

eties. To be sure we cannot study the governments, etc., with the aid of stamps alone, but they can, and should, act as guides and reminders.

In studying forms of government, the revenue stamps are of as great value as the postal emissions, and by studying these along these lines the young collector would receive aid in the study of civics and kindred subjects as great as that given by the average teacher. As for the advanced and older collectors, if they would work along this line and ignore all unintentional varieties they would find much which would be new to them, and thus add a small amount of practical knowledge to their store-house of facts instead of storing it with chaff, which is something, yet is nothing.

Therefore, I say, collect all legitimate varieties (as there are less than 12,000 of these varieties it is not an impossibility) and also the revenues of all countries if possible and study them for knowledge of the country represented and not of the particular stamp. You may not, probably will not, have a complete collection as many varieties of necessity are nearly impossible to obtain, but you will have obtained knowledge, and "knowledge is wealth."

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The manufacture of letter sheets was discontinued on August 30th 1894, per order of the P. M. General.

Postmasters in the U. S. are not permitted to arrange for fictitious canceling of stamps, thereby gaining personal profit for themselves and the purchaser at the expense of the department. —G. A. Hunt.

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## Philatelic Items.

BY BERTRAM J. BISHOP.

The P. S. of A. convention will be held in Detroit, this year, and everyone should turn out in force and make this the banner meet. Detroit has fought for the place a long time and well-deserves the honor—and needs it to—for philatelists in the "City of the Straits" have become discouraged at Michigan's poor representation, and many of them have laid aside their collections and have nearly forgotten them. Let us hope that the convention will bring things to life again, and that old Michigan will once more be able to hold her head proudly in comparison with the other states.

Stamp Collectors in Cuba are a great deal like the proverbial hen's teeth—hard to find. I spent some time in Santiago after leaving the the Bahama Islands—but failed to find a friend.

In Nassau, however, I looked up N. P. Solomon, whose name used to be in the blue books, but he had abandoned his collection two years previous, nevertheless, the old fraternal feeling still existed, and he paid his compliments to me by inviting me to enjoy a fine afternoon drive with him. Many of the stores of Nassau have cheap stamps for sale but nothing to interest the philatelist as they are all continentals.

One thing which was very gratifying to a stranger was the cordiality with which I was received everywhere. Uncle Sam's uniform is a potent factor in making friends and acquaintances.

Bertram J. Bishop,

Late, 2nd Lieut., 35th Mich U.S. I.

Read Royal Stamp Co's ad.