

and about twenty-two, of whom Mr. Alexander was one, started for the mountains. They had considerable trouble in crossing the Athabasca but succeeded without any fatality. They entered British Columbia by the Yellowhead pass and up the valley of the Miette. At length they reached a stream flowing westward which proved to be the Fraser. They then hollowed out canoes and came down the river to the mouth of the Quesnelle. On the way Mr. Alexander's friend, Carpenter, with whom he had travelled all the way from Toronto, was drowned in the first canyon. When the party arrived at the mines they found everything frozen up and the majority of them went down the country to New Westminster, which place they reached bankrupt in pocket and expectation. Here Mr. Alexander found any number of people in his own position. He found educated men, accustomed all their lives to the comforts of civilization, engaged in the roughest work of pioneer life. It was these men who laid the foundation on which has been erected the present province of British Columbia. The first work at which Mr. Alexander engaged was chopping cordwood, near New Westminster, and during this period he lived principally on flour, bacon, tea and tobacco. After continuing at this work for some time he got a position in the office of Mr. (now Hon.) John Robson who was conducting the *British Columbian*. Here he remained for some months but in the Spring of 1863 went to Cariboo, engaging as a packer. He mined for a time on William's Creek but in the Autumn returned to Victoria without having had any success and during the winter he worked as a longshoresman on the Hudson's Bay Company's wharf. In 1864 he obtained a situation in a wholesale warehouse on Wharf street where he remained till 1870, when he came to Burrard Inlet to take charge of the store at Hasting's saw mill. At this time Captain Raymur was the manager of the mill. The shores of Burrard Inlet wore their fringes of primeval pine and the white-men who dwelt there could be counted on one's fingers. Shortly after his arrival the company signified its sense of the value of Mr. Alexander's services by promoting him to the position of accountant and on the death of Captain Raymur he was appointed manager. Since that time Mr. Alexander has resided continuously on Burrard Inlet in the position of manager of Hasting's mill. He has been a Justice of the Peace for the province for a long term of years and was a member of the first Granville school Board. When the city