

post in 1801, and continued as a separate establishment from the general post, down to 1854.

In 1837 a plan of Post-office reform was suggested by Sir Rowland Hill. Its principal features were the adoption of a uniform, and low rate of postage, a charge by weight, and a prepayment. Previously to the change, members of Parliament had the right of sending their letters free, but this privilege of FRANKING was entirely abolished. A penny was adopted as the uniform rate for every inland letter, not above half an ounce. Facilities for prepayment were afforded by the introduction of postage stamps, and double postage was charged on letters not prepaid.

The postal system of France dates from the time of Louis XI but posts were at first used exclusively for the royal service, and only became available for private correspondence, gradually. The French law vests in the Post-office the exclusive right to carry letters, newspapers, periodicals, packets, and papers of all kinds not exceeding a kilogramme (2lbs.) in weight, subject to certain exceptions.

In 1848 a uniform rate was established for inland letters,—20 centimes for letters not exceeding 1-4 oz. There are lower rates (15 centimes and 10 centimes) for local letters. Postage stamps were introduced in 1848.

Canadian Stamps Worth Collecting.

Although the majority of the Canadian stamps are not worth much yet there are some very valuable ones. These are not to be compared to the rare stamps

of the United States which are worth thousands. The valuable stamps of Canada only go up into the hundreds. Yet such as they are they may interest some of our Canadian collectors.

The first among these stamps is the 12 penny, black. It was issued in 1852 on wove paper. The portrait on it is that of the Queen. In each corner is the figure 12. Around the portrait are the words "Canada Postage, Twelve Pence." This stamp in an unused condition is worth five hundred dollars, used, about four hundred.

This same stamp or at least the same in design, issued in 1851 on laid paper holds the second place being catalogued at three and two hundred. This stamp in both issues was not perforated.

The next in the list is worth but fifty dollars unused and five dollars used. This is the six pence, purple issued on laid paper in 1851. The design is similar to the 12 pence except that the portrait is of Prince Consort instead of the Queen. This stamp was not perforated.

The six pence lilac of the 1855 issue on wove paper perforated seems to be the next. It is worth forty-five and thirty dollars. The design is similar to the preceding the difference being in the paper and color.

The next is the one cent, brown red, perforated of the 1870 issue. It was printed on laid paper. The design was the portrait of the Queen (the same as on the present issue). At the top was "Canada 1 Postage" at the bottom "1, one cent 1." The value