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REVENUE AND TELEGRAPH STAMPS!

At the present time, it is scarcely necessary to advocate the collection of Telegraph Stamps, for they are now included in the album, which has, perhaps, a larger sale than any other, namely that of Mr. Moens. The only magazine which still holds out against them is the Stamp Collector's, but even it will have to change its sentiments, to keep up to the popular opinion. We are not aware what ground the Philatelist's Journal will take, but should suppose that it will run with the tide. Now, why should Telegraph Stamps not be collected? a simple question but one for which it is hard to find a simple reply. The usual reply is, that they are only semi-postal, but if all that is semi-postal is to be rejected, how much smaller will our albums become; all the locals, all the official stamps, all the returned letter stamps, all the unpaid letter stamps, and most of the newspaper stamps are semi-postals. Why should Telegraph Stamps be collected? another simple question, to which we think we can find a satisfactory reply. Our reply is, that they are in reality postal, to prove this we have only to shew how the stamps are used. In most foreign countries all the telegraph wires etc. are owned by the government, and not, as in Canada, by private companies, the superintendent is usually the postmaster, and the office is usually the post-office. When a person wishes to send a telegram, he places a telegraph stamp on the envelope, drops it into the box, and the message is forwarded in due course; now whether the message is forwarded by mail or by wire is of but little consequence, in both cases the stamps are cancelled, and the letter dispatched by the post-office authorities. difference does it make, in what way the What messages are dispatched? a difference might just as well be made between stamps used on letters forwarded by railway and those on letters forwarded by steamer. Telegraph stamps are in fact postage stamps used for telegrams, and the ordinary stamps might just as well be used (they are in England) if it were not, that telegrams cost more, than ordinary letters, and consequently the stamps have to be of higher values.

REVENUE STAMPS.—Of course the argument used in favor of telegraph stamps, will not hold here, as revenue stamps have nothing whatever to do with the post, and therefore cannot be collected as even semi-postal. In America there is a certain class of collectors, who collect anything that is a stamp, always provided it is not a humbug, for these, revenues have as much attraction as postals, but of course have to be kept in a separate album. There is no argument that can be used in favor of the collection of revenues, except that they are stamps, and should be collected, just as much, as any other kind of stamps. The collection of revenue stamps is a very simple affair, there being but little difficulty in obtaining the stamps, and none whatever in arranging them. One of the arguments that could be used against them is their number, in Canada we have no less than 89 distinct varieties, besides law stamps surcharged with various letters, bill stamps for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and we believe there is a distinct issue of the new law stamps for each province. In the United States the revenue stamps are innumerable, and a complete set would fill an album of itself. We are surprised that no dealer has issued a complete price catalogue of the revenue stamps of all nations, such a catalogue would, to use a hackneyed phrase, supply a want long felt, at least by American collectors.

Whilst we would not entirely recommend revenue stamp collecting, we think that a well arranged album of them, would be a source of much pleasure to the owner, presenting, as they do, a great variety of well engraved, and finely colored specimens; this matter however should be left to the taste of the collector, but not so with telegraph stamps, for, in our opinion, no collection can be complete without them.

Of course there are parties who think differently but when our reasons are examined, we are certain, that but few will be able to contradict them, much less bring decided proof, against them.