

Coigdarripe, and Boucherrat, before becoming Pither & Leiser in 1893. The company had the exclusive license to import the products of G.H. Mumm & Co. and Gordon & Co., and also distributed tobaccos from all over the world. Their Victoria operation, managed by George Gardiner, was in the six-storey building at the corner of Wharf and Fort; it had a well-appointed display and sampling room, an elevator, and electric lights throughout the upstairs warehousing area. Pither & Leiser competed strenuously with companies like the Tulks' Gold Seal Liquor Company for the lucrative, by-the-case, wine and spirit tastes of Victoria's moneyed families. Following the establishment of the Liquor Control Board in the early twenties, the Tulks quit the business altogether, and the Pither & Leiser building became Victoria's first Liquor Control Board warehouse, and was a liquor store until 1966.

The block to the northwest of Fort Street along Wharf Street contains the Rithet Building, recently restored as provincial government offices. R.P. Rithet & Co. Ltd. were importers and commission agents for groceries and liquor, and were exclusive agents for the Distillers Co. of Edinburgh. The firm was founded in September, 1871, when Rithet was

27. His interest in developing the harbour front led to the construction of "Rithet's Outer Wharves" at Dallas & Simcoe, which before World War I handled most of Victoria's deep-sea shipping business. The building just south of Rithet's at 1107 Wharf was erected in 1862 by wholesale merchant Richard Carr, the father of artist Emily Carr, and is now a gallery devoted to the latter's paintings.

Another successful Victoria businessman was Samuel Nesbitt, who made enough money in California with the Forty-Niners to move to Victoria and open a bakery at the southwest corner of Broad and Yates in 1858. Several years later, after the fort was dismantled, he moved the bakery to Fort Street between Langley and Wharf. The bakery was something of a novelty in early Victoria, "equal to anything of the kind we have met with on the Coast," said the *Colonist*. Prior to Nesbitt's arrival, bread was either baked at home or else came from Port Townsend. The local Indians also approved, as they supposedly liked to use the biscuit tins for the personal effects of their deceased. Nesbitt became "Purveyor of Bread & Biscuits to Her Majesty's Navy," and built another bakery on a dock at Esquimalt harbour. When the dock collapsed early in 1867, Nes-

Amelia St

2 pgs.



James Hunter, the Pither & Leiser liquor company manager.

Amelia Street south of Cormorant, between Blanshar and Quadra streets. Today, fit remain of the seven little workingmen's houses, dating from the late 1880s, which use line the block. The brick semidetached pair on the left would not be out of place in London, Toronto, Montreal, or Sydney.

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2 pgs.

