

## **Early Vancouver**

### **Volume Three**

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

**2011 Edition (Originally Published 1935)**

*Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.*

*Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.*

### **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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## **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK HAATSALANO, 2 FEBRUARY 1935.**

### **POTLATCHES.**

Query: What did the Indians use to "make a potlatch" before the whitemans came?

Haatsalano: "Blankets. The Squamish women made the blankets, Indian blankets. After the whitemans come they get other things. About one hundred guns, two thousand whitemans blankets, and thirty canoes, 'make a potlatch.'"

(Note: Prof. Hill-Tout records that Jonathan Miller told him that at one great potlatch held at Whoi-Whoi, Stanley Park, there were about two thousand Indians present.)

Query: What do you think about the banning by law of the potlatch? Don't you think that if the whiteman had emulated the noble spirit of the potlatch instead of interdicting it, it would have been more creditable? What a spectacle it would be to see a rich citizen of Vancouver on top of an elevated platform in Stanley Park, casting down on the crowd below the worldly riches it had taken him a lifetime to acquire! Did you have debauchery? Were there intoxicants before the whitemans came?

Haatsalano: "No whisky before whitemans. Whitemans come, he bring booze, spoil everything." (After pause) "Chinnalsut" (Jericho Charlie) "and Towhimqwhamkee" (Jack) "club together give big potlatch that time at Jericho."

### **INDIAN DANCES.**

"When Indians were dancing at potlatches, they danced by themselves; they did not hug a woman like the whitemans do. Hug woman no good. I never do it. Dance by myself. Only three Squamish mans now dance by themselves; nobody else. Just Chief Matthias," (Capilano) "? and myself. All rest dance with woman like whitemans," (making grimace and hugging motion to illustrate.) "Indian girls now paint faces like white womans, rouge lips, pluck eyebrows and make curve," (arched eyebrows) "put stuff on eyelids, high heels about four inches, long skirts down to ground; then they sweat, and" (drawing fingers down cheek) "paint run all down face. Don't like. No good. No good hug womans. Indian paint not run off cheek like whitemans face paint."

### **DEER AND ELK.**

Query: Didn't you tell me that Old Man Capilano (about 1860) shot thirteen elk on the shores of False Creek after a big snow storm? (Vancouver has just experienced one of the deepest falls of snow in her history, January 1935.)

Haatsalano: "Yes, I remember out Jericho beach, used to kill deer with a pike-pole. Snow so deep, deer come down on beach. When the tide go out they eat the kelp and sea grass. Jericho Charlie" (Chinnalsut) "come along in a boat; deer get frightened, can't go in snow, snow too deep, so deer strike out into the water. Go after them and kill them with a pike pole from the boat."

### **CANOES.**

"Indian name for canoe 'snaquaith.'"

## **MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK HAATSALANO, 15 MARCH 1935.**

### **INDIAN HOUSES. INDIAN MATS. INDIAN COOKING. INDIAN SOAP.**

Query: How did the Indians eat their meals before the whitemans came? They couldn't eat outside on a wet day.

A.J.H.: "Inside house, on mat. No wooden floor, just earth, then put a mat on earth to keep the dirt away, and then another mat on top."

Query: Why two mats?