

The Philatelic Advocate.

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. 10. NO. 2.

BERLIN, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1901,

WHOLE NO. 53.

United States Minutes.

CONDUCTED BY USONA.

The Postmaster General has just unearthed a neat scheme in connection with the annual dead-letter sale. The goods received unclaimed are supposed to be tied up in packages of approximately equal value and submitted by the auctioneer wrapped up; unsight, unseen. Now it transpires that some of the clerks in the dead-letter office, who put up the packages, arranged to make certain of the packages contain all the valuable goods, and then at the sale they bought these packages in. Of course, knowing the value of the package they could afford to outbid the general public. The Postmaster General had some spotters present, and there was trouble for the conspirators. It is curious to note however, that although these people had been betraying their trust, causing the government to lose money on the one hand and on the other hand keeping the public out of a fair deal, yet only two of them were dismissed. The same affair in a private office would probably have ended in the criminal courts.

In some paper recently, appeared a statement that U. S. stamps used in Hawaii could be distinguished by the fact that the cancellation "is invariably in purple ink." If this was ever the case, it is not so now, the ordinary black ink is used throughout the islands.

The prices of some of the stamps as given in the 60th edition are much closer to their real net value than in previous editions, and it will be difficult to give the usual 50% discount, especially on popular countries. In some cases it is difficult to see where the profit will come in even at catalogue rates.

The 1 cent Guam has been found with inverted surcharge.

Four cent envelope die B current issue (large draped bust with inner serrated oval) is a rare stamp, says Mr. Bartels. Red brown and orange two centers are not in it for rarity.

Prices on the high value and new revenue stamps are wobbly and, I think, too high, as the sections of the War Revenue Act which are proposed for repeal are not the ones which will affect those values. The \$1000 is quoted at \$150, the \$500 at \$70, the \$100 at \$20, the \$50 at \$2.50, the \$30 at \$10, the \$10 at \$1, the \$1 red at ten cents and the \$3 red at \$1.

Philatelic Inconsistencies

BY C. L. O'LUCKEN.

"Oh consistency, thou art a jewel!" is particularly applicable to philately as it exists today. Perhaps the one thing which does more to keep philately in ill-repute, or to be more precise, to give our beloved science a reputation as child's play, is the inconsistency with which the