

Toronto Philatelic Journal

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TORONTO, MARCH, 1885.

NOTES.

We hear that Sweden has issued new postage stamps, we have not seen them as yet.

We have received specimens of the 2 penny (stamp duty) Victoria used as postage.

There is said to be a factory in Switzerland where they manufacture old stamps.

We want agents in every city and town in the world to get subscribers for this paper.

Numismatics will find Mr. Lyman H. Low, of New York, a reliable man to deal with.

We send you a copy of this paper as an inducement to subscribe if you have not already done so.

We are unavoidably late in presenting this number to the public, but shall endeavour to be on time in future.

Can any of our readers inform us who are the proprietors of the Excelsior Stamp Co. of Middlebury, Vermont?

Why is a postage stamp like a school-master? Because one sticks with a lick, and the other licks with a stick.

If the philatelic public will help us in the way of subscription, we shall then be in a position to enlarge our paper.

During the past month we have purchased the entire stock of Mr. F. F. Peard, and a large portion of Mr. Henry Morell's.

Mr. A. N. Ridgely is about to retire from the stamp business.

The stamp business has been very dull this season, but it has picked up considerably during the last few weeks.

Last week the number of letters delivered by the city carriers were 157,543, out of these 4,803 were registered and 44,924 newspapers.

The following are the officers of the Fitchburg Philatelic Society: W. L. Emory, President; W. K. Jewett, Secretary; W. A. Browne, Treasurer; L. H. Sherwin, Librarian.

We learn from the *Hermes* that Dr. Stephen is going to issue new stamps for the African Colonies after the Congo Congress is over. These will be the first colonial stamps of Germany.

We have received a catalogue of Botanical specimens from Mr. James Galen, of Rawlinsville. All those interested in the above will find it to their interest to correspond with him.

The Treasury Department at Washington have received specimens of counterfeit one cent pieces, believed to be extensively in circulation in New York and vicinity. The counterfeit is made entirely of copper.

We have received the following papers during the past month: *The Hermes*, *Canadian Philatelist*, *Foreign Stamp Collectors' News*, *Collectors' Companion*, *Empire State Philatelist*, *Philatelic Advertiser*, *General-Anzeiger für Philatelie*, *New England Philatelist*, *The Gem*, *Pine and Palmetto*, *The Collector*, *Erdball and Mercur*, *Philatelic Herald*.

A PROFITABLE BUSINESS.

The following advertisement appeared in a London paper a few months ago:

"All those sending us seventeen penny stamps will receive, by return mail, a finely engraved picture of Queen Victoria, securely packed.

"B—E & CO.,
"Bristol."

Many of our friends answered the above advertisement, and received in reply, an engraved picture of the Queen, but not so large as they had expected, being only a half penny stamp, bearing the profile of the Queen. The above firm must have made its fortune and retired, as we have not seen the advertisement since.

OUR RAREST STAMP.

New Brunswick has the honor of having produced the rarest stamp in the world, viz: The "Connell," as it is universally called. Now, this stamp is not an essay in any sense of that much-abused word; the circumstances are as follows: In the year 1861, the Hon. Charles Connell, a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius and benevolence, was the Postmaster-General of the province of New Brunswick. Soon after entering on his official duties, Mr. Connell discovered that the postage stamps of the province were susceptible of improvement, and to that end, employed the famous American Bank Note Company to execute a set of stamps in lieu of the labels hitherto used. Mr. Connell furnished the designs, the idea of which was certainly original, and which speaks for the excellent taste of that gentleman to the present day; for the stamps of New Brunswick are unsurpassed in point of elegance and neatness by any stamp in Christendom. Mr. Connell's idea was the sensible one of putting a different design on each stamp, and to that end, a steam-engine on the 1c., a head of Her Majesty of England on the 10c., a steamboat (indicating European postage) on the 12½c., a portrait of the possible future monarch of England on the 17c., and his own portrait on the 5c.

The stamps arrived, and were issued to the public; but, alas! unfortunate Mr. Connell had, in the eyes of Her Majesty's lieges of New Brunswick, committed a frightful crime. That he, a mortal created man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, should dare to engrave his honest countenance on a similar piece of paper to that on which the majesty of that broad domain, on which the sun never sets, was depicted! A mass-meeting presided over by a political opponent of Connell was instantly called, and it was resolved to request Mr. Connell to resign, but Mr. Connell dashed the reins of the post-office department back in the face of the governor, and retired at once and forever, from the political arena.

The stamp was only used one day and a number having passed through the post-office, it therefore could not be an essay.