

THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

Published Every Thursday.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Canada, United States or Mexico, 30 cents a year.

Other Countries, 50 cents a year.

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.

91 ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

WE have been favored with prices as realized at Bogert & Durbin's 66th sale. Later we will be pleased to publish such prices, and auction holders are requested to send priced catalogues or the quotations.

UNUSED Canada postage will be the ones to advance in the near future. If you try to buy, their scarcity is soon evident.

IN the October Canadian Philatelic Magazine appears interesting reading. I. E. Weldon, president of Dominion Philatelic Association, writes the opening of "Philatelic Journalism in the Dominion"; the editor gives another chapter on "Canada Revenues," embracing the Weights and Measures, Supreme Court, Gas Inspection, and Electric Light Inspection stamps; J. B. Simpson writes "Under Victoria's Rule"; and there also appears a liberal portion of Scott's advance prices, and a few other items make up by far the best issue of this rising paper of the Dominion.

THE DECREASE OF GOOD SPECIMENS.

(Continued from last week.)

removing parts of old hinges from the backs. Now, what collector is there who can say that in all his collecting experience he has never injured a stamp? Not one I vouch, even after he became advanced or a specialist. Leaving out the numbers of good stamps in the hands of those who pay little regard to the condition of their specimens and who handle them as if they were made of metal, the decrease that is constantly going on in good specimens is greater than we have suspected, I am led to believe. Take, for instance the many different methods by which this may be brought about. Many collectors neglect to soak the papers from the backs of the stamps when it seems likely to be pulled off easily, and in tearing it off the stamp is torn. Hinges accumulate on the back, and being in too much of a hurry or too lazy to use water, the stamp is torn or its thickness decreased so that a watermark is indiscernible. Stamps printed in aniline ink are ignorantly put in water, and the colors run; or, such stamps having just the backs wetted, in being scraped with a knife are injured. A corner or a perforation becomes bent over on a stamp in an album. It is noticed and placed properly, but if it occurs twice or three times, it is liable to drop off. A good many collectors when taking a stamp from a sheet, simply tear off a part of the hinge adhering to the sheet, and when this has occurred half a dozen times to the same stamp, it has a "hump on its back" at the top which causes it to lean out from the page like a picture hung from a wall. The number of stamps one meets with, having a hole almost through where the hinges usually are placed is indeed startling. I regard this as one of the best pleas for exchanging stamps loose instead of on sheets.

(To be continued.)