



OUR PROMINENT CITIZENS.

W. J. McGuigan, M.D., C.M., whose portrait is given above, undoubtedly merits a conspicuous place in THE HORNET'S gallery of men who have achieved prominence in this City and Province. He has not only earned, and maintained, a foremost place in his profession, but he has taken an active part in public affairs, and has shown himself, in every instance, not only energetic and zealous, but also eminently capable of fully discharging every duty that devolved upon him.

Dr. McGuigan was born in Stratford, Perth County, Ontario, on July 20th, 1853, and is, consequently, very near the close of the fourth decade of his life. He was educated in the Public Schools of Stratford, graduating, in due course, from the Grammar School as the High School was then called. He afterwards took the curriculum at the Collegiate Institute, Galt, proceeding from there to McGill University, Montreal, from which famous seat of learning he graduated with high distinction in Medicine and Surgery in the class of 1879.

While at the University, he was chosen editor of *The McGill University Gazette*, a position which he held with much credit and success for two years. He had early displayed a decided talent for literary work, and, notwithstanding that a busy professional career has left him but little leisure to indulge his tastes in that direction, he has, nevertheless, found time to do a considerable amount of writing of a decidedly high class, and was unanimously elected to write the valedictory poem when he and his fellow-graduates left their *Alma Mater* for good.

On entering upon his professional career, he secured the appointment of Surgeon to the Grand Trunk Railway, at Sarnia, but was forced, after a year had elapsed, to abandon that field, owing to his having contracted fever and ague in such an aggravated form that it very nearly broke him down utterly.

He, shortly afterwards, went to London, Ontario, where he practised his profession for five years, making many friends and earning a very high reputation for skill, both as physician and surgeon. He was, during that time, closely identified with the Medical Department of the Western University, and with the various scientific bodies in the city. He filled the office of Registrar of the Medical Faculty of the University, and occupied the chairs of Botany and Therapeutics, besides delivering a series of lectures on Physiology. Many of his old students, in various parts of the continent, still retain a warmly appreciative recollection of the clearness of his demonstrations, and the exceedingly interesting way in which he communicated instruction.

In 1885, he came to British Columbia, travelling over the C.P.R., as far as Donald, the western terminus of construction at that time. He accepted the appointment of surgeon to the Railway Company, with headquarters at Donald, and discharged the duties of that position until the road was completed, when he came to this city, accompanied by his brother, Thomas F. McGuigan, Esq., now City Clerk of Vancouver, and J. J. Blake, Counsellor-at-Law.

Since that time, Dr. McGuigan has made his home in this city, and established an extensive and lucrative practice, commanding the thorough confidence of all in his professional skill.

In 1888, the Doctor made a trip to Hong Kong and back, on the S.S. *Batavia*, one of the old liners which traded between this port and the Orient, before the "Empresses" were put on the route. He visited, in the course of his voyage, Canton, Amoy, Tokio and Kobe, and embodied his impressions of those cities, and their inhabitants, in a series of most interesting letters to the *News Advertiser*, of this city, to the great delight of the readers of that journal. They were characterized no less by evidences of close and intelligent observation, than by exceptional descriptive power, and elegance of diction.

He first took part in the administration of municipal affairs in 1889, when he was elected a member of the School Board, and was chosen secretary of that body. In 1892 he was elected a member of the City Council, and was selected as Chairman of the Board of Health. It was during that year that the smallpox epidemic broke out in the city. Dr. McGuigan, in that time of trouble and danger, did splendid service in checking the spread of the plague, and in stamping it out. Indeed, it was largely through his prompt action, and untiring energy, that the disease carried off, comparatively speaking, so few victims, and that its ravages were finally stayed. The community cannot be too grateful to him for the services he rendered on that occasion.

Dr. McGuigan has been Coroner for this city, and part of the district of Westminster, since 1886, having been appointed to that office by the late Hon. John Robson, whose warm personal friend he was, and he has fulfilled the important duties devolving upon him in that capacity, most efficiently and satisfactorily.

He has been examiner for the British Columbia Medical Council for six years, having been, of course, a member of that body for the same period. He was elected President of the Council for the year 1889.

He is also Associate Editor, for British Columbia, of *The Ontario Medical Journal*, published in Toronto, and his contributions to that periodical are regarded as of very high value, and as indicative of profound, minute and accurate acquaintance with the literature and practice of his profession.

The Doctor is a Liberal-Conservative in politics, and has always been a staunch and unwavering supporter of his party. He is very liberal in his ideas on religious questions, regarding all creeds and sects with a broad-minded tolerance which is as rare as it is pleasing to meet with. As already indicated, he is of a decidedly literary turn of mind, and is an accomplished linguist, devoting much of his leisure time to the acquisition of languages. Being of a very cheerful and sociable disposition, he has hosts of warm friends and admirers in the community, whose hearty esteem he has acquired, and whose warm regard he will never lose.

A NEW COMPANY.

The Kanaka Bar Gold Dredging Company, (Limited), has been incorporated, with Messrs. R. A. Anderson, W. H. Goodwin and C. S. Bailey, as trustees. The capital stock of the company will be 500 shares at \$10 each, and will be subject to two calls of 10 per cent each. Should there be a necessity for third or additional calls, the holder of stock may refuse to pay them, and will be entitled to demand and receive paid-up certificates for the amount he shall have paid in. The company proposes to dredge the bed of the Fraser for about three miles, extending from a point about 200 yards below Kanaka Bar to another about 100 yards below the C. P. R. cantilever bridge, and from all indications, and the testimony of Dr. Dawson, (Annual Report, Part R., of the "Geological and National History Survey of Canada"), the operations will undoubtedly bring splendid returns. The dredging will be probably done by a centrifugal pump, which will suck up 200 tons per day. The office of the company is at 307 Cambie street, (R. A. Anderson & Co.), where full information can be had.