

and bore the address of a government officer at Manila.

The contractor who carries mail between the postoffice and the Union Station secured an extra waggon to take the desk to the train, and it travelled in a postal car from here to San Francisco, and the mail clerks along the way had to handle it. If the government had been required to pay 2 cents for each half ounce, the price of ordinary first class mail, the postage on the desk would have been more than the cost of the desk at the factory. By sending it by mail the cost of transportation was saved by the government.

—*Indianapolis News.*

Anent Minor Varieties.

BY LEON V. CASS.

My opinion as to the collecting of minor varieties is that each collector should decide for himself, and if it pleases him to search out the minor differences, he should by all means collect them.

Every collector, however, should keep his eyes open and learn to tell minor varieties, as in many cases a scarce minor variety would sell for enough to bring him many new varieties for his collection, whereas if he paid no attention to these differences, the scarce variety would go at the same low price as the common variety. One should endeavor to keep up-to-date and in order to be up-to-date in philately one must study minor varieties more or less whether he admits them to his collection or not.

It is not my intention to go over the old theme as to the advisability of collecting minor varieties, however, but to describe those I have seen, and which to my know-

ledge have not yet been chronicled.

The 2 cent 1900 issue of New Zealand comes in two distinct shades, one shade being much darker than the other and distinct enough to be chronicled in my opinion. I have seen less than a dozen of these stamps and the two varieties of shades were about evenly assorted so I cannot tell which variety is the scarcest. One shade may be a first printing and if so it will likely be good property to have. I hope to be able to state which, if either, of the shades is scarcer later on.

I have seen the one dollar green 1898 issue U. S. War revenue in three different shades, yellow green, green, and blue green.

The three cent 1851 issue U. S. is very prolific in shades and one can easily pick out any where from a dozen to twenty shades out of a hundred of them.

The one-half cent gray 1898 U. S. revenue comes part rouletted, as I have seen a few pairs of this stamp in that condition.

Among other minor varieties mentioned in an article in the *Exchange* is the 2 cent bank check orange, and 2 cent internal revenue orange first issue on light green surfaced paper. This variety is quite scarce as the writer has seen but four copies and I have never seen any although I have handled hundreds of these stamps.

Scott catalogues the one cent 1873 issue U. S. in three shades, dark ultramarine, and gray blue.

I have seen this stamp in another distinct shade which might be called blue green. I have a copy of the 3c rose 1861 issue on original cover part perforated. The stamp was cut with wide margin on one side and shows a part of another stamp on the opposite side.