

county grammar school at Picton, and then took a position in a drug store with the intention of ultimately studying medicine. After a year's acquaintance with this business he decided to abandon it, and went to Port Hope, where he entered the clothing establishment of his brother-in-law. He remained here for two years, after which he returned to Picton for a short time and then went to Texas, where he filled the position of secretary to the Texas Telegraph Company, of which his brother was general superintendent. He was here during the outbreak of the civil war in the United States. In the summer of 1861 he returned to Picton where he remained till March of 1862, when he left Ontario to come to British Columbia. After remaining in Victoria for a time he joined a mining party going to the Quesnelle, but after reaching the mines he saw plainly the condition of things and concluded to return to New Westminster. Here he secured a position in a general store which he retained till the autumn of 1863, when he formed a partnership with Mr. Major and opened a clothing and boot and shoe business, on Columbia street. He conducted this business till the Autumn of 1870, when he disposed of his interest, retaining his property in the city, however, and went to Sedoia, Missouri, for the purpose of entering into business with his brother. He stayed there till March, 1875, when he returned to New Westminster and opened a general business, which he conducted till August, 1878, when he was appointed sub-collector of customs, and stationed at New Westminster, which was then an outpost of Victoria. In 1880 New Westminster was made an independent customs port and Mr. Clute was appointed collector, which position he still continues to fill. Previous to his appointment on the customs staff Mr. Clute always took an active interest in politics, Dominion, Provincial and Municipal. He was one of the most active workers for confederation during the agitation of 1869 and 1870. He served the City of New Westminster at the council board for a number of years, and in 1867 was president of that body. He is a firm believer in the future greatness of the Province, and in New Westminster District as the most important part of the country. He is a member of the Masonic Order and Grand Master of British Columbia. He is also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In June, 1866, he was married to Miss Jenny Clarkson, daughter of Mr. William Clarkson, of Vancouver. Mr. Clute is an adherent of the Presbyterian Church.