

# THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

*An Illustrated Monthly for Stamp Collectors.*

L. M. STAEBLER, Editor and Publisher.

Member of Canadian Philatelic Association; Philatelic Sons of America, etc.

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## The Editor's Table.

IN 1894 the Canadian P.O. Department saw fit to cancel the second-class mailing privileges enjoyed by *The Canadian Philatelist*. This circumstance, and the lack of time to devote to the publication, made it necessary for me to discontinue the paper. All subscriptions have been satisfactorily filled by *The Collector* and its successor, *The International Stamp*. Notwithstanding the fact that the paper has not been published for a year back, I still receive subscriptions to it. Many of my old subscribers have expressed the wish that I should resurrect the journal, and I have decided to permanently re-establish *The Canadian Philatelist*, and hope to receive the support of the subscribers and advertisers who in the past have so liberally patronized the paper. Previously, the usual size of the paper has been 16 pages and cover; but, unless I am successful in again securing second-class rates, I cannot promise more than 4 to 8 pages per issue. I will endeavor to exclude any of the contributions which many editors use as "space-fillers," and will thus be able to publish nothing but first-class reading. Among the regular monthly features will be half-tone portraits and sketches of prominent collectors and dealers, "General Canadian News," "General European News," "From over the Border" and "Correspondence." Various useful and timely articles by the best writers will appear from time to time. Date of publication is the 10th, and to secure insertion all matter must reach me by the 5th.



**URING** the past three years the holding of auction sales of stamps has increased to a great degree, and I have no doubt that to a certain extent it has affected the trade of dealers in rare stamps; but, everything considered, I do not think it has had any serious effect on the trade. The auction business has

been the means, in a large number of cases, of establishing correct prices on stamps which were under Auction, priced in the catalogue, and which very few dealers could supply. I do not wish to be understood as saying that all auction prices are correct; but, as a rule, if you take the average price which a stamp has brought at various sales, you will not be far off its correct value. The large numbers of auctions now being held, and the prices realized, indicate the increasing demand for rare stamps, and the general progress and prosperity of our science. Among the April auctions I may mention Geo. E. Cleaver's mail auction of philatelic literature, which closed on the 3rd. F. J. Stanton's 2nd mail auction will close on the 15th. Mr. Henry Gremmel held a sale on the 2nd, and good prices were realized. C. H. Holden's 17th mail sale closed on the 4th. The 140th sale of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. is to take place on the 15th. Its contents include a fine lot of Spanish stamps. The New England Stamp Co. hold a sale on the 13th. The 62nd Bogert and Durbin sale takes place on the 11th. The Chicago Philatelic Society hold their 30th sale on the evening of the 14th. The 4th mail sale of the U. S. Stamp Co. (Minneapolis) was closed on the 3rd, at noon. The 5th sale of the same firm will close on the 25th. S. H. and H. Chapman, the well-known coin dealers, will sell at auction on the 14th and 15th the stock of the late John W. Kline, one of America's veteran dealers. Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, literary and fine art auctioneers, of London, England, hold an important sale on the 20th and 21st. A number of others I am compelled to omit for want of space.



**SPECIALISM** and scientific collecting are all very well in their way, but they certainly have caused many a beginner to throw up stamp collecting. Personally, I am a specialist, and favor scientific collecting; but this has not blinded me to the true state of affairs. Scientific collecting has led to the discovery and recognition by our so-called standard catalogues of innumerable minor varieties, some of which are too insignificant to be accorded a place in even a specialist's collection. Perforations of all sizes, paper of all textures, the slightest errors in engraving and printing, have been duly catalogued, together with watermarked varieties, both regular and inverted; and, as a result, many a collector has become discouraged. I know many who have given up collecting for this very reason. It must be remembered that fully fifty per cent. of the vast army of stamp collectors take no interest in varieties of perforation, watermark, etc.; and when these have spaces provided for them in the albums, and are listed in the catalogues, it is anything but encouraging to the ordinary collector, who considers a country complete exclusive of these minor varieties. Of course, from the ranks of the beginners come the scientific collectors of the future, but the transition from one stage of the collecting career to the other must be gradual. A forced growth from a beginner to a scientific collector, such as the present albums and catalogues encourage, is not without the danger of the loss of some of Philately's most ardent followers. What is required to remedy this state of affairs? To my mind there can be but one way to dispose of the difficulty. What we require is two distinct editions of our Standard Catalogues—one for the beginners, another for the scientific collector,—the former to omit all minor varieties. Mr. J. W. Scott, of the J. W. Scott Co., Limited, recognizing the need and value of such a book, has recently pre-