

**Cunningham, Thomas, M.P.**, (New Westminster), was born in the Province of Ulster, Ireland, April 12th, 1837. His ancestors were prominent in Irish affairs during 1667-8-9, one of them having command of the ships that relieved the beleaguered inhabitants of Londonderry. Mr. Cunningham was brought up in the country and has always evinced a strong predilection for country life and pursuits. He emigrated to Canada in 1853 and after a year's residence in that country, at Kingston, Ont., he made a tour of France, Bermuda, Cuba, and the Southern States, returning to Kingston in 1855, where he remained until the discovery of gold in British Columbia. He came to the coast in April, 1859. On reaching California the discouraging reports he heard of British Columbia induced him to remain two months in that state. He finally came to Victoria in July, 1859. He remained there until the following spring and then tried his luck at Cariboo, walking all the way from Port Douglas to Antler Creek, carrying 90 lbs. of food besides blankets, tools and rocker iron. After trying the mines he settled in New Westminster, in the autumn of 1861, and went into business the next year, dealing in stoves and hardware. He bought out the Vancouver Coal Co., in 1864 and carried on that business in Nanaimo until 1867. He was elected to the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island, and cast his vote for the union of the two colonies. He removed to Oregon in 1867 and remained in that state till 1882, and carried on a mercantile and manufacturing business during that time. For ten years he manufactured wagons, carriages, and agricultural implements. This business he abandoned when the Central Pacific Railway rendered competition with eastern manufacturers impossible. He lost heavily by the failure of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and finally returned to New Westminster in 1882 resuming there his old business as a hardware merchant. His tastes led him to lay out and complete what are now known as Pelham Gardens in 1885 for the culture of fruit and cattle raising. Pelham Gardens are the finest in the Dominion. He took the first prize for fruits over all Canada at the last Toronto Exhibition (1889). His entire attention is now devoted to fruit growing and Jersey cattle breeding. He was elected to represent New Westminster city in 1889 in the Provincial Legislature. He was a member of the Westminster Municipal Council in 1864 and again in 1889, and had charge of the Queen's