GENERAL NOTES.

We learn that 9 million 3c. numerals were Surcharged 2c, and only 21/4 millions of the maple leaf variety.

French artists have been invited to submit designs for a new issue of stamps to appear in France in 1900 to commemorate the Paris Exposition.

The long looked for Scott's cat. is out, reducing the prices of stamps, and small dealers who happen to be loaded with stamps will feel very tired. A boom in price, unless supported by an increase in value, always does harm, whether it is in town lots or stamps.

The new Zanzibar stamps have arrived, printed in very bright colors. The set begins with $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for the lowest and runs up to 8 annas. Mr C. E. Holmes, of Montreal

cut a 3c map stamp in two, ver-tically, intending to use each half for a 1c stamp. Taking the upper half, he put it on a letter, addressed it to himself, mailed it, and the next morning it reached him. The next



day he took the lower half and He mailed it and got it alright. mailed it and got it airight. He repeated this the next day, but the postman asked him for 2c to pay for a letter that had not been sufficiently a letter that had not prepaid. Needless to say, the letter is now in the Dead Letter Office.

NEW YEAR'S NUMBER.

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PHILATELIST'S PROFIT.

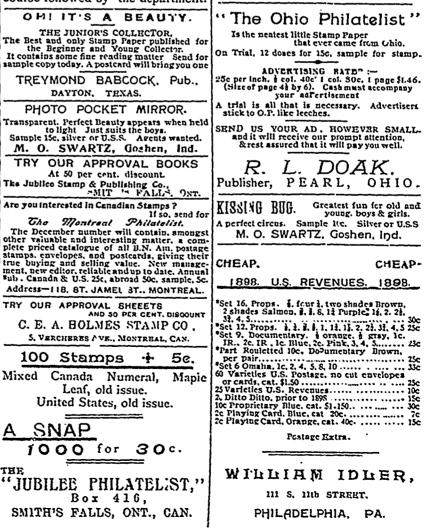
Philatelists who have been following closely the issue of Canadian postage stamps, within the past few months will doubtless find the two cent surcharge stamp particularly interesting. L fore the stamp it.teresting. appeared a circular from the post office department stated that the stock of red three cent stamps was to be used up by bring reduced to the two cent value and that when the stock of three cent stamps was exhausted in this way a new stamp similar in color and design to the 3cents stamps so reduced that of the two cent denomination would appear. The time has evidently come for the new two cent stamp has made its appearance. Although the issue of the three cent stamps was comparatively large one and although a considerable number of postmasters, commercial firms and otners took advantage of the privilege of having three cent stamps sent back to the department to be surcharged, the short time which it took to exhaust the issue scarcely two months, seems to show that the stamp will in a few years be comparatively rare. In transacting business the post office department can not give much thought to the wishes of philatelists, but knowing philatelists may often profit by carefully watching the course followed by the department.

Three Largest Collections.

Herr Ven Ferrary, of Paris, is undoubtedly the greatest stamp collector in the world, possessing a collection valued at a million and a half dollars. He has spent twenty four years in accumulating this vast wealth of stamps, purchasing some of the most valuable collections which have been up for sale during that time, including the Philbrick collections for which he paid \$40,-000, the collection of Sir Daniel Cooper, for which he paid \$15,000, and which has now increased in value to at least \$75,000 and the specialized collections of Mir. E. D. Bacon of Japanese stamps, and of Mr. W. Thornhill of Australian stamps only. Mr. Ferrary employes a librarian whose duty it is to keep in classified order this great accumulation of stamps.

Next to Ferrary's collection comes the Taplin collection in the British Museum. It was left the museum by the late Thomas K. Taplin, M.P., and is valued at \$500,000.

Herr Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg, Russia, is the third greatest stamp collector in the world. He has devoted forty years to his pursuit and in that time got together \$300,000 worth of stamps.



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