

since they were first placed on sale.

The department was obliged to reprint nearly all of the stamps of the high denominations, among the lower denominations, only the 2c stamp is reported to have been reprinted. All the dollar values were reprinted to make up the 50,000 complete sets. Strips of three plate number sets are offered at about \$25.00.

During the early part of February a private printing concern was employed by the bureau of printing and engraving, to surcharge over a million and a half of stamps for use in Cuba. It may be that this company might have distinguished their work by some private mark or by some different type so that it will afford collectors an opportunity of variety of surcharges.

Some of the Newspaper and Periodical sets that have been purchased in my town contain unwatermarked varieties. This would seem to show that the sets the government advertised to sell are in fact part of the issue of 1895.

A great deal of discussion and speculation has been going the rounds of the philatelic press as to the designs decided upon by the department for the new series of stamps for Cuba. As far as I am able to learn the following is correct. 1 cent green Statue of Columbus, 2 cent red Alegorical state of Cuba, known among the Cubans as La Cubina, 3 cent a Merchantship, 4 cent dark blue with scene of a tobacco plantation, towering palms and sugar mill.

According to the New York Journal, Aguinaldos' Filipinos have issued two stamps of the denomination of 2 cents, one for postage and one for telegraph. *Mekeel's Weekly* states that these stamps are on sale at Manila. I do not know what philatelic value they can have. If

our press reports are true Aguinaldos has not a foot of telegraphic surface and its post office department is confined to the jungles of the island of Luzon.

Another denomination is to be added to the proprietary stamp of the value of 4½c, it will be used for articles selling at \$1.75.

1 cent and 2 cent post cards have been surcharged the same as the postage stamps for use in Cuba.

An error has crept into the surcharged 5 cent Cuban stamps, Cuba being spelled with a "p" instead of a "b." The variety retails in New York at 25 cents.

Some of our papers have some uncomplimentary remarks in relation to the Canada 2 cent purple envelope. It would seem that America would forever hold her peace from criticising stamps. Our government probably made a profit of \$200,000.00 out of re-printing Newspaper and Periodical stamps and selling them to collectors as originals. The 2 cent purple envelope is a queen transaction compared with our re-printing.

Scarcely a week goes by that does not chronicle an issue of private proprietary stamps. The joke seems to be that collectors cannot get them by paying for them, that they are not for sale at face. I venture that some one will have them for sale in blocks and strips very shortly.

Auction sales in our large cities are being held at very regular intervals. Father Scott has a six day sale on for the 1st of April and Brother Drew has a three days' sale on to take place at about the same time.

There is a great revival in collecting stamps by the young collectors and new recruits are being added to the ranks of philately daily. Juvenile papers and monthly publishers are offering packages of stamps as premiums.