

He was educated at Midmar, under George Mortimer, M. A., with a view to fitting himself for a commercial career. In 1855 he came to Canada with his parents, who settled in Elora, Wellington county, Ontario, where Mr. Grant subsequently engaged in the lumber business. He was attracted by the reported riches of British Columbia, and in 1862 came to the Pacific coast, landing at Victoria, on the 11th of March. During 1862 and 1863 he was engaged as chief commissary and pay master on the trunk road from Lillooet to Alexandria. In 1864 he was chief commissary and paymaster during the building of the wagon road from Quesnelle mouth to Cottonwood river. In 1866 he engaged in mining in Cariboo and continued at this business with success till 1871. In that year he superintended the building of the Seymour portage and wagon road. He subsequently had contracts for building portions of the wagon road from New Westminster to Hope, and also for the road from Spencer's bridge up the Nicola valley. During part of 1871-2 he was engaged in general merchandise on the Peace river. Since 1876 Mr. Grant has been engaged largely in the freighting, mining and steamboat business and has rendered material assistance in developing the quartz mines of the Province, notably in Rock creek, Yale District, where he applied the hydraulic system. Mr. Grant was general superintendent during the building of the wagon road from Cache Creek to Savona's Ferry in 1886. In the general election of 1882 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia as representative for Cassair district, and in the election of 1886 was again returned. At the last general election in June, 1890 Mr. Grant stood for the city of Victoria and was elected at the head of the poll. From 1885 to 1887 he was a member of the municipal council of the city of Victoria, and from 1888 till the present time he has held the position of Mayor of that city. Mr. Grant has never failed of election to any public position in the gift of the people. In Dominion politics he is thoroughly independent, contending that from neither party has this Province received that consideration to which she is justly entitled. In Provincial politics he is opposed to the present government, believing that the course pursued by it is not in the best interests of the Province. Mr. Grant is one of the most enterprising and successful men in British Columbia. He has been in this country almost since the birth of the colony, has been engaged in business in almost every