

The detachment disbanded in October, 1863, after five years' service and all the officers and twenty-five or thirty of the men returned to England. Those who remained were given a free grant of 150 acres of land, and engaged in various occupations in the new colony.

For the facts in connection with the early history of New Westminster, we are indebted to His Honor, Judge F. W. Howay, who compiled in a very able manner, an account of the early happenings in British Columbia and which was delivered before the Arts, Historical and Scientific association of Vancouver on February 9th, 1909 and which was later put into book form.



#### THE LATE CAPT. ADOLPHUS PEELE

Second only to the late Col. J. T. Scott in the list of old-timers connected with New Westminster May Day festival is the late Capt. Adolphus Peele, a well-known resident of the Royal City, who passed to the great beyond on August 26th, 1916. Identified with the annual celebration from 1870 to 1915, no parade was considered complete during those years without Colonel Scott and Captain Peele being present, the latter to be found leading the parade.

One of Capt. Peele's outstanding characteristics was his adherence to old-time customs and institutions. He was a captain in the New Westminster Rifles, the first militia regiment of infantry in British Columbia. He was also a member of the Hyack Fire Brigade, and later of the Hyack Anvil Battery, which annually fires the Royal Salute of 21 "guns" on the Queen's birthday. He was also first secretary of the Royal Columbian Hospital.

Born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1841, he came out to Victoria in 1862. Two of his sons, P. R. Peele and C. D. Peele, are connected with the May Day festival, being members of the committee.

