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WHOLE No. 31.

CHICAGO NOTES.

BY CHRIS PETERSON.

The fourth regular meeting of Chicago Branch, P. S. of A., was held on the evening of March 7th at the Society's rooms. The meeting was called to order by the President C. E. Severn, at 8 p. m. A large number of members and visitors were present. Messrs. S. B. Hopkins, C. B. Bergquist and J. A. Pierce were elected for the official board. Mr. T. R. Ferris was elected auctioneer and a sale will be held at each meeting, which will prove of great benefit to members. After the regular routine of business the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p. m. Next meeting will be held April 4th, at which a regular spread will be given by the officers, and a social, good time is expected.

Geo. J. Byrne is still sending out postal cards and circular letters all over the United States, several of which have been sent to your correspondent, who has turned them over to Post Office Inspector Fleming. I have received several communications from parties who have sent money to the accused party, but they are nearly all small sums, and will in most cases be returned to the senders, as nearly all Byrnes' mail is held at the post office. There is at present a large amount there. Mr. Fleming informed me that Byrnes was under close surveillance by the secret service, but received part of his mail, in order to not suspect anything. His time will, however, be short now, and the party will soon be tried on several charges. Full particulars will appear in my next notes.

Since my last notes I have received considerable evidence against other parties, and unless the affair is straightened up it will be published in the next number. If any reader has information to offer in regard to fraud cases, they will confer a favor by communicating with Chris Peterson, 193 Clark street, Chicago.

The post office officials from Washington were in the city last week, and granted a new post office for Chicago, on which work will be commenced as soon as a site is decided upon. The letter-carriers and post office employes, with brand new uniforms and several brass bands, turned out in honor of the occasion.

Mr. C. E. Severn, the philatelic prize-winner, writes regularly for the Saturday Evening Journal. Six dollars was received for his last article. We wish you unlimited success and cash, and don't forget that supper at Kinsley's.

Chicago had the honor of starting the first branch of the P. S. of A. Now Illinois wants a State branch. There is nearly 100 members here in this State, and they could make a success of it.

Where will the P. S. of A. convention be held? Washington is the favorite place at present, with Denver a close second, and quite a few are in favor of Niagara Falls. Well, Chicago will have her representative in either place.

Mr. P. M. Walsieffer is back in the city for a short sojourn. Mr. Walsieffer is now a rambling news gatherer, and promises us some rambling notes from his next rambling trip east.

Chicago stamp town has another stamp dealer. Mr. S. B. Bradt has located at 262 Clark street, where he will attend to his approval sheet trade. Mr. Bradt has also purchased the Kimal House cigar stand in connection with his stamp business, and keeps a fine line of imported and domestic cigars, and just to draw trade he gives a cigar free with each purchase.

Mr. E. B. Powers, who is now a member of the C. P. S., and has an application in the P. S. of A., exhibited his specialty collection at last meeting, which consisted mostly of Queensland and other British colonials. Mr. Powers has a splendid start, and will soon have a fine collection. Mr. Powers leaves next month for a short sojourn in England.

If you are a stamp collector you should join the Philatelic Sons of America—the best society on the continent.

The Columbian craze is now worse than ever. The stamps are all sold out at all the large post offices, and dealers are offering premiums on the unused stamps, and the used ones are selling at face. The four-cent Columbians have just doubled in price since last month. Complete sets are selling readily at \$25, and in a short time will bring more.

To J. W. Randolph, of Richmond, Va., the Southerners were indebted for many of the patriotic pictorial envelopes. One of the most common had for its motto:

"On, on to the rescue, the vandals are coming.
Go greet them with bayonet, sabre and spear;
Drive them back to the desolate land they are leaving,
Go, trusting in God, you'll have nothing to fear."