

U. S. NOTES.

It is amusing to hear the wailings of the collectors over the proposed new issue of stamps for the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, next year. The fair officials want the stamps to advertise the project, and the Post Office Department is willing to issue them, providing the expense is not too great, and the only objectors are the stamp collectors. Omaha, they complain, had blue special stamps, and we must buy them to make our collection complete. Not at all. There is no compulsion upon any one to buy stamp to put in an album. Stamps are made to pay postage on letters and packages, and the Buffalo stamps will do that. Those who do not want to buy them may purchase the ordinary kind and be happy. If the Omaha and Buffalo stamps are "mere labels" they should not be collected, and the decision rests entirely with the collector. The trouble with the collector is that he is not consistent. He wants stamps of all varieties, and he would like to have a complete collection, and yet he protests when governments issue new stamps. He thinks that after he completes his album there should be no more stamps issued, so that what he has will become more valuable. If he will persist in buying every new issue he will continue to be a victim. Why does he not check speculative issues by ceasing to buy them? That is a simple remedy.

The United States has never sold the space on the reverse side of its postage stamps for advertising purposes, in the manner that New Zealand adopted some years ago, although it is said that at different times offers of almost fabulous sums have been made for the privilege. The Government gave no ear to the propositions. After stamps are used once, of course, there is nothing to prevent one from placing ads on their back, and it is on record that one firm used this plan of advertising.

Quite a peculiar looking stamp purporting to be a scarce 5c Buchanan, was shown in Washington recently. Careful comparison with photographs make the stamp appear genuine in every detail. It is on a portion of an old letter, but uncanceled. Instead of the paper being blue or white, it is violet-brown, and of a soft texture. Nothing of its history could be learned and no one seems to care to risk much on it. F. H. W. S.

an inch ad for 15c,

& THIS PAPER 1 YR

OR

WE WILL GIVE 12 thirty WORD
BARGAIN ADS AND } for 15c
THIS PAPER ONE YR }

BARGAINS in stamps—Packets—100
mixed 5c, 50 mixed 10c, 20 var. 15c, 10
var. 5c, 50 var. 25c, 25 var. 10, 200
mixed 15c, 1,000 mixed only 25c.

FRED SHINN.
WATERLOO, ONT.