Press Review.

PAPERS REVIEW. Stamp Talk, Vol. I, No. 5. Stamps, Vol. III, No. 3. Stampman, Vol. IV, No. 4. The International Philatelist, Vol. IX. No. 4.

Stamp Talk for March contains the interesting information that it has purchased The International Philateljurenased the international rintare-iost. The issue, is as usual, interest-ing, though it would have been im-proved by comething better than the "Williams & Co. swindle," which has been thoroughly exploited. Amy L. Swift contributes a breezy budget of news under the heading of "A Bunch of Philatelic Rems," dealing with Tasmania and Canadian postal matters principally.

The March number of Stamps, (New York), is an interesting one from frontispiece to imprint; every page being full of good reading matter or readable ads. "Novelties," illustrated with a page of capital cuts, deals with the surcharged stamps of Porto Rico, Por-tugal and Colonies, Cuba, Hayti, Uruguay, British South Africa, the U. S., new colors, the Canadian envelopes, and others, is full of valuable information. An interesting article is given on "Minor Varieties," attached stamps, fully illustrated. A catalogue of lately issued stamps, with prices, color, and color of surcharge (when any), is also given and is quite valuable. A lengthy leader on the newspaper stamps of the United States, is quite readable.

The Stampman for April appears in a new color full of interesting matter to purchasers, as it consists, as usual, of almost entirely the list of prices at which the publisher holds his stamps. Brother Osgood's characteristic, however, is brought out in "Mr. Dooley on the Periodicals." . . .

The March number of the International Philatelist opens with an article on "Nes Stamps," by "Newspaper and Periodical by Foster A. Lilly. A lengthy list of new issues, illustrated, forms the remainder of the reading matter.

British Stamps Used in the Spanish West Indies.

Previous to 1877 the native post offices of the Spanish West Indies carried only internal correspondence; foreign mail matter was forwarded either by the steamship companies, or else through the consulates. Branches of the British post offices were estab-lished in 1865. The same conditions and regulations applied to the conveyance of letters from these branches as to those posted from home offices. ordinary British stamps were used, the postmarks are the only means of determining where they were used.

At Havana stamps were first put on sale. The letter rate was 1/ per 1-2 oz., and the stamps used was the 1)

green, wmk. heraldic emblems, which only catalogues 15 cents (when posted in Great Britain). For book post post was 1d per oz., but the only known stamp of smaller denomination than the shilling is the 4d of 1862. This stamp in its ordinary use is another common value, but in 1867 three other denominations, and another shilling issue, which catalogues somewhat higher are known to have been put on sale. They were the 10d red brown, the 1 green, and the 2/ blue, wmk. spray of rose, and the 5/ wmk. Mallese cross. The best of these, singly, is only worth 75 cents, but an entire envelope with this stamp and the Havana postmark, though many doubtless were used during the next ten years, would be prized at many times this price.

Simultaneously with the opening of the British post office branch in Havana, stamps were put on sale at the consulate in the capital of Porto Rico. Lower denominations than the above mentioned, it is known, were sold at this and other places, though the rates were the same as those in Havana. At that time the place was not commonly called San Juan, and Porto Rico is the name found on the postmarks.

Santiago was thirty years ago another important harbor for British sailors. It is therefore probable that many letters bearing British stamps left what was then the post office of St. Jago de Cuba. The stamps discovered to have been used at this port are of a common variety; but there are others than philatelists who would be glad to possess a set with the mark of the Santiago post office.

Eight years after this system had been established in these Spanish colonies, at four other places in Porto Rico were branches opened. These were the ports of Ponce, Aguadilla, Arroyo and Mayaguez. The stamps used were of the variety sold at the home offices from 1873 to 1877.

In the latter year the Spanish West Indies joined the Postal Union, the same year that Porto Rico, which had surcharged hitherto used Cuban stamps, issued adhesives of her own.

As to stamped envelopes of Great Britain, there is no record of any ever being sold at these ports, but it is possible that some were used.

The above seven branches were the only ones known to have been established by the post office department of the United Kingdom. Hence letters from the interior, or other outside places, which went through the British offices were franked with a native stamp, as well as with the postage for foreign correspondence.

Roumania will issue a commemorative stamp (says the Philatelic Monthly) upon the occasion of the dedication of its new postal building in Bucharest. This stamp will be three times the ordinary size; its design will be of the Byzantine style, the centre representing the facade of the new building flanked by Byzantine colums. Above will be a medallion portrait of Carlo, at either side of it the emblems of the Postal and Telegraph services. The die was cut by the Roumanian engraver, Papesen at Paris.

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