

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

## NOTES ON CONFEDERATES.

BY ERA.

The officers of the Confederate post office department were John H. Reagan, of Texas, post master general; H. St. George Offutt, of Virginia, chief of contract bureau; B. U. Clements, of Tennessee, chief of the appointment bureau; J. L. Harrell of Alabama, chief of the finance bureau, and W. D. Miller, of Texas, chief clerk of the department.

The building which was used for the Confederate post office in Richmond was fatally destroyed by the conflagration of April, 1865.

One of the most interesting specimens is owned by a western collector and consists of the small 10 cent, trimmed to circular shape and cancelled with a fine legible postmark.

A most interesting hand stamp is that of Montgomery, Ala., the first capital of the Confederacy. The design is the usual circle with the figure 5 in the center, "paid" above and T. Welsh below. They are found impressed in both red and blue.

Among the many interesting pictorial envelopes prepared by W. and J. Bonitz, of Goldsboro, N. C. is found on white, manilla and heavy greenish paper. The design is of two charging horsemen with drawn sabres above the motto:

"May the northern lances who abuse their southern neighbors Approach near enough to feel the point of our sabres. May they come near enough to hear the click of a trigger, And learn that a white man is better than a nigger."

The 20-cent green can be found with a very light line between, similar to the 10 cent blue with outer line. The line, however, is nearly always missing on one or more sides, and is very frequently indistinct. They are of considerable rarity.

Both Ludwig and Hoyer, the members of the first engraving firm connected with the Confederacy in preparing its stamps, have joined the great silent majority. The former dying in Richmond several years ago, while Hoyer died in Columbia, N. C.

An unsevered strip of five of both of the issues of the 2-cent values, cancelled on the original cover is owned by a northwestern collector. It is doubtful if any other collection contains their equal.

The *Richmond Examiner* of June 4, 1863, says, "A new stamp of the denomination of 20 cents has been put forth by the department. The stamp is of a rich dark green color, with the medallion of Washington on the face, encircled by the words, "Confederate States of America," and the designation of twenty at the bottom and top, the former in figures and the latter in letters. The engraving is the best that has yet been executed in postage currency. The medallion of Washington is excellent, with something peculiarly striking and

natural in the countenance not found in the best pictures of the Father of his country. The stamp, if issued in any numbers, will be a good medium of change, and because of its high fractional value, will, we hope, drive from circulation some of the dirty 5-cent stamps that are becoming a greater nuisance every day." It is extremely probable that this is the only newspaper clipping which can be found relative to this value, and from it we learn that the postage stamps were used in the south as a circulating medium, much the same as their northern neighbors were forced to use theirs.

I recently saw a letter which passed through the Richmond, Va., post office on Oct. 20th, 1861, with the hand stamp in two lines, PAID, 5 cts. At about the same time Abingdon, Va., also used to have a circular hand stamp.

Among the requisitions drawn on the supply department of the United States, just after the "secess" of South Carolina was the following:

Statesburg Republic of S. C., July 4, 1861.  
To Blank(j)and Stamp agent, General Post Office, Washington,  
D. C. —

Dear Sir, — I am entirely out of stamps, and if you think they are and will continue to be good in this republic, you will oblige me by sending me 1,500 3c. stamps, and oblige,  
Respectfully yours,

A. NORRIS, P. M.

Whether or not the demand was filled is one of the conundrums which will only be learned at the great judgment day.

The amount appropriated on Oct. 9th, 1862, to supply the deficiency in the revenue of the post office department was \$130,607.39.

During the war one, S. C. Upham, whose office and headquarters were at 403 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, supplied a large quantity of forged Confederate notes and stamps. Among the stamps which he is said to have counterfeited are the 5-cent first issued in regular color and also in red, the Memphis 5-cent in red and 2-cent in blue, Baton Rouge 5-cent red or green, Mobile 5 cent blue, Nashville 5-cent red and also grey, New Orleans 2 cent red and blue, 5 cent brown.

Emil J. Rahl has the following extremely interesting envelope in his collection in the upper dextra corner, "Confederate States of America, Executive Department, official business," flanked by two London print 5-cent stamps; addressed to Hon. Alexander Stephen, vice president, and endorsed on the back in the writing of Steven's private secretary, from his excellency President Davis. It is doubtful where another such an interesting relic can be found.

Probably the earliest counterfeit of a Confederate stamp is alluded to in the following, culled from the *Stamp Collector's Monthly* in 1859.

"A well executed forgery of the rare 1-cent Confederate States stamp is now being offered collectors. It may be readily detected on comparison with the smaller 5-cent blue (head of Davis), the upper margin and frame work being exactly the same as in genuine specimens of each value. Without comparison, a forged 1-cent can be distin-