

a partnership with Mr. Hankin and began a forwarding and commission business, dealing in miner's and general supplies, and sending goods to the Omineca, at the mouth of the Skeena river, and built a store at Woodcock's Landing. Their business prospered so well that in a short time Mr. Hankin went to Hazelton, at the headquarters of the Skeena river and opened a branch business. After he had been a year at Woodcock's Landing, Mr. Cunningham abandoned his claim there and pre-empted what is now the town site of Port Essington. The firm of Cunningham & Hankin continued to do business at Port Essington and Hazelton for about six years, at the end of which time the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Cunningham retaining the Port Essington branch of the business and Mr. Hankin the Hazelton branch. About this time Mr. McAllister built a saw mill at Port Essington and built the steamer Alexander. The Hudson's Bay Company also seeing the amount of business to be done there, came seeking a site for a store, and notwithstanding the fact that the company had all along been doing all they could to injure his business, Mr. Cunningham furnished them with land on which to build. The company accordingly began business in opposition to him with the avowed intention of destroying his trade. They had superior advantages bringing their own goods in and refusing to carry his freight, except at abnormally high prices. Nevertheless after a bitter struggle of five years duration the company abandoned the fight and withdrew from the field after having sacrificed about \$5,000.00. About this time Mr. Cunningham's attention was turned to the salmon fishing on the Skeena river. In 1880 Mr. Neal started the Inverness Cannery, and Mr. Cunningham in the year following established a saltery under the name of the "Skeena Packing Company." In 1882 Mr. Cunningham established his present canning business and has since conducted it. It is the largest establishment on the Skeena and is fitted up in the most approved manner. His brand of canned salmon, the diamond "C," is well known in America and Europe. Last year his returns from his business netted him over \$100,000.00. In 1883 he built a saw mill at Port Essington. In 1889 Mr. Cunningham established a business at the Forks of the Skeena, where there will in time be a town as there is a fine farming country about it. Mr. Cunningham has two tugs on the water, the Muriel and the Cariboo Fly. He is a member of the Masonic Order.