

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

TOO ZEALOUS BY FAR.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

THE United States Government authorities have waged a war on every philatelic publisher who has been using cuts of United States stamps or coins. Even the parts of stamps and stamped envelopes which were once used to distinguish die varieties, and appeared in old editions of Standard catalogues, are no longer permissible.

Every imitation, from a half-tone plate to a wood-cut, has been suppressed, yet the public press, the large metropolitan dailies, are free to use anything in the way of an imitation of United States coins or stamps that they may see fit.

When the new Columbian issue was put upon the market, our philatelic journals could only give a description of them, their colors, the scenes depicted, etc., while the New York and Chicago dailies illustrated each one of the types, and so far as I know were not interfered with by the government officials.

This government of ours seems to ignore the services rendered to it by philatelists, who might be aptly termed the watch-dogs of the postal service, just as Senator Sherman is called "The Watch-dog of the Treasury."

Philatelists have been the means of protecting the government against counterfeit issues; they have even been on the alert towards the elevation and betterment of the United States postal service. Yet we have exemplified the old saying that "republics are ungrateful."

The United States government, through the customs branch of its service, has compelled philatelists to pay a duty on importations of cancelled stamps which should have been admitted free of duty under the existing tariff laws; because the same are not produced here, and the tariff levied thereon can in no wise protect home labor; because these cancelled postal issues, the products of foreign labor, in no wise serve to antagonize home productions, or lessen the wages of home labor.

The United States, through its revenue service, has seized all cuts used in illustrating catalogues of dealers, and in various other ways shown its enmity to the stamp collecting fraternity. We do not think the government itself is wholly responsible for these indignities, but that it is the work of petty officers who by these manoeuvres hope to gain recognition of their untiring (?) devotion to governmental work.

We feel that they are too zealous by far, when they pounce upon small fry, and leave the large and powerful newspapers to do just that which they prohibit us to do. If the use of cuts to illustrate the stamps and coins of our glorious commonwealth is contrary to law, and future productions of this kind are prohibited, and past productions are seized and destroyed, it is but fair that the mighty corporations controlling the daily newspapers should forfeit their right to produce illustrations, as well as the insignificant stamp vendor, whose use of them would not be half as public nor gain near such a wide circulation as the daily newspaper gives.

Only last evening I noted a descriptive article of the new Isabella quarter-dollar of the United States, which gave a true illustration of the obverse and reverse of this coinage. The article appeared in a leading St. Louis paper, and there was no more stir over it than if it had been a cut of a Confederate bill, or a bit of continental scrip. The St. Louis daily is

unmolested, yet a San Francisco dealer is visited by a government official and all his coin cuts of United States issues are confiscated.

Any manufacturing firm, an opera company, in fact any large corporation that sees fit to present in an advertising souvenir a representation, in the proper colors of a United States stamp, or a postal card, are unmolested, while a petty stamp dealer is "drawn over the coals."

I trust the time is not far off when our government will awake to the fact that they have powerful allies in postal reform in the philatelic fraternity, and if they do not grant us especial favors will at least give us the same privileges that are accorded to others.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

BY T. G. SUTHERLAND.

ONE of the most pleasing methods of adding to one's collection, and at the same time obtaining a large number of duplicates, is by exchanging with collectors in foreign countries. Having considerable experience in that line, I give a few rules and suggestions for carrying it out successfully. If you look into the columns of any good philatelic journal, such as the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, *Philatelic Journal of America*, etc., you will probably find enough exchange notices from collectors all over the world to keep you engaged for some time in answering. It also pays to insert a notice of your own occasionally. In an American paper a correspondent says that he has always been swindled when he tried foreign exchange correspondents, and advises collectors to exchange with persons as near home as possible, as they will get their returns much sooner, and will be better satisfied in every way. My experience has been quite the reverse. I have only been swindled in one instance, and I think that it is a pretty good guarantee of the honesty of foreign collectors; as I have done a great deal of exchanging. I append a few rules which may prove useful to you when sending stamps to foreign collectors for exchange.

1. Never send stamps to anyone who promises to give you twice as much as you send, or something of that nature, unless you are sure of his reliability. He is very apt to be a fraud; as a rule it is only safe to exchange with such collectors or dealers that will give you the same quantity and quality in exchange.

2. Don't send too many of the commoner class of stamps, but send as good an assortment as possible. It aggravates a collector to receive a worthless lot of common stamps. Never send common stamps to a dealer unless he so requests.

3. Always employ enough postage on your letters; a double postage is charged the party receiving the letter for any deficiency which exists. Write your letter on thin paper, confining yourself to one sheet if possible. Use a stamped envelope if you can get it, or the better class of adhesives.

4. If you have special wants in any countries, let your correspondent know them. He will generally oblige you by either getting the stamps for you, or telling you where you can obtain them. Foreign collectors are generally very obliging.

5. Never try to cheat your correspondents. It is as mean as it is wrong, of all things be honest.