

## PREFACE.

The Williams' British Columbia Official Directory has been for so many years an important factor in Provincial commercial circles that an introduction at this date is almost superfluous. Started in 1882, when only about 6,000 names could be gathered together, which were with difficulty obtained in consequence of the very sparse population then resident in the Province.

The work has grown to such an extent that the present issue contains over eight times the number of names the first issue had. This fact illustrates clearly a steady increase in population, coupled with the growth of the vast lumbering, fisheries, and many other thriving industries, along with the largely increasing yield of gold, and other precious metals, are all indicative of the satisfactory progress that the Province is at present making, commercially, manufacturing, in agriculture and in her mines. From the vast northern possessions at the head waters of the Yu-

kon, in the North-West Territory of Canada, to golden Kootenay on the south and east, and traversing Vancouver Island from north to south, is one vast mineralized bed of gold-bearing rocks and alluvial deposits. The ore in many sections on the surface is known as low grade, of such are some of the most celebrated mines in the world, but with modern improved appliances thousands of claims will become profitable gold producers, as proven by a number that are now paying their fortunate owners most handsomely. To bring great numbers of most promising prospects that have been discovered up to the standard of paying mines both capital and labor are required, and as both are now being attracted to this country of wonderful resources, British Columbia will prove herself to be the banner Province of the Dominion.

For the Williams British Columbia Directory Co, Limited,

R. T. WILLIAMS.  
September, 1897.