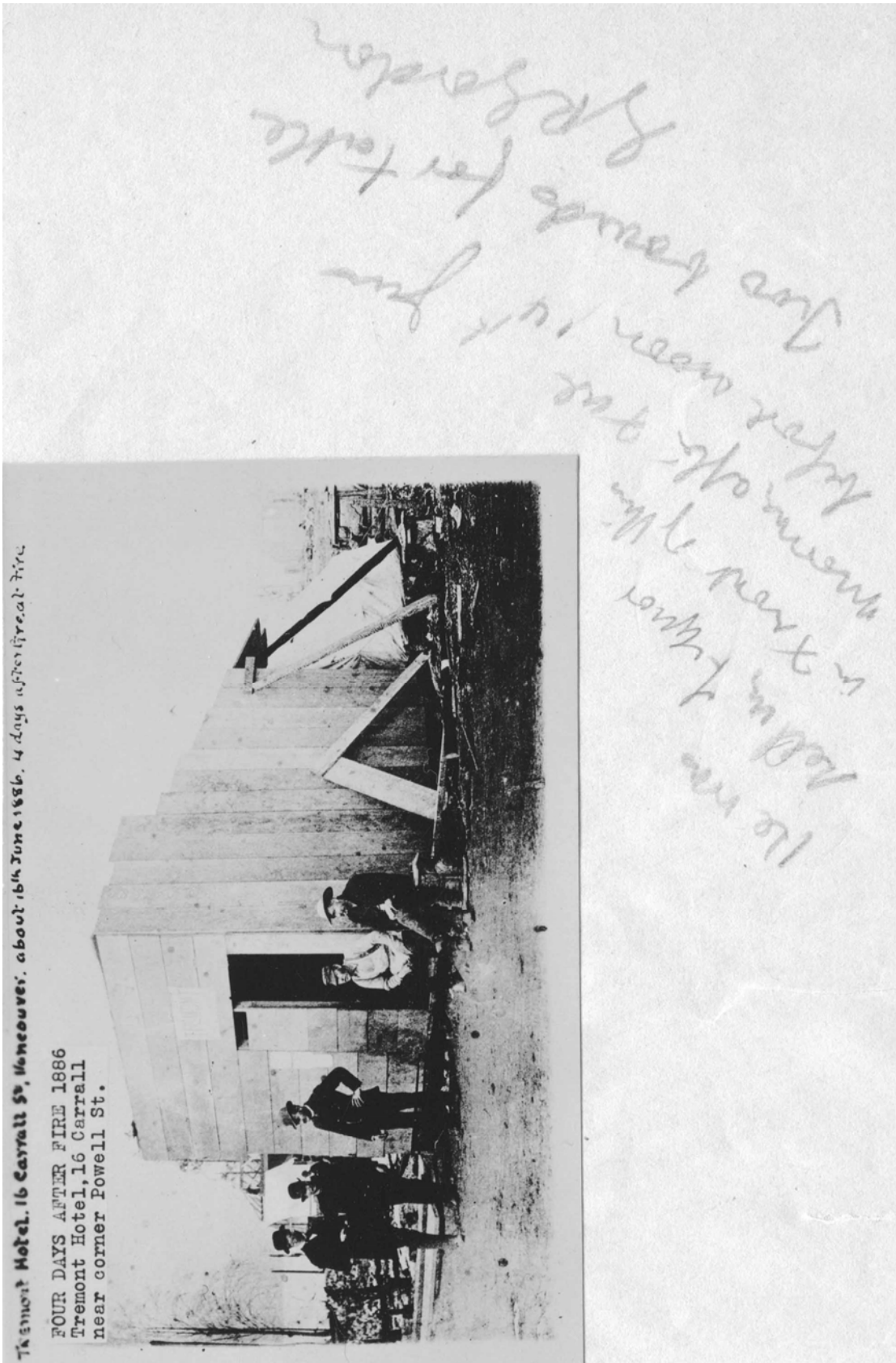
# The Great Vancouver FIRE



*J. S. Matthews*  
Architect  
City of Vancouver  
June 1912

*W. J. Matthews*  
1912-1913  
Vancouver, B.C.

*George L. Matthews*  
Architect  
City of Vancouver  
May 1912



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## **THE TREMONT HOTEL.**

There is a photograph extant showing a rough, very rough, board shed with five men before it, three standing, two sitting—one the two on a small stove—and in the background a tent, in the distance other small frame buildings being erected, a tree on the left, Burrard Inlet, and charred boards lying about. The word “TREMONT” appears on a white square on the front of the shed.

This is the “Tremont Hotel Four Days After the Great Fire.” It stood on the southeast corner of Powell and Carrall streets; not exactly on the corner, but afterwards at No. 16 Carrall Street.

Geo. L. Allen, owner of the first boot and shoe store, was asked, 24 February 1933, to elucidate the photograph. He said, “For booze,” then he smiled, “the boys had got to have their booze even if the town had burned down.”

Then he continued, “McKendrick, the man who made the famous boots. Oh, his was not a shoe store, he just made boots, what we called a ‘buck-eye’ shoe store. He had a little store on Cordova or Carrall Street; it was on Carrall Street first, I think, before the fire, afterwards Cordova.”

## **C.D. RAND.**

Together we called on Mr. Fowler, of E.E. Rand and Fowler, financial and real estate agents, Bower Building. Mr. Fowler said, “Oh, I burned all C.D. Rand’s books. They were lying around here so long, I could not keep them any longer; they were quite interesting too; showed all the purchases of the first lots sold in Vancouver.”

## **CLEARING THE FOREST OFF “WEST END.” E.G. BAYNES.**

E.G. Baynes, of Baynes and Horie, (generally reputed) owner of Grosvenor Hotel, also a forest lodge in the north, believed called Douglas something, park commissioner for many years, private in Vancouver’s first militia (volunteer) unit, associated with Holy Trinity (Anglican) Church and presented them with an organ; a splendid citizen of great public spiritedness and sound judgment. Mr. Baynes said, 25 July 1932:

“It seems to me to have been a long time before the area west of Nicola Street to the park was cleared of forest. I was employed with many others cutting down black stumps and burning them; over an area of large extent running from English Bay east as far as Bute or Thurlow, and I don’t know how far north.

“I arrived here 6 April 1889, and about a week after went to work as above for \$2.00 for ten hours. Then I went to help my uncle J.H. Franklin on some building work for Mr. E.H. Heaps on Powell Street.” (Also archway, at entrance, to first bridge to Stanley Park.)

“Possibly about two or three years later I helped to build the McCreery house on Pacific Street for \$3 per day,” (now site of Tudor Manor) “one of the first I think in that locality. Horrobin and Holden were contractors, Fripp architect. Tommy Graham, foreman, still alive, so is Mrs. Horrobin.”

## **ENGLISH BAY IN 1890s.**

“During this period and after we used to walk through the bush by path” (new growth) “from the Hotel Vancouver to English Bay. The sandy beach was then a very small area and our ‘dressing rooms’ were in the bushes.”