

## CONSULTING OLD DIRECTORIES.

SEEKING ANCESTORS AND CRIMINALS AT A SHILLING A SHOT.

There are three occasions in every man's life when the Government marks him down in its great ledger—when he is born, when he marries, and when he dies. What he does in between, where he goes, and how he lives, Government keeps no record, for there are no alphabetical indexes to voting-lists and tax-books. But so long as Smith, Jones, Brown, or Robinson pays—or owes—rent for a house, an office, or a flat, there is one eye which is never off him. And that eye is the eye of the directory-maker.

There is a place in London—a gloomy, windowless room on the second floor of a handsome building in High Holborn—where most of what that eye has seen for a hundred years is registered. It costs you, at least, a shilling to get into that dark chamber, and it may cost you five or ten shillings before you come out again.

The mysterious apartment in question is the "file-cupboard" of Kelly's—the great firm of directory makers. A "file" is, in printers' parlance, a stock of specimen-issues, and a "file-copy" is a copy kept for office use or reference. Bound or unbound, books

or papers, all such reserved copies are said to be "filed."

In this particular "file-cupboard" there are the accumulations of a hundred-and-odd years; the famous "Post-Office Directory of London" has been running for a century now, and Kelly's, in addition to publishing a few scores of old-established directories for all parts of Britain, have bought up all sorts and sizes of directories, that go back even before the first issue of their own Directory. Most of these valuable volumes are kept in a massive locked case in an outer office—the "file-cupboard" proper is too dark and dusty for them. One little old book—the earliest authentic directory of London—bears the date 1783, and holds little more than seven thousand names. But these very old copies are not so often consulted as are the later and bulkier ones in the "file-cupboard."

If you should ever want to prove—in order to claim a dukedom or a marquessate—that your ancestor William Higgins lived in Tomkinson street, Clerkenwell, in eighteen hundred and something, just step round to Kelly's and ask to see the file-copy for that year. You will have to fill in a little slip of paper to this effect, and pay a shilling. Then upstairs you go to the "file-cupboard," which has a special guardian all to itself, and

## VALUABLE AIDS TO BUSINESS.

## Kelly's Directory of the Merchants, Manufacturers and Shippers of the World.

The Standard Export Medium Endorsed by the British Government—Published Annually, price \$9.00.

## Trade Directories of Great Britain.

|   | Price. |
|---|--------|
| Cabinet Furniture and Upholstery Trades...                        | \$6 00 |
| Grocery and Oil and Color, and Provision Trades...                | 10 00  |
| Leather Trades...   | 8 00   |
| Stationers, Publishers, Printers, Booksellers and Paper Makers... | 7 00   |
| Chemists and Druggists and Chemical Manufacturers...              | 7 00   |
| Engineers, Iron and Metal Trades...                               | 9 00   |
| Manufacturers of Textile Fabrics...                               | 10 00  |
| Watch and Clock, Goldsmith and Jewellers' Trades...               | 6 00   |
| Building Trades...  | 9 00   |
| Wine and Spirit Trades, Brewers and Distillers...                 | 7 00   |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Post Office London Directory (100th annual edition) | 10 00 |
| Titled, Landed and Official Classes                 | 5 00  |
| Clergy List   | 3 00  |
| Royal Blue Book                                     | 2 00  |

## Colonial Directories.

|                                   | Price.  |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Queensland Official Directory     | \$13 00 |
| Post Office Directory of Victoria | 13 00   |
| " " New Zealand                   | 13 00   |
| " " New South Wales               | 13 00   |
| " " Western Australia             | 5 00    |
| " " South Australia               | 5 00    |
| " " Tasmania                      | 5 00    |
| Directory of Belgium              | 7 00    |
| General Directory of South Africa | 7 00    |

All these Directories contain a classified Business list.

## National Directories.

|                                      | Price.  |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Royal National Directory of Scotland | \$14 00 |
| Royal National Directory of Ireland  | 11 00   |

## PARIS EXPOSITION, 1900.

Kelly's Directories, Ltd., of London, Eng., desire to announce to their many patrons in the Dominion, and to Canadian Manufacturers generally, that they have made arrangements for prominent space in the Paris Exposition in 1900, in which to Exhibit their

## COMMERCIAL DIRECTORIES

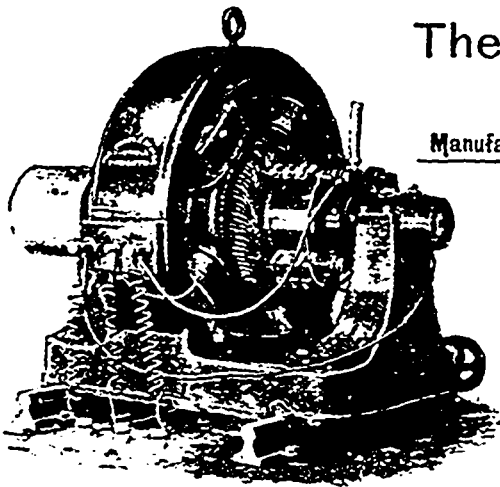
prominent amongst which are the Merchants, Manufacturers and Shippers of the World. Employes conversant with the French, German, Italian, Spanish and other languages will be in daily attendance, and the names and addresses of British and Colonial Manufacturers will be furnished all enquirers interested therein.

N.B.—Special type-written lists furnished of all the Professions, Trades, Agricultural, Cattle and other Industries of the whole of Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and South Africa—for 30 cents per hundred; and rebate allowed on all envelopes returned to us post-marked "Can't find."

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