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INTRODUCTORY.

The publishers have the honor to present to their patrons their first annual edition of the Hamilton City Directory. They ask a comparison to be made between their book and that of former publications, and are satisfied that the improvements that have been made will merit a continuation of the support already given, and an additional patronage from those who have withheld it before. Below we give the number of names that appeared in Irwin's Directory for 1887, and the number that appear in our present edition. We would call attention to our classified directory at the end of the book—which is *complete*. In the last directory we find the classified has been very imperfect, for instance: we find no list of Barbers, Blacksmiths, Coopers, Flour mills, Furniture manufacturers and dealers. Stove manufacturers, etc., etc., so that any one looking for such a list would infer that no such industry was carried on in Hamilton. In the street directory we give the profession, business, etc., opposite the name only when it is the place of business of the occupant, so that where no occupation is there given, it is at once determined to be the private residence of the individual; and where the occupation of such person is desired, it can readily be found in the body of the book. In the alphabetical list of names we use the letter "h" to denote a householder, and the letters "bds" to denote a dweller there who is not the householder. In giving the name of a person whose place of business is at the same number as their residence, we use the term "h same," thereby denoting that they are in business on their own account, and not employed by others. As given in former directories, such information could not be determined, for instance: "Smith, John, blacksmith, 154 John n," it could not be determined whether this person had his shop there or simply his residence, or whether he was in business for himself. By our method: "Smith, John, blacksmith, 154 John n, h same," it can be determined that he is in business for himself, and that his shop and residence are at the same place. Many other points could be mentioned, such as giving first names in full, individual members constituting firms, etc., etc., but we will not dwell on this matter, and merely ask the public to compare our work with others. In giving the gross list of names we have excluded all females living with relatives of the same name, except in the cases of school teachers, and they are *not* included in the *net* number of individual names. During our canvass the publisher of former Hamilton Directories inserted in the daily papers scurrilous notices reflecting on our honesty of purpose, our nationality, etc. In refutation of these notices the undersigned would say that he is a native Canadian, having been born and educated in Canada, that the staff employed are nearly all Canadians, that some of them are residents of Hamilton, and that our printing, binding, etc., is done in Hamilton. We will do everything we promise, and leave our work to speak for itself. At 22 Main street east we have established our office, where will be found for the free use of our patrons directories of the principal cities of Canada and the United States.

ACTUAL LIST OF INDIVIDUAL NAMES SHOWN IN EACH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET.

Polk & Co's Directory, 1888.		Irwin's Directory, 1887.	
A.....	488	A.....	356
B.....	1475	B.....	1065
C.....	1237	C.....	909
D.....	740	D.....	539
E.....	262	E.....	183
F.....	627	F.....	488
G.....	703	G.....	543
H.....	1258	H.....	902
I.....	76	I.....	53
J.....	362	J.....	257
K.....	440	K.....	340
L.....	701	L.....	490
Forward.....	8369	Forward.....	6125
Total.....	15517	Total.....	11427
Names of firms, incorporated companies, etc.....	751	Names of firms, incorporated companies, etc.....	653
Gross.....	16268	Gross.....	12080

In estimating the population we take 3 to each name, which is a very low estimate, so by multiplying the net number of names by 3 would give us a population of 46,551.

Respectfully,

ALBERT DUFFILL,
Resident Canadian Partner,
Office 22 Main st. east.

R. L. POLK & CO.