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AND STAMP-COLLECTORS' JOURNAL.

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The Philatelic Courier

—AND—

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HENRY HECHLER, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR,
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GUADALOUPE PROVISIONALS AND THEIR MINOR VARIATIONS.

(BY HENRY HECHLER.)

The old issue of the stamps of this French Colony—that bearing the figures of Mercury with winged ankles and of Liberty—of the values of 30c. and 35c., unperforated, were surcharged to serve provisionally, in black, as follows:—

A rectangle a little smaller than the stamp was divided horizontally by a line into two sections, the upper of which bore the letters "G. P. E." in thin Roman capitals, and the lower, the new value, in large figures. The 30c. was thus altered to 20c., and the 35c. to 25c. Besides these two general types the figures used varied, being larger and broader-faced in some than in others. Thus in the 20c. on 30c. the figure "2" is much larger than the "0" standing beside it and than the "20" on other stamps even on the same sheet and line (example 20-20). The same differences appear respecting the "0" in some of the stamps of the same surcharge—viz.: 20, 20 and 30. All the same sorts of variations also occur in the 2s. and 5s. in the surcharges of "25" on the 35c. stamps. We have thus this surcharge as follows:—"25," "25," "25." Other variations are to be noted in the lines composing

the rectangular frame of the above surcharges. These is the 20 on 30c. with the large "2," as above noted, the top and bottom lines are pieced in the middle, the right half of the top and the left half of the bottom line being double the thickness of the other halves respectively. The same difference is observable also in those of 25 on 30c. where the "2" is larger. The 20 on 30c. with the large "0," and the 25 on 35c. with the large "5" have the left side lines heavier than the others. In all the other varieties of these surcharges the lines composing the rectangular frame are equal and light.

We have pointed out these distinctions for the information of our philatelic friends, and we hope that they will observe these variations carefully in arranging their albums as dealers note them in their catalogues, and each variation is a clear difference.

DEFECTS OF OUR POSTAL ADMINISTRATION.

There are several matters in connection with the administration of postal affairs in this Dominion which are serious drawbacks to the efficiency of the department and inconvenient to the public.

One is that the largest value of single stamps is only 15 cents. It frequently occurs that a much larger amount is required to prepay postage on a single package. A regulation of the department makes it imperative that all stamps shall be on the front or direction side of a letter or package. It is manifestly impossible to do this in cases where the direction alone—especially to foreign countries—occupies several lines, or nearly the whole face, as it often does. Other countries—even the small West India and other colonies—have stamps of a much higher value, some of them as high as £5. Canada should provide stamps at least up to \$1. A 25c., a 50c. and \$1 stamp are much needed, and at once.

In this connection we call attention to another evil. That is that the sale of stamps in large cities, instead of being conducted by salaried officials, is put into the hands of private persons, who are allowed a commission of 3% on their sales. As these persons have their own private business to attend to they generally keep only a few stamps on hand at a time, and those of the smaller denominations. We may instance a case—one of many—that recently occurred in this city. A person had a small package to mail the postage on which was over \$1 besides the 5c. registration stamp. Strange as it may seem it is nevertheless true that at the place for buying stamps in the central post-office nothing larger than a 5c. stamp could be obtained! The required stamps to send that package covered every part of its surface, and

THE PHILATELIC COURIER goes everywhere.

Les personnes qui auront reçu plus d'un exemplaire de ce numéro sont priées de les transmettre aux philatélistes de leur connaissance.

The receiver of more than one copy of this number will please give copies to stamp-collectors.