

start as early as that upon the halves, commenced very soon after and the two were bracketed together.

Now here is where the trouble comes in. Vendors and others had been receiving orders for these halves and sixes from the stamp sharks who were taking steps in every direction and are still doing it, to corner the market for Jubilee stamps. For fifteen hundred dollars every half cent stamp issued could be purchased, and then the sharks who held them would have at their mercy every person in Canada, the United States and England and other countries who desired to possess complete sets for ordinary purposes as souvenirs. The Post Office Department here is flooded with applications from every direction for the halves and sixes, and if these applications were complied with it would shortly become impossible to fill an order for a complete set. Now the department is receiving as many as two hundred orders a day for complete sets of stamps, and these orders are being filled and sent to the various postmasters applying. Similar orders are coming in from various parts of the United States and England, and the orders from England will be vastly increased as soon as it becomes generally known over there that these stamps are on sale.

The fact of the matter is that the department at Ottawa is standing between the public and the stamp shark. The persons who have any reason to feel aggrieved at the refusal to sell halves and sixes apart from the complete sets are those selfish speculators who desire to corner the market and afterwards hold up

the general public throughout the world and compel them to pay exorbitant prices for a half or a six cent stamp necessary to complete a set. If a person either in Canada or in Europe had a set which was complete with the exception of two stamps of the face value of six and a half cents was compelled to pay ten, fifteen or twenty dollars for each of these two, the reputation of the postal department of Canada would suffer greatly, and there is no reason why the department should supply speculators to the exclusion of those who wish complete sets, because it is from the complete sets that the public revenue will be most benefited. At the present moment, therefore, the value of a half cent Jubilee stamp is \$16.21½. A great many persons wish to secure what they call sets up to a dollar, which would give them all except five for less than a dollar and a quarter, or, including the one dollar denomination, for less than two dollars and a quarter. All these requests have to be refused, because there is no such thing as a set stopping at one dollar. All sets include stamps of the value of two, three, four and five dollars.

Fault has been found with the department for issuing only a hundred and fifty thousand half cent stamps and only seventy-five thousand six cent stamps, but it will be found on examining the figures in the last blue book that a hundred and fifty thousand half cent stamps is quite as large a number in proportion to the annual consumption as twenty million three cent stamps. The supply of Jubilee stamps being