

appearing in our magazines in the shape of philatelic fiction or poetry. We have published both at the risk of incurring the ire of our brother editors. We have many different tastes to please, and those who do not like it can pass it over, and will, we have no doubt, find other matter that will meet their approbation.

We expect to obtain weekly contributions from the following well known writers: Guy W. Green, W. Cullen Brown, Chas. E. Jenney, Roy F. Green, Lewis G. Quackenbush, A. O. East, etc., and occasional contributions from many other writers equally well known. We can always pay a fair price for good MSS., but all such that is submitted to us on approval must be accompanied by return postage, otherwise we cannot undertake to return rejected MSS.

The publishers received quite a number of subscriptions to the *Canadian Philatelic Weekly* prior to the publication of the first number. Judging from our other publications, collectors knew that nothing but a first-class paper would appear under our name and therefore had no hesitation in forwarding their subscriptions before they had seen the paper.

We are desirous of having our subscribers forward us their portraits with a short sketch of their collecting career for publication in our columns. Don't be bashful but forward your photo at once. We present at least one each week, but will not object to printing a dozen if we can get them.

In regard to the size of this paper we would say that it will range from four to sixteen pages, weekly, according to the quantity of MSS., etc., we may have on hand for publication.

We have reserved the advance pages of "Our Catalogue" which is being published by a syndicate of American dealers. The Catalogue seems to be very complete, but it has a somewhat crowded appearance. It is expected to prove no mean rival to the catalogue of the Scott Company.

We have from good authority, and have ourselves reason to believe it to be so, that the Coombs Bros., of St. John, N.B., have taken to themselves another alias and are now ready for more dapes. Look out for them.

Our American friends have a prospect for next year which gladdens their hearts. At last there is a definite proposition before Congress to facilitate the transmittal of small amounts by mail. It is expected that the postal notes will be done away with, and a fractional currency issued, thus doing away with the necessity of remitting in unused stamps, and getting them stuck together.

There is little doubt but that there will be a new issue for the U. S. early in 1894; annual issues are apparently becoming a necessity in the States.

Mr. T. S. Clark.



MR. T. S. CLARK of Belleville, Canada, whose portrait we present this week, is known by name to many of our readers and we are pleased to be able to make them acquainted with his features. Mr. Clark was born in Bombay, India, December 7th, 1854. He was educated in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in 1872 came to Canada and entered the employ of the Belleville branch of the Bank of Montreal. He is at present accountant of that branch. He formed his first collection at an early age, and tired of it, but re-entered the ranks of stamp collectors some years ago. He is one of the leading Canadian dealers and has a very fine collection of Canadian stamps. Mr. Clark is also Secretary-Treasurer of the *Canadian Philatelic Association*.

Correspondence.

[This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any Philatelic question. Those who want any information should send in their queries, which will be published in the following number.]

CANADIAN COLLECTORS.

EDITOR CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—It has been thought that a society having membership limited to Canada would do good work. With low dues, reliable officers and active departments, such a society should do well. Please write if interested. Suggestions thankfully received, which shall be discussed and passed on. In writing, kindly give opinion upon such matters as dues, age, age limit of officers, working methods of departments, and general policy of society.

Write: ALEX. McTIGHEAD,
228 Hollis Street. Halifax, N. S.

VARIETIES OF CURRENT CANADA POSTAL CARDS.

NORTH WEARE, N. H., Dec 18, 1893.

EDITOR CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—Many of my collecting friends are of the opinion that the old small blue and black cards, and the large black, are all of the same type. In looking over a few hundred of these cards quite recently, I discovered the following varieties: The first type has a small, four-leaved flower or clover under the numeral of value at each side, and no ornaments above them. Most of these cards are of a pale blue color, although I noticed several of a dark, rich blue shade. I myself do not consider these shades varieties, although some of your readers may. The second type has leaves and

branches above and below the numerals, and extending out at the sides. This type is blue in color, and appears in two shades, and also on two varieties of paper, the first of which is thick and coarse looking, and the second a white, flexible paper. The third type I noticed has under each numeral, and projecting from the circle in which it is enclosed, an ornament which looks more like a half an ear of corn than anything else that I can think of. This is also printed on coarse, yellow paper. There are also two varieties of the small, black cards, one of which is like type one of the blue cards above mentioned, and the other is like type two of the blue card. The large, black cards are all like type one. I noticed many shades of the above cards. Trusting that this may interest your readers. I remain,

Yours truly,
THOS. G. SUTHERLAND.

SOMALI AND OBOCK.*

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 11, 1893.

EDITOR CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—A brother philatelist sends me information from Europe, that the French Government are considering the advisability of establishing a very peculiar postal service in the districts of Somali and Obock. The above service, which is to consist of fast camels, will be conducted in the usual way, and it is stated will have a separate issue of postage stamps, after the design of the 1861, Cape of Good Hope triangulars, and to bear upon its face an inscription in French, Abyssinian and Arabic, the figure to be a mehari, or racing camel, a desert landscape as a background with 1893, the name of the colony and the value.

This unique postage system has been tried with success in South Africa, and I do not see why our French neighbors should not also make it float. The same plan was conducted in England about 40 years ago with horses, before Sir Roland Hill introduced and passed the Penny Postage Act. It is to be hoped that the French Government will soon place these stamps before the philatelic public, as I am sure we shall all be glad to welcome such an artistic stamp as this promises to be, to our collection of philatelic treasures.

Respectfully, JOHN H. BRADBURY.

*ED. NOTE.—This stamp has already been issued.

R. E. PENTECOST.

EDITOR CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—In regard to this R. E. Pentecost. He did not trade me for much, but he managed to swindle me, nevertheless. He wrote, offering to pay 7 cents each for 25 1887 U. S. 3 cent unused, giving as reference A. W. Dunning, Cal. W. E. Bishop (a snide), and State Senator Pentecost. I sent stamps, and not hearing from him in 60 days, wrote again, but letter was returned, unclaimed. The P. M. at Aurora, Ill., informed me, in reply to inquiry, that R. E. Pentecost had flown. Mr. Dunning informed me that he was also lost to the amount of about \$100. Such beats should be hauled up with a sharp turn.

Respectfully, E. C. REED.

Haughty Lady (who has purchased a stamp)—"Must I put it on myself?" Clerk—"Not necessarily; it will probably accomplish more if you put it on the letter."

The transportation of mail matter is no small item in the revenue of railroads. In the United States the amount has doubled within a very few years, and it is estimated that \$2,500,000 more will be appropriated for that purpose in 1894 than in 1893. Mr. Hiss has asked for \$29,904,000 for the weight pay for carrying the mails, and for the use of postal cars for the current fiscal year.