

We would draw our readers attention to an advertisement of a stamp collector's directory, in another column; we are not personally acquainted with Mr. Troy, but have no doubt as to his *bona fide* intentions. Such a work is much needed.

THE CANADIAN POST.

FROM THE EARLIEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

By F. N.

(Continued from page 8)

OUR LETTER BOX.

A. P. S., Franklin. N. H.—Wishes to know the value of a collection of 1200. We have seen collections of 1200 for which we would not give \$5, and others which were worth \$500; it is impossible to value a collection without seeing it.

J. A. E., Rockford. Ill.—We are not in want of any match stamps.

J. A. P. Elizabeth. N. J.—We are well supplied with Confederate States, what other rarities can you let us have?

W. H. B. St. John. N. B.—We find your prices very high, can get the stamps for much less, what others have you?

EXPLANATION.

Having been requested by our editor, as well as numerous correspondents, to give up our idea of having a stamp lottery, we have willingly consented. We say willingly, as we find that so many parties disapprove of the matter.

Wishing to please, as many of our patrons as possible, we beg to state that the subscription price will be continued at 50 cents, but will include the right, to a share, in an annual distribution of premiums for subscribers only.

We will on receipt of postage forward to each of our subscribers a cheque, which is to be retained by them until the end of the half year, and is not transferable. Only subscribers for the year will have any right to a cheque.

Hoping that the above will prove satisfactory to all parties, we would further state that we have been making arrangements to have our paper illustrated, and should we receive sufficient support, we hope soon to be in a position, to enlarge it to double its present size.

All parties wanting further information, or specimen copies, will please address, with stamp for reply,

BIRT, WILLIAMS & Co.

POSTAL DELAYS IN INDIA.—A good story comes to us from Kashmir, and, we are sorry to say, a true one. One day no letters were distributed at Srinagar, and anxious inquirers at the post office could obtain no information or redress. At length an official circular came round to all the residents, stating that as an English officer had severely thrashed the postmaster that morning, this functionary was disabled by his wounds from discharging his duties, and no letters would be issued until his recovery.—*Calcutta Englishman.*

In the following year (1852) the rate of postage to England, *via* U. S., being reduced to 10d., the 12d. became obsolete, and a stamp to represent the new rate was issued in the month of June. At the same time the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and $7\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps were issued, so that the 1852 emissions were as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ penny, rect, Queen Victoria, rose.

$7\frac{1}{2}$ pence cy. 6d. stg, rect, Queen Victoria, green.

10 pence cy. 8d. stg, rect, Jacques Cartier, blue.

All the stamps of the pence series appear in various shades, usually from dark to light. Mention is made in some catalogues of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d surcharged 8d and 1 but such stamps are purely fictitious.

In 1855 the money order system was introduced, followed in 1856 by the registered letter system, in the same year the Grand Trunk Railway was completed as far as Toronto, so that in connection with the Great Western, there now was an unbroken line of railway communication, between Rivière du Loup, a village about 100 miles below Quebec, and Windsor in Canada West.

Towards the end of the year 1857, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 3d. and 6d. stamps were issued perforated, and no doubt the $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 10d. would have also undergone this improvement, had not the decimal currency been adopted in 1859, when of course it was necessary to prepare a new issue. This series, which appeared on July 1st 1859, was engraved by the American Bank Note Company, and consisted of the following:—

1 cent, rect, Queen Victoria, rose.

5 cents, oblong, beaver, vermilion.

10 cents, rect, Prince Albert, lilac and brown.

$12\frac{1}{2}$ cents, rect, Queen Victoria, green, light and dark.

17 cents, rect, Jacques Cartier, blue.

On unwatermarked paper, perforated.

These are almost identical in design with the preceding issue.

In 1861 Messrs Nesbitt & Co., of New York, received the contract for a supply of stamped envelopes, these were issued in the same year, and consist of only two values as follows:—

5 cents, oval, head of Queen to left, vermilion.

10 cents, oval, head of Queen to left, brown.

On white, laid paper, watermarked CA. P.O.D.

In 1864 a 2 cent stamp was issued, for the postage on soldiers letters, it is similar in color and design to the 1 cent, with the addition of the figures of value, in the angles.

(To be continued.)