

his native place by Ebenezer Watson who established a school there. At that time everything was in a very primitive condition and educational facilities were extremely limited. Mr. Duncan, at an early age, worked with his brothers in clearing the farm of timber, but during the winter and in summer evenings he attended school. He remained on the farm till 1862, when, in company with his brother James, he left Ontario for British Columbia, being attracted hither by the excitement over the discovery of gold. They came by way of Panama and arrived at Victoria on the 11th of May. During that summer Mr. Duncan worked on the wagon road between Yale and Lytton, while his brother went to the Cariboo mines. His brother took up what afterward proved to be one of the richest claims in Cariboo, and abandoned it as worthless, on the advice of an old miner. During the next year both brothers worked on the wagon road between Yale and Lytton, building bridges and constructing kerbing, and in the autumn Mr. Duncan went to Cariboo, leaving his brother who had made considerable money and had decided to return to eastern Canada. Mr. Duncan found a great deal of suffering and destitution in Cariboo, and the place over-crowded, when the difficulty of getting supplies in, were considered. He got the work of building a bridge across the Cottonwood river and when he had completed this he put up some buildings on Smith & Ryder's ranch. During the winter he drove a team for Smith & Ryder, from the mouth of the Quesnelle to the mines, bringing in goods to the camps. During this time he brought a boiler, weighing 1,500 pounds, from Fort Alexandria to the mines driving it in on his sleigh over the mule train. In the spring he started out prospecting, and located a claim on Stewart's creek. After carrying his supplies over the mountains on his back for a distance of twelve miles, to his claim and then working down to bed rock he found that it was barren, and abandoned it. He then went to Lightning creek and formed a company of Canadians to work a claim which he had prospected. They sunk a shaft thirty-seven feet, and during the whole summer they labored with energy. It cost them considerable money, and as everything was at that time exceedingly expensive, they ran short of funds, and decided to abandon the claim till the following spring. The company did not reform, and the claim was afterwards taken up and developed by another company, which made a great deal of money out of it. Mr.