

Canadian Postoffices.

The following statements are taken from the annual report of the postoffice department, for the year ending June 30, 1896, as laid on the table of the house of Parliament May 28, 1897 by Mr. Mulock, Postmaster-General.

June 30 there were 9,103 postoffices in the Dominion, of which 1,640 were in the province of Quebec. The total number of letters carried was 156,028,000; post cards 24,794,800; free letters 4,808,800; registered letters 3,565,500; transient newspapers etc. 24,024,000.

During the year 318 additional miles of railway mail service were established. The value of the issue of postage stamps was \$3,779,993 an increase of \$154,178.

The following statement will show the development of the postoffice business during late years.

	1886	1896
No. of postoffices in Canada	7,295	9,103
No of letters	71,000,000	115,730,000
Revenue	2,463,747	4,005,890
No of miles of railway over which mails are carried		10,556

NOTES.

By S. A. Nichols.

The collecting of stamps is one of the most profitable amusements that young people can engage in. When thrown aside for a time, as it may be, the collection, if carefully made, will increase in value with the lapse of time. Parents cannot do better than to encourage in their children a love of stamp collecting. It is no longer considered a fad, but is now recognized as a harmless yet intellectual and sensible recreation, attractive to all

classes. Collectors are advised never to buy badly cancelled, torn or otherwise damaged stamps; but always lightly cancelled ones. Most unused stamps increase in value more rapidly than used ones.

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Herbert Irey Watts, whose illustration appears above, was born at Winchester, Indiana, Randolph Co., July 19, 1875.

Mr. Watts began collecting in 1890 and, until a short time ago, had general collection of about 3,500 varieties but has disposed of it and intends to start a special collection of British Colonials with Mexican issues as a side line.

In 1894 he began writing for the Philatelic Press and to him belongs the honor of writing the first Philatelic novel ever written. Mr. Watts is Associate Editor of this paper. He is also the discoverer of the Cincinnati Hand stamp, and in spite of opposition still advocates its claims.

In 1896 he entered the Law Office of Canada & Caldwell as a student.