

denoted strong individuality in his make-up. Brusque and energetic in his manner, he was at the same time genial, kind-hearted and generous, and numerous are the acts of a benevolent character recorded of him in life.

**Earle, Thomas, M.P.,** (Victoria), was born in Landsowne Township, county of Leeds, Ontario, on the 23rd of September, 1837. He is the youngest son of the late William Earle, who emigrated from Ireland during the early part of the present century and who was among the first settlers in Western Ontario. Mr. Earle was educated at his native place, and after gaining a thorough knowledge of mercantile pursuits opened a general store in the town of Brockville, which he continued to conduct till he left Ontario for British Columbia in 1862. In the spring of 1863 he went to the Cariboo District and mined for two seasons on William's Creek without, however, having much success. In the autumn of 1864 he returned to Victoria, and during 1865 and 1866 he held the position of bookkeeper in the grocery establishment of J. Rueffe & Co. In the spring of 1867 he was attracted to the Big Bend region by the excitement there, and he opened a general store at French Creek, which he conducted for two years. When the mines gave out he returned once more to Victoria where he formed a partnership in the wholesale grocery business with his former employer, Mr. James Rueffe. In 1873 Mr. Rueffe died, and Mr. Earle purchased his interest in the business, which he has since conducted. When the charter for the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway was given, Mr. Earle, in conjunction with Mr. McLellan, took a contract for the construction of twenty miles of the road, and on this work they expended over a million of dollars. During the past four years Mr. Earle, in conjunction with Mr. J. W. McLeod, has been continuously engaged on railway contract work on Puget Sound, and has assisted in the construction of most of the railway lines in Oregon and Washington, and is now interested in the West Shore road, which will connect with the C. P. R. Mr. Earle is interested in a great many of the important enterprises in the Province: as the Esquimalt Water Works Co., the Vancouver Water Works Co., the Alert Bay Canning Co., and many others. He is also interested in a number of quartz mines in the Selkirk range. He has been a member of the British Columbia Board of Trade for many years and has filled