

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

FROM DIFFERENT STANDPOINTS.

BY A. O. E.

BY many charms, many beauties, many inducements, both financial and literary, Philately holds her admirers in enraptured awe. From the youngest no difference is distinguishable except that the older the collector, the stronger the tie which binds him to his favorite hobby, pursuit or business, as the case may be. From a financial standpoint, we especially obtain a very interesting view of some of Philately's inducements.

Financially, "philately has charms." In all spheres of both the civilized and uncivilized world, the mind of man seems to form the proverb "money is the principal thing; therefore with all thy getting get money" instead of wisdom as the wiser portion of humanity strive after. We may divide the world into two classes: wealth seeking, and seekers after knowledge, wisdom and literary attainments, and philately has inducements for both these classes, and from these two standpoints I shall make a brief explanation of these inducements.

I was speaking of financial inducements. This may come under the eye of the dealer, collector or non-collector, but in every case I trust it will serve its point: Scott's 51st and 53rd edition catalogues are before me as I write. What a difference! What an advance in price some stamps have made! In the case of Canadian stamps, the value of many of these have increased from one to three hundred per cent. The 8 cent blue register has advanced from 50 cents to \$1. The 3d. unperforate leaps from 10 to 20 cents. The 10 cent violet, 1859, from 8 to 25 cents. The large 5 cent olive green, from 8 to 25 cents. The 12½ cent, '59, from 12 to 20 cents. The 2 cent, '59, from 10 to 40 cents, and so on thousands of other instances could be quoted illustrating great advances. The older and rarer issues are steadily advancing in price, and every new collector who enters philately's realms assists to raise the prices of these issues. In nearly every business prices are governed by the law of supply and demand, and in few businesses is this more so than in the stamp business. A stamp of which the supply is small and the demand is great, must necessarily bring a high price. Then as dealers dispose of quantities of this stamp each year and their supply becomes smaller, the price goes up. This is the great criterion which fixes the price of stamps. What other business can offer such material advantages, such a wide and paying field for speculation, in many cases a clean profit of from fifty to one hundred per cent. in a single year. I venture to say but few can. Another peep at another way in which philately has made her adherents rich. How many collectors, who, when their purses failed to aid them in purchasing new varieties for their collection, have turned 'round to their friends' garrets to search for old correspondence, and with what success? Some have had little, others great. Many a fortunate collector has in a single afternoon found stamps on old correspondence for which he has realized hundreds of dollars. I can also speak this from experience. Many finds have been made, but the number yet to be made is greater far. Why should you not make one? A little determined search will do it. Try! Philately pays *generally* *well* *for* *old* *correspondence* *and* *other* *things* *of* *interest* *to* *collectors*.

Many collectors scorn the thought that they are philatelists through a "greed for gold", and were

you to insinuate such a thought, you would not be thanked. Although philately is a good investment it does not follow that a collector is a collector for that reason. Some collect for pastime or for amusement, some for profit; and some for the knowledge acquired thereby.

A few thoughts on the possible attainment of the knowledge seekers. A great scope for the study of nature opens itself to us through the various designs of our stamps! A field for the student of nations. The collector who is interested in geographical studies finds the hundreds of countries which issue stamps, a sort of an inspiration to aid him to geographical research. The historical student's craving is also satisfied. The rise and fall of governments, the dethronement or death of old, and rise of new rulers. To him who desired to inform himself of the coinage, language, etc., of the world in general, finds an admirable opportunity through the study of his stamps.

From whatever standpoint we view philately, we cannot but be impressed with its claims as both a profitable and interesting amusement. Philately is becoming better known year by year, its adherents are rapidly increasing, and I am of the opinion that the time is not far distant when it will have increased to twice its present great proportions.

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VALUES OF CANADIAN STAMPS.

LUTHER W. MOTT.

It is interesting to compare the prices for Canadian stamps in Scott's 53rd edition catalogue with those in the 51st issued just before it became the fashion to specialize in Canadians. The first issue of Canada has gone up on an average 33¼%. The second issue has increased less, and the issue of 1868 but slightly, although the one cent jumps from three cents to fifteen for a used specimen. The eight cent registered, as was to be expected, catalogued in '90 at forty cents, is down for a dollar now. The five and ten cent envelopes have increased from one and two dollars to one and a half and three and a half respectively.

British Columbians have gone up about 25%. In Nova Scotias, the three pence, dark blue, 1851, has risen from \$1.50 to \$2.50, the 6d. from \$5 to \$8.50, the 1d., 1853, from \$3 to \$5, while the one shilling, 1853, unpriced in the 51st edition, is now quoted at \$40.00. Of the 1860 issue, every stamp has, at least, doubled, and several much more.

The 1s., New Brunswick, 1851, goes from \$30.00 to \$40.00. The prices given for the 1860 issue are too large; nobody will buy at the figures quoted in the 53rd for some time. They are changed from those in the 51st but a little, while the stamps, as everyone knows, have become very common in the last year.

In Newfoundlands we can find some large gains in value. The 2d., 1863, and the 5c., 1866, have doubled, while the 5c., 1868, used and unused specimens of which cost 35c. and 65c. in '90, can now be obtained for not less than \$2.00 in either condition. Down to and including 1876 there is a general increase; stamps issued since that time show no change.

While Scott is not as good an authority on Canadians as some others, still his prices are very valuable for comparison. We can see that in the past two years there has been a big rise in prices of Canadian stamps. This rise will probably go on for some time, as there are many collectors who make a specialty of the stamps of British North America.