

Hotel, Hastings, but in May, 1887, much to the amusement of my friends, I went out into the country and purchased two lots at the corner of Georgia and Thurlow streets. I could not, however, induce the city to clear a track so that I could reach that property until near the end of that year when I at once started building and moved out there in 1888. I had to lay the first sidewalk on Georgia at my own expense, as the city would not do it, and when I got the telephone there the company dunned me for more than a year to pay for the poles from Granville street down to my place, as they told me that no one else in that generation would ever go to live west of Granville street.

"My first office in town was in a little two-storey building on the east side of Granville street, where the northernmost section of the Hudson's Bay Company's store now stands. This little house belonged to a contractor, Mr. H. A. Bell, and I think I am safe in saying that it was then almost the only house on Granville street south of Hastings. When I looked out of my windows my view was limited to the foundations of the C. P. R. Vancouver Hotel, and to the frame of my own house in the wilds.

VANCOUVER FIRE RATHER EXAGGERATED.

"The fire which occurred in 1886 wiped out all the little town then existing, and it was a very terrible fire, but I think it has been somewhat exaggerated, as there were then not a dozen buildings of any size in the town. Such as they were, however, they were wiped out. I was in Kamloops with my family at the time.

"On May 24, 1887, we had horse racing on Granville street, which had just been cleared, and the stumps taken out from Georgia to Pacific street. And that reminds me that there was one other house south of Hastings on Granville, a very rude sort of building in which Mr. Charleson boarded the promiscuous gang of men who were clearing the townsite. Downstairs was an eating room, and upstairs at night the men lay like sardines round the walls. This building is still standing with a pretentious brick front, and is, I think, the next building to the north of the Cecil Hotel. There are still standing between Davie and Pacific streets a number of wooden houses which were brought bodily from Yale when the C. P. R. Company moved their shops from Yale to Vancouver the first year that they operated to this city, they having previously used the machine shops erected by Mr. Onderdonk for his construction work. These houses were for years—and may be yet—known as Yale Town.

CAPTAIN BOLE'S CANNON.

"At the same time that we were building a branch from Port Moody here we were constructing one into New Westminster. Mr. John Hendry was then Mayor of that city, and afforded us every facility in his power, as also did his successor, Mr. Dickinson. Early in 1886, as mayor, Mr. Dickinson turned the first sod of that branch alongside the old building at New Westminster, which had been the first Parliament House of the Province of British Columbia, and was opposite the gate of the penitentiary. Upon that occasion Captain Bole—afterwards Judge Bole—turned out with his company of artillery, and, when the sod was turned, fired a salute. A number of Chinamen had climbed up into an apple tree near the spot in order to look down at the proceedings. Captain