

and he sticks close too—if you owe him anything.

You should have seen Widdicombe, of St. Kitts, carrying his massive edition of the "Ontario Philatelic Directory." He also had a box, and all thought it contained cigars from Havanna, but no, it was just a few rare pence issues of early Canada, which he smilingly offered to exchange for currency of the realm.

Beatty, ye editor and publisher of the Ontario Philatelist, gave the following joke as occurring at the Toronto post office, and vouches for its accuracy. After hearing it I thought Mr. Beatty was telling a personal mishap.

"In the rush and crush at the general delivery wicket an Irishman, poor, and a typical son of the sod, had applied for a letter.

"Letter? All right sir. What name?"

The Irishman gave his name, but the clerk not catching it, asked:

"How do you spell it?"

"Spell it!" exclaimed the Irishman, "Sure, if a foine smart clark loike you can't spell it, how d'ye think a poor man loike me can?"

Weldon was feeling so good after the election, he bought some stock in one of those mining claims now booming in British Columbia. They only cost three cents a share—but maybe I shouldn't let this be known as the par value is \$1, and I. E. may intend "raising" on them if his uncle will accommodate.

You should have seen McKeag in the 48th Highlander uniform, bare legs, kilts, spats and bonnet. If Li Hung Chang could have seen him, and also Weldon in his new gown, both would now be in the Imperial Chinese Service, but we are extremely thankful such is not the case.

Graham, of Merriton, the vice-president, says he never saw so many pretty girls as in Toronto. I always claimed so, and that no country excels.

## UNITED STATES REVENUES.

**D**URING the past year the revenues of this country have gone to the front. The demand for them has been a steadily increasing one, and consequently the prices of the scarcer ones have correspondingly advanced. It was ever thus. A while ago they were overlooked, neglected, and cheap; now that the interest in them has been renewed, many find them a very attractive branch of philately. Careful study has been bestowed upon the subject, and many new varieties have been listed. Particularly is this the case with the first set issued in 1862 and in 1863. These stamps were at first issued in an imperforate condition, then partly perforated, and finally perforated all around.

The latter were printed on three different papers—1st, a thin, hard, crisp paper; 2d, a thicker paper, with silk fibers in it; 3rd, a heavy, white paper, resembling the latter, but without silk fibers.

The advent of the same stamp in the several stages of perforation has given rise to a good deal of fraud. It is such an easy matter to produce a scarce variety from a common stamp by simply cutting off the perforations, that extreme care must be taken when selecting the scarcer varieties of imperforate or partly perforated stamps. None should be listed unless unsevered pairs or blocks can be shown.

A case recently came to our notice where a stamp heretofore not listed as part perforate, was sent on approval in this condition, not one but several specimens being submitted. All bore the cancellation of the same bank, with dates but a few weeks apart. One of the specimens, however, still showed perforations on a third side, proving that they had been clipped off. Stamp in question was the 2-cent orange bank check. Until this stamp can be presented in unsevered pairs and blocks, the partly perforated variety will re-