

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA DIRECTORY FOR 1884-85.

R. T. Williams, publisher; Wm. Wolz, compiler, Victoria. Price, \$1.50.

This second year's publication is well up to the former in good arrangement, good printing and strong binding. It is much superior in general make up to the ordinary directories of our eastern cities, and contains a mass of reliable information about our fair Province.

Before another issue the iron band will have knit together the east with the west, and no doubt the 3,000 names in the present work will have very largely increased.

A NEW DAY OF ISSUE.—The edition of *The Century Magazine* are now so large that it has become necessary either to go to press at an early date or to postpone the day of issue. The latter alternative has been accepted. The April number, the edition of which was 225,000, was delayed until the 25th of March. The May number—edition, 250,000—will be issued on the first day of May, thus inaugurating with the first number of the thirtieth volume a change which has long been considered desirable by the publishers, and which it is believed will be heartily commended by the public. Future numbers of *The Century Magazine* will be issued on the 1st day of the month of which each bears date.

Novelties.

Selected from the American Stationer.

A new kind of porcelain is called the Matsunokeo—the Japanese for daisy. It comes in the softest shades of amber, primrose, pale and turquoise blue, and ruby red, with daisies on the outside for decorations.

The next new things in Papeteries will be the electric light. Taking advantage of the well-known electrical qualities of paper an extra charge will be put in. The sheets will be made positive and the envelopes negative, and will be put up separately in boxes. They will be sold to parties who wish to present them to their acquaintances. When the letter is written and is put into the envelope, there is a sudden disturbance, a small crash of thunder and the letter and envelope disappear in sulphurous smoke.

It will not be long before the latest London craze will develop in this country. From things æsthetic the furor is going to the other extreme. The "curiosity table" has become the rage. It is painted black, and glazed, and is decorated (!) with cards, bits of patchwork, photographs, addressed envelopes and all sorts of odds and ends.

The skin of fish is fast coming into vogue as a source of fine leather. Cat, sturgeon and the like are carefully skinned, their hides tanned and used for covering travelling-bags, toilet-cases and smaller articles of use and ornament. The very latest, however, is the skin of toads, frogs, large bats, &c., tanned and used for covering portmonies, hand-bags, and other articles that ladies clamor for.

Large cut crystal balls are popular as umbrella handle tops. They are ornamented by having a colored bow tied just above them.—TRADE LOUNGER.

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