

THE PHILATELIC CANADIAN.

the Danish Court concluded to bring it directly under the control of the Crown.

Therefore, arrangements were made with postal lessee, Countess Dorothea, who received 12,000 Rigsdaler cash, and an annual pension for herself and children of 4,000 Rigsdaler.

By decree of February 27th, 1712, King Frederick IV of Denmark declared the postal service of all his lands as royal institutions, and reformed the entire service. A relation of the Gyldenløve family, Count Frederick Danneskjöld-Samsø, was installed as Royal Post-Director-General for Denmark, Iceland and the Danish West Indian Colonies—St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix. He built new postal stations, opened and improved the postal roads, mail waggons and the postal force of men and horses.

His successor was a relative with the same name. Under his postal administration Denmark issued its first postage stamps in 1851, and became a member of the Universal Postal Union in 1874, in which year, being a very old man, he resigned his Post-Directorship.

Denmark issued further postage stamps for her colonies, Schleswig-Holstein (at that time a colony), 1850, for Danish West Indies in 1855, for Iceland in 1873.

The kingdom of Denmark also had a post office in the republic and free city of Hamburg (Germany) up to the year 1868, in which year this post office had to close its doors, and in 1866 the Danish office in Schleswig-Holstein had to close—by order of Prussia in both cases. It may possibly happen before long that some more of Denmark's colonial post offices will be supplanted by those of another nation. It has been seriously considered by Uncle Sam to purchase the Danish West Indies for coaling stations for the U.S. Navy.

F. P.

UNITED STATES MATCH AND MEDICINE STAMPS.

This is certainly no threadbare subject. Very little has been said about match and medicine stamps at any time, pro or con. No one has made any great effort to interest collectors in these greatly neglected articles. Nevertheless they have been objects of no little interest in many quarters during all these years. Hundreds are now stored away in private collections awaiting an awakened interest in this unique class of stamps. If there is anything in propitious signs, they will not remain much longer in idle obscurity. The growing interest in revenue stamps will have a marked effect on match and medicine stamps, and we may certainly expect to see them in very great demand ere the dawn of 1900.

That they have been so long neglected heretofore, is due to a lack of information touching these beautiful and unique stamps. The collector of these stamps has not been concerned as to the interest of others for such stamps. He has gone on collecting in his own quiet way, regardless of what their future values might be. He has not wasted time in arguing the case with collectors in other lines of work. He has believed, and rightly too, that match and medicine stamps would one day be in demand. His hopes are even now being realized. The demand for his hoarded specimens increases and can never grow less.

Mr. Kilbon says some excellent and truthful things anent these stamps in a recent editorial. Among other things, he has this to say: "If any very large number of people begin to want the match and medicine stamps, they will go up with great rapidity, because there is no extensive source of supply." This fact is patent when you remember the way in which these stamps were used—on