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NEWS OF THE MONTH.

Decidedly the most important novelty of this month is the appearance of Chilian stationery with a female portrait instead of the time honored features of Columbus. A new set for Italy is promised, the new Greece are not yet complete, possibly they have been printed but old stock has to be used up before the new is put in circulation. Provisionals are numerous in fact nearly all our announcements of novelties are surcharges this month, so that although the list is somewhat long, it is not a very interesting one except to those who take a special delight in provisional stamps. In order to present both sides of the question to our readers we publish this month a defence of the Mafeking locals, by their ablest champion, and with this article we will close the matter as far as our columns are concerned. The recent philatelic exhibition in Paris has brought several prizes to America, the Scott Stamp Co. and H. E. Deats have secured medals for exhibits of Philatelic publications, and Messrs John N. Luff, Wm. Moser, M. H. Lombard and Alex Holland for Stamp exhibits. We congratulate these gentlemen on their success.

The first section of the advance sheets of the Scott catalogue has appeared, comprising the stamps of the United States; a number of minor varieties are listed for the first time but there are no striking changes in prices. The complete work is promised for Dec. 1st. Just as we go to press a communication from Stanley Gibbons, Limited informs us that their energetic manager Mr. C. J. Phillips is shortly to visit America, and hopes to be able to take in Montreal on his trip. Our local collectors and societies will be pleased to meet Mr. Phillips, and we are sure will extend to him a hearty welcome. We would suggest to our friends the advisability of tendering to so prominent a philatelist, an official invitation to visit our city.

Before our next number goes to press

the verdict of the electors of the Dominion will have been passed on the administration of the country by the Laurier government, at the general elections to be held Nov. 7th. Should the government be defeated and the reins of power pass on more into the hands of the Conservative party, we may expect that the contract for the supply of stamps will be again given to the British American Bank Note Company, which would wear a new issue of stamps, or a reversion to the old designs in use previous to 1897. Aside from the ardent politicians of both sides, business men are not taking a vast amount of interest in this electoral campaign, generally they seem to be well satisfied with the conduct of affairs and the commercial policy of the present administration, so that a change of government seems improbable. Postal affairs, which no doubt interest our readers most, have certainly been well administered by our present Postmaster General Hon. Wm. Mulock. During his term of office, he has reduced the domestic rate of postage by one third, inaugurated Imperial penny postage, introduced the postal note system and many other improvements in the service, whilst materially reducing the expenditure. Instead of the annual deficit of about three quarters of a million, he has made his department practically self sustaining. Philatelists have contributed largely to bring about this result, for beginning with the Jubilee stamps of 1897, the sales to collectors have been very large. On the whole the Hon. Wm. Mulock has been the best and most successful Postmaster General that Canada has ever had, and if the administration is to be judged by its record on Postal affairs, we feel certain that business men generally and philatelists in particular, will record a practically unanimous vote on Nov. 7th in favor of the present government of the country.