

In this connection it is proper to remark that shortly after the Act of Confederation was passed, (in 1867,) and a new series of Canada stamps had been issued for the use of the whole Dominion, an offer was made to the Provincial authorities by a certain party to buy the entire lot of unused stamps then on hand for \$1,000 and that this offer was refused. It appears that the powers of the day thought that Nova Scotia had made such a good bargain that she could better afford to burn than to sell her obsolete stamps. If these stamps had been kept till the present day they would be eagerly bought by foreign dealers at their face values at least, and thus would have been a valuable adjunct to the revenues of the province, and proportionally have lessened local burdens. We do not know of a similar want of foresight on the part of officials anywhere.

U. S. MONEY ORDERS.—The official report on the money order business transacted by the Postoffice Department of the United States during 1882 shows a total of \$63,101,347.54, or about 12 per cent. larger than in 1881. The number of money orders issued was 67,170, valued at \$1,401,858.27, paid and repaid, 902,928, valued at \$8,566,796.61; postmasters' deposits, 20,324, valued at \$24,176,372.21; drafts to postmasters, 23,617, valued at \$11,024,269.33; bills of exchange, \$4,765,973.86; Postmaster General's checks, \$1,838,775.15; deposit to Postmaster General's credit, \$1,988,713.09; money orders received and certified to Europe, 467,424, valued at \$8,236,469.06.

POSTOFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—The balance to the credit of depositors in the Canadian post office savings bank at the end of the year 1882 was \$2,998,368 in advance of the sum to the credit of depositors at the end of 1881. The balance on hand on the 31st December last was \$10,840,642.

PERSIAN ENVELOPES.—The government of the Shah has shown for several years a disposition to adopt in postal matters the methods of Western civilization and has met with an agreeable amount of success in introducing them to its people. The postal envelope was introduced some time since but the public have, so far, proved themselves unequal to the task of comprehending its intended mission. They have evidently regarded the corner bearing the stamp as the only valuable part of the envelope as they have clipped that portion out and pasted it upon the wrappers that contain their correspondence. A valued correspondent in that country has, in illustration, sent us specimens of letters bearing three or four of the adhesives that had been cut from envelopes and affixed to letters as above described.

He further remarks that the government, making due allowance for the ignorance of its people in this respect, has allowed these to pass unchallenged. As this state of things cannot long continue wrappers bearing adhesives cut from envelopes must in time become valuable if a sufficient portion of the wrapper is preserved to show the entire postal obliteration.

Collectors will, therefore, do well to preserve any such that may come into their hands, i.e. if they are preserved as noted above. They should be classed in catalogues and collections as adhesives.

A THREE CENT STAMP WORTH \$100.—In 1846, while awaiting supplies from the department at Washington, the postmasters of certain cities were authorized to issue stamps temporarily. Among others issuing was the Postmaster of Brattleboro, Vt. Eight hundred stamps were printed, and of these one-half were burned. Collectors have been in search of some of these stamps, and it was considered a hopeless matter to procure one of them. One collector, however, who was shrewder than the rest instituted a search for the engraver, whom he found residing in Springfield, and he had still remaining seven of the precious squares, which he disposed of to the collector for seventy-five cents each, besides furnishing indubitable proof of the genuineness of the issue, the very existence of which was doubted. The fact of the purchase leaked out and a dealer offered \$1 apiece for six of the seven. This was refused by the original purchaser, who demanded five times that sum, and before the money reached him, although it was sent with promptitude, he had an offer of \$10 apiece. Being an honest man, he struck to his first offer, and parted with six for \$30. The most precious of the lot, which bore the engraver's name, he retained possession of, and this is the one he has now sold for \$100.—[Boston Traveller.

THE ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The idea of an adhesive stamp affixed to a letter, as indicative of the payment of postage, is much older than has been generally supposed. It is known that the first suggestion of such an arrangement in modern times came from Rowland Hill, the father of the cheap postal system in England, about the year 1839 or 1840. It was several years, however, before his suggestion was carried into effect. History, however, tells us that the ancient German cities of Thurn and Taxis had such a system, which for some inexplicable reason, fell into disuse or failed to become general among nations. The modern postage stamp was much used in England about the year 1842 or 1841. In 1845 E. A. Mitchell, the then Postmaster of New-Haven, taking advantage of the English idea made use of a postage stamp of his own, which he continued to use until 1847, when the Government of the United States issued the first American postage stamps. They were in two denominations.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.—A cheaper class of stamped envelopes, called "Commercial Envelopes," are now sold to the public at the following prices:—1d. envelope 1½d.; 2, 2½d.; 3, 3½d.; 4, 4½d.; 5, 5½d.; 10, 10½d.; 20, 1s. 9d.; 240, 21s. The existing B and D sizes will cease to be issued by the Controller of Stamps, Inland Revenue, when the present stocks are exhausted.—[English paper.

The heaviest requisition ever drawn for postage stamps was forwarded from the New York Post Office the other day, the number of stamps called for being 21,220,000, representing \$453,000.

The receipts of the United States Post Office Department for the quarter ending September last year were \$10,545,000; expenditures, \$10,183,000. During the same quarter of the preceding year there was an excess of expenditure amounting to \$196,000.