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The War, and its Effects on Philately.

By RUDOLPH C. BACH.

That Philately will be affected, and largely affected too, by the war, even the most enthusiastic collectors will admit. How many young men will lay aside album, and take up arms in the nation's defence? There are many, and not only private collectors, but dealers also. In Boston one dealer has shut up shop and is now stationed in Fort Warren with his regiment. Probably he has fond dreams of great "finds" of immense quantities of Cuban Stamps in the near future. I hope they will be realized. The question arises, will the war injure Philately? No, I don't think so. While the stamp business may be slack and money scarce, still the proposed issue of U. S. Revenues will surely add more collectors to the ranks, and then, now is the chance for the bargain hunter. Stamps are cheaper now, and collectors can fill their blank spaces more easily, and much cheaper than if it were peace. I noticed in several American stamp papers that there was a great demand for the stamps of Cuba, Phillipine Islands, and *Spain*. Now, while I can readily

understand a good brisk demand for Cuban and other Spanish colonial stamps, which may soon be obsolete, it puzzles me to hear people demanding Spanish stamps. It is not patriotic. As enemies of the nation, Spain and everything Spanish should be "sat upon." There is not the remotest possibility of Spanish stamps rising in price on account of the war. The Spanish government is placing thousands of remainders on the market to raise money, and if the American collectors buy them, they are only giving Spanish dealers the profits and filling the coffers of the enemy without any gain to themselves.

In one way the war has probably benefitted Philately. We hear that the Spanish fleet is locked in at Santiago de Cuba, by Admiral Schley's fleet. Perhaps those Spaniards are studying their stamps and discovering new varieties in U. S. grilled, capped 2c 1890. etc., to pass the time (he'll probably be pretty well "grilled all over" himself by the time this reaches our readers.) Most naval officers in every country are stamp collectors anyway.