

He is a member, both, of the Institute of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, of England. At the last general election he was again returned to the Provincial Legislature as representative of Cowichan district.

**Cunningham, Robert,** (Skeena), second son of the late George Cunningham, who was an extensive farmer in the north of Ireland, was born in 1837 in the county of Tyrone, Ireland. He received his elementary education at his native place, and at the age of 18 years entered Islington College, the Church of England Missionary Society's College at London. He pursued his studies there for three years, when in 1862 he was sent to British Columbia by the society as a lay teacher. He arrived at Victoria on the 26th of September and remained there till the following March, assisting Rev. Mr. Cridge and studying the native language. He then went north to the Metlakatla Mission where he worked in conjunction with Mr. Duncan. After two years arduous labor in this field, Mr. Cunningham abandoned missionary work and entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. He continued in the employ of this company for five years, two years of which were spent in charge of a post on the Naas River and three years in charge of a post at Fort Simpson. In 1869 the Hudson Bay Company sent Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Manson to explore a route from Stikine river to Dease's Lake. They accomplished the work successfully and with remarkable quickness, and were the first white men who traversed this portion of the country. While at Dease they camped at the mouth of Dease Creek, and Mr. Cunningham in examining the gravel came to the conclusion that it contained gold. When he returned he unfolded his discovery to a number of miners who, on his representations, determined to prospect it. Mr. Cunningham accordingly gave them a sketch of the route to the lake and the bearings of the compass by which they were enabled to reach the spot indicated. Mr. Cunningham's predictions were found to be correct, the miner's finding gold in good paying quantities. This was the first of the gold ~~digging~~ mining in Cassiar. About this time Mr. Cunningham applied to the company for increased remuneration for his services. The company not wishing to lose so valuable an employee offered him a gratuity but this he refused and in the autumn of 1869 he resigned his position. In the following spring he formed