

and was in Nicaragua at the time Walker made his celebrated filibustering expedition in that state. This outraged Mr. Johnston's sense of right and readily enlisted his sympathies for the Nicaraguan government to whom he offered his services. He was given a lieutenant's commission and while engaged in the discharge of his duties was severely wounded, his injuries incapacitating him for a period of eight months. When able to travel he went to Chile and embarked on the Florence Hamilton for California. The vessel was wrecked and all on board lost with the exception of Mr. Johnston and two others, whose fate for a time proved equally unfortunate as they were taken prisoners by the Indians. After spending about two months in captivity they succeeded in effecting their escape, managing to get back to Valparaiso. There they again took ship for San Francisco, which city they subsequently reached in safety. A few weeks later he joined a party of scientists and explorers on an expedition through southern California, Arizona and Utah. He remained with this party for a year, and after wintering in Salt Lake City, returned in 1857 to San Francisco. For some months thereafter he engaged in prospecting in California and southern Oregon, coming to British Columbia in February of the following year with the American boundary commission, among whose members were Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Parkes. It had been his intention to accept a position offered him on the commission, but on his arrival at Victoria he changed his mind and went up the Fraser river with a party of miners, prospecting for gold. They had made quite extensive explorations before the great influx of that year, following quickly upon the announcement of the discovery of gold, and were given considerable assistance by the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company. Upon reaching Fort Hope they obtained Indian guides and went by way of the Harrison-Lillooet portage to the point where Lillooet now stands. When they reached the Fraser river they made a leisurely journey down stream carefully examining the bars until they reached Mormon bar, situated a few miles above the mouth of the Thompson river, where they located. Here they prospected with very good success, until their stock of supplies became practically exhausted, when they were compelled to cease operations and make their way to the nearest trading post to secure a fresh supply of provisions. One of their members was left behind to protect their interests while the remainder of the party went down the river with the boat en route to Victoria. At Yale they met a large throng of incoming California miners, but continued to their destination, and after purchasing their supplies started on the return trip. They were delayed, however, by the high tide and the hostility of the Indians above Chapman bar, and when these obstacles had been removed they found that the man whom they had left to guard their claims had been starved out. Mr. Johnston remained in Chapman bar during 1858 and 1859, meeting with fair success in prospecting. In the autumn of the latter year he returned to Victoria, and after residing there for a time purchased land elsewhere and remained until 1862. Hearing wonderful reports regarding the reputed wealth of the Cariboo district, he determined to once more try his luck at prospecting, and spent the succeeding eleven years in that territory, experiencing all the varying fortunes and hardships, privations and dangers incident to mining life. During this period he was interested in claims on Williams', Lightning and Antler and other well known creeks, and on the whole was unusually successful. In 1873 he left Cariboo, going to Burrard Inlet, and thence to Seattle, where he remained for two years. He later returned to Victoria and came from there to Nanaimo, where in 1877 he established a wholesale and retail grocery and building supply business, which enterprise is now being conducted by his son Harold L. Johnston. A man of much business energy and sagacity, Angus R. Johnston readily became one of the foremost representatives of the commercial interests of the city, and his death robbed the community of one of its most public-spirited and progressive citizens. He was the first to develop herring fishing in British Columbia, and took an active interest in forwarding the development of other local activities.