

THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

Published Every Thursday.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Canada and United States 50 cents a year.
Other Countries, 52 cents a year extra.
Subscriptions commence with current issue.

ADVERTISING.

30 cents an inch, each issue, strictly in advance.
Yearly contract—25 cents an inch.
Contracts may be paid quarterly, monthly or weekly as preferred.
Changes in copy should be in Tuesday morning.

BUSINESS OFFICE.

93 ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

A Merry Christmas to you.

It may not be generally known that Hon. William Mulock, the Postmaster-General of the Dominion, was, in his younger days, an ardent collector.

Mr. Walter McMahon, publisher of the announced Philatelic Canadian, states that Mr. Weldon has no share whatever in that journal, beyond contributing to its columns.

The first copy of the Halifax Philatelic Magazine has reached us. We read, with surprise, the opening article—a history of the Dominion Philatelic Association. As we never had any say in the affairs of the society previous to publishing the Canadian Philatelic Magazine—some 16 months ago—some of the information is “news” to us. We doubt not but that something will be heard from other parties in regard to this article, and we do know that when Mr. Weatherston resigned, the society was free from debt, if not funds on hand. It was Mr. Weatherston who appointed Mr. Irving E. Patterson to be secretary. Mr. Weatherston was one of the best officers the society ever had, and even Mr. Muirhead states this to be so in the forepart of the article. Had not other affairs taken up a great deal of Mr. Weatherston's time, he would have continued his trust. In fact he once proposed that as no one, apparently, appeared to be taking any interest in the society, it should be amalgamated with the P. S. of A. It was a move we opposed, and this led to Mr. Patterson becoming secretary. A few other statements regarding the official organ prove that the writer was not correctly informed, and we may say more later on.

The holiday season has not hindered stamps anything like it usually does.

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And the third said nothing; but as he had made a little money during the year, he bought all the two had to sell, and after that he had a better furnished house and a much larger stamp collection than either of them, and was happy and content.

Who was the wisest, and whom will you follow? You wish to know what I collect myself. Everything issued for postal purposes that is or has a stamp on it—adhesives, cards and envelopes of the world. When I was a boy I enjoyed even Hamburg locals, and any kind of foreign revenues, because they looked like stamps. When I found out that Hamburg locals were frauds, and that revenue stamps had nothing to do with the post office, I discarded both kinds. Russian rural stamps are very interesting, but to get them all, takes the money of a millionaire and the search of a lifetime, says Karl Ludwig in Filatelic Facts and Fallacies. Scandinavian and German locals are not much better than fakes, but they give testimony of very peculiar postal arrangements in these countries. Of these three kinds I made, therefore, some nice groups and kept them with my collection. There is nothing complete in them, but they serve well to illustrate certain things. Indian native states, for some reason hardly known to myself, I treated similarly, and quite lately I have added one page of Chinese treaty ports.

Being a German, I have always specialized a little in the old German States, giving a good deal of attention to entire old German envelopes, which I can say I have quite fine. I have a fairly good collection of most anything, although any specialist would call my English colonials and United States hardly up to average. I had always a strong liking for unfashionable stamps, and therefore have now a fine lot of Madagascar large labels and New Republic. Should anybody wish to know a little about the early issues of Salvado envelopes, I can show most of them in varieties all entire. If I can gradually fill the main varieties of all other countries, I am satisfied; and if a peculiar variety comes my way, I take that also.

As for the boy who starts a collection, I should say, try to get a printed album without too trifling varieties, and then make it a point to get at least one stamp of every country. After that fill up the commoner sets, and don't get a dollar stamp instead of one hundred at a cent. The larger variety will teach you more than the one specimen. Buy carefully, but don't consider all the time which stamps will go up in value. I have read

that a new common sense album is to be issued. Buy that in preference to the present albums, which for the beginner make decidedly too much work. And last but not least do not specialize in one single country before you have at least given general collecting a real good chance.

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

Now is the time to buy, says C. E. Severn in the International Philatelist. Stamps are cheap in the face of the present stringency in financial lines. Money is more powerful, more valuable now, than it is in normal times. It has a larger expansion, a larger purchasing range at this day, than it will, if all goes well, within a year or less, from the present.

The stamp collector with little or much money to spend should buy stamps now, when money will do the most execution. In the stamp world, there exists a condition which is paralleled, perhaps, in any other business and semi-commercial circles. The speculative-minded feel that this is the time to sow cents to reap dollars in the future.

Nearly everybody collects U.S. stamps consequently they are standard and a safe investment. One can fill one's U. S. blank spaces at a more favorable rate compared with catalogue values now than one could for many years heretofore.

Let us consider some of the stamps that are usually lacking in the fairly good collections of U. S. The five cent 1851, is priced at \$13.50 in the advance sheets. This stamp is being advertised at from \$9 to \$11 in the current numbers of stamp journals. Condition is a most important factor in appraising the value of this stamp. One specimen may be cheap at ten dollars and another dear at the same figure; you look at the margins when you buy the stamp. The 5 cent, 1851, is staple and you can buy one at a more advantageous price now than at any time in the future.

The 90 cent, 1855-60, reverses the usual order of things as it is catalogued higher used than unused. The advance sheet price is \$27.50. It is possible to buy a fine specimen to-day for from \$20 to \$22.50. Money spent for this stamp is well spent. Its position among the scarcities is better defined, even than some of the U.S. that catalogue more.

The ninety-cent, 1868, will be \$18 in the new catalogue. It is somewhat difficult to get a centered specimen showing the grill clearly. The stamp is being offered nowadays by dealers occasionally, at from \$12 to \$15 and all will concede that the stamp is one that lends dignity to any collection and that