

THE CANADIAN
WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.
Published Every Thursday.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Canada and United States 50 cents a year.
Other Countries, 52 cents a year extra.
Subscriptions commence with current issue.

ADVERTISING.

30 cents an inch, each issue, strictly in advance.
Yearly contract—25 cents an inch.
Contracts may be paid quarterly, monthly or weekly as preferred.
Changes in copy should be in Tuesday morning.

BUSINESS OFFICE.

24 ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

In our last issue the whole number was the same as in the previous issue. This error is remedied in the present number.

The publishers of the Halifax Philatelic Magazine, and the Philatelic Canadian, announce that their papers are out. We have seen the later, and it is very neat, and we trust that it will meet with success.

We will send out a good many copies of our next issue as samples, and will continue doing this at least once a month during the season.

BUNCE's address book of dealers was sent to us recently. Mr. Bunce states that every dealer whose name appears in it, is "reliable." We notice those of A. Weisz and Harold Conne & Co., both of London, Eng. The later is not now in business. The announcements of the former still continue to appear, but as he has not paid us an overdue account, we much doubt that other publishers will see any returns.

The proposition has been made that a number of Canadian dealers should issue a syndicate catalogue of Canada postage and revenues. In our opinion the scheme would hardly work.

ONE everywhere hears of the great demand for revenues. They are the fashion. If you have never collected revenues of Canada, you should see them. Ask for them and you will find very few dealers have much of a stock. This alone should prove the wisdom of buying now, as there are probably not ten complete collections in existence.

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remittances have, that they cannot get rid of them to vendors, the department has always redeemed them at 5 per cent. discount. This is admitted to be too high, especially when it is considered that stamp vendors only make one per cent. on their sales. The Postmaster-General has, accordingly, decided that from this out the department will redeem stamps in sums of not less than a dollar, at a discount of one per cent. the same discount which the vendors get. The stamps must be pasted upon sheets of paper and sent to the department at Ottawa, when a cheque for the amount of the stamps so returned will be forwarded to the party sending them in. As no postage is required on letters to any of the public departments, no hardship will be entailed upon merchants by this decision on Mr. Mulock's part, but on the contrary it opens a way for the disposal by them of stamps accumulating in their possession.

MICABOW.

A FEW NOTES ON REVENUES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The imperforate and part perforate condition of the first issue U. S. Revenues may be accounted for by the hurry with which they were prepared. Congress had passed a war measure levying a stamp tax upon legal instruments and other documents and there was little time before the law went into effect for the preparation of the large variety of stamps required. It was creditable to the contractors that no serious errors were made. Later, the demand was so great that they could not afford to reject sheets of stamps because they had been run through the perforating machine too many times and were double perforated. These double perforated stamps are not very uncommon and are generally found in the case of the most plentiful varieties, these having been produced in the greatest numbers and consequently with the greatest haste and the least care. I think that three or four times the price of the ordinary stamp is enough to pay for these oddities.

Requisitions for stamps came in from all parts of the loyal States, and supplies were sent, some of which included nearly the whole issue of a single variety. Instead of dividing up a batch of stamps among the different sections of the country and sub-stations from which stamps were distributed, the bulk of it would be sent to one place and if no more of that kind were issued, the use of that particular stamp would be confined to the one locality. Thus, almost all the \$20 P. of W. imperforate

now in collections originally came from California. More specimens have been found on the Pacific coast in recent years, it is said, than in all the East. This probably indicates that many of the rarest revenues are to be sought, each in a particular vicinity of its own. But knowledge of this, if anyone has it, must be a trade secret.

The genuineness of imperforate revenues may be determined to some extent by the date which was usually written or stamped upon them. In 1862, no stamps were perforated and most stamps used in 1863 were imperforate, but stamps of later date need not necessarily be pronounced clipped on this account. I have seen a pair of imperforate 50c P. of W. dated 1863. These probably were remainders which had been kept for two or three years before being used. Width of margin is deceptive, for the stamps were often irregularly perforated, sometimes so as to show portions of adjoining stamps both above and below.

After a year or two, it was found to be both inexpedient and unnecessary to require that the stamps should bear inscriptions corresponding with the names of the documents to which they were attached, and thereafter they were used indiscriminately. The engravers, since it was no longer necessary to provide every variety of stamp, retired some plates and dies and printed no more stamps from them. This restricted their issue and made them rarer than the others. The playing card and proprietary stamps were always required to be used for those purposes only, however, and this is the reason for their general scarcity. I am not aware whether the 8 cent proprietary is rare because there was little use for that value, or because it was early retired. Perhaps both reasons operate.

During the early '70's, a number of revenues were issued on a very thick paper. In fact, there are two thicknesses of thick paper. They are easily distinguished from the ordinary papers, but may be tested in this way: double the paper between the thumb and finger; if it will crease easily, it is the thin paper, but if there seems to be considerable resistance, it is the thick, hard variety. Lists have been attempted of the varieties printed on this paper, but new discoveries are continually being made.

It is said that revenues are soon to be catalogued both unused and used. Heretofore, unused specimens have been obtainable for a mere fraction of the face value on account of the fact that the government does not redeem them, but there is such a limited source of supply that they are bound to be