

EXCHANGE OF MONEY ORDERS WITH CANADA.

The number of Canadian international money orders issued in the United States was 40,008, amounting to \$827,756.92, of which amount \$3,326.94 were repaid to the remitters; and the number paid in the United States was 38,375, amounting to \$611,163.69. The fees received for the orders issued in the United States amounted to \$14,058.65. A comparison of this business with that of the preceding year exhibits an increase of \$316,140.34, or nearly 62 per cent, in the issues; of \$188,434.02, or nearly 45 per cent, in the payments, and of \$2,485.45, or nearly 21½ per cent, in fees.

DEAD LETTERS.

By careful reckoning based upon an actual count made in every post office in the United States during the first week in December, 1880, it has been ascertained that the whole number of letters mailed in this country in the last fiscal year was 1,045,107,348. The number reaching the Dead-Letter Office during the same period was 3,323,621 or one in every 315. The total number of letters, and of packages that were of sufficient value to be recorded and filed, received during the year ended June 30, 1881, was 3,674,205, an increase of 351,623 over the number received during the preceding year. For convenience of treatment they were classified as follows: Unclaimed domestic letters, 2,791,050; held for postage, 279,244; misdirected, 242,556 (not including 31,184 foreign letters with imperfect or erroneous addresses); without any superscription whatever, (the majority of them bearing stamps to pay postage,) 9,479; letters addressed to foreign countries, and containing articles (coin, jewelry, &c.) which are forbidden to be sent in the international mails, 1292; letters of foreign origin, 284,127 (of which 31,184 were sent to the Dead-Letter Office on account of erroneous or imperfect addresses); foreign parcels (unopened), 13,866; and domestic packages, 52,591.

Of the letters and packages opened, 13,617 were found to contain money amounting to \$10,587.80; 22,012 containing drafts, money orders, checks, notes, &c., the aggregate face value of which was \$1,399,062.51; 37,978 contained receipts, paid notes, and canceled obligations of all sorts; 33,731 contained photographs; 61,556 contained small remittances of postage stamps; and in 75,213 there were found valuable articles of third and fourth class matter in endless variety. The amount of money separated from dead letters for which no claimant could be found was \$6,584.40, which was deposited in the Treasury. The amount of postage collected upon short-paid matter forwarded to destination, and upon unclaimed packages of third and fourth class matter returned to owners, was \$3,109.34. The records of the department show that 8,388,918 registered letters and packages were mailed in this country during the year. Of this number only 2,614 reached the Dead-Letter Office; and of these 2,31 were finally delivered to the owners, the balance being placed on file awaiting identification by the parties interested.

NEW REGISTERED LOCK.

A long-felt want has at last been supplied in securing a suitable lock for through pouches. This lock is under contract and will be put in use about the first of January next. It is fitted with a combination of numbers, the order of which is changed by turning the key. The pouch will be billed at the dispatch office under a given number corresponding with the lock, and received for under this number from point to point until it reaches the office of destination. Improper interference will be readily detected by a disagreement between the number on the lock and that on the bill, and the responsibility readily located. It frequently happens that through pouches are compelled to lie over in transit at intermediate through-pouch offices; and in case of such temporary detention it becomes necessary, with the use of the present ordinary lock, to require the postmaster to open the pouch, check off, certify, and record its contents. This imposes a vast deal of clerical labor which will be saved by the use of the new lock, avoiding as it does the necessity of opening pouches between terminal offices. In the mode of construction the new lock is much superior in all respects to the old one.

THROUGH-POUCH EXCHANGES WITH CANADA.

In June last, after some preliminary negotiations, formal arrangements were entered into with the Post-Office Department of Canada for direct exchanges of through registered pouches between Buffalo, N. Y., and the principal post offices in the province of Ontario. The arrangement is now in successful operation, and negotiations are very nearly concluded for through exchanges with the eastern portion of the Dominion of Canada.

A NEW USE FOR STAMPS.

A German paper says that bales of used stamps are now sent to China where there is an active demand for them for a novel use. The Celestials paste them on strips of linen which are used in the same way that we use room paper, and bring a high price. The demand is growing, as this new "room paper" is fashionable, especially among the higher and wealthier classes of society. A room papered with old postage stamps is regarded as extremely "light-toned"—in fact æsthetic.

TRANSVAAL STAMPS.

Our attentive correspondent in Natal, South Africa writes as follows:—"I notice by Philatelic publications in the United States that the Dutch Government (in the Transvaal) has issued a set of stamps since the place was handed back to it—the values, colors and sizes being given. Now as I made special enquiry about this the other day when writing to enquire after the 3d stamps, I am in a position to deny this statement, the Postmaster having written and told me that they have no new stamps yet, but are still using the British government stamps bearing the Queen's head. * * * I fancy the person or persons who have been so quick to supply the Philatelic world in general with this information have got out of their reckoning and have got hold of the old Dutch fiscals which answer the given description in a very accurate manner—hence I believe the mistake."