the dissolving snow in foaming torrents rushed down the sides and chasms of its rugged surface, exhibiting altogether a sublime, though gloomy spectacle, which animated nature seemed to have deserted. Not a bird, nor living creature was to be seen, and the roaring of the falling cataracts in every direction precluded their being heard, had any been in our neighbourhood.


THE WORLD SOUNDSCAPE PROJECT
SOME EARWITNESS ACCOUNTS

Were the intrepid navigator (Vancouver) to appear again on the same scene, it would, till lately, have presented nearly the same aspect as it did nearly one hundred years ago! The same solemn silence brooding on its waters: the same apparently impenetrable forests between the shore and the mountain tops. Now, however, how different! The whirr and rattle of machinery, life and building rivalry at once at Hastings, Moodyville, Port Moody and the new city called by his name. . . .

The British Columbia Directory, 1887.

I don’t know the song of this place. It doesn’t quite know its own tune. It starts with a deep full note on the mighty cedars, primeval, immense, full, grand, noble from roots to tips, and ends up a pitiful little squeak of nut bushes. Under the cedars you sense the Indian and brave, fine spiritual things. Among the nut bushes are picnickers with shrieking children bashing and destroying, and flappers in pyjama suits. And there are wood waggons and gravel waggons blatantly snorting in and out cutting up the rude natural roads, smelling and snorting like evil monsters among the cedars.

Emily Carr, Hundreds and Thousands.
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