

Secretary and Treasurer, T. Brand; Committee, F. Black, T. D. Chataway, F. Myddleton. The dues were fixed at 6s. per annum, which money will be devoted to the purchasing of philatelic literature, and cost of postage and stationary. This Society has inaugurated what we believe to be a new system of managing the Exchange department. Members placing their exchange in the hands of the Central Committee will be credited with their value (according to Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue) in a ledger to be kept for that purpose, and from the stamps ordered in bulk or collected, such members will be entitled to stamps to the full amount of their credit. By this means it is anticipated that members will get better value for their exchanges than if they dealt separately direct with individuals in small amounts. Collectors desiring further information may obtain it by writing to the Secretary who resides in Mackay, North Queensland.

Correspondents' Column.

[This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any Philatelic question. Those who want any information should send in their queries, which will be answered in the following number.]

H. W. H., Corydon, England.—Accept our thanks for clippings.

Quebec, Canada, August 24th 1893.

Dear Sir,—At the Sixth Annual Convention of the "Canadian Philatelic Association," held in this city on the 23rd instant, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Ernest F. Würtele, Quebec, Que., re-elected; Vice-President, W. Kelsey Hall, Peterboro, Ont.; Sec-Treas., T. S. Clark, Belleville, re-elected; Ex Supt., C. C. Morancy, Quebec, Que.; Librarian, A. E. Labelle, Montreal, re-elected; C. Detector, Henry Ades Fowler, Toronto, Ont; Trustees, Dr. C. E. Cameron, Montreal, Chairman, J. E. Schultze, Montreal, W. Patterson, Montreal, Official Organ, *The Canadian Journal of Philately*.

Yours very truly,

ERNEST F. WÜRTELE, President.

Are your Files

Of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST complete? If not, now is the time to complete them. The supply of back numbers is small. While they last they can be had at the following prices: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, at 10c. each. Nos. 7 and 16 are 25c. each. Complete your files before it is too late.

THE FUTURE U. S. POSTAL CARD.—Postmaster-General Bissell has decided to abandon the three sizes of postal cards now in use and to substitute one size for single and reply cards. The specifications which have been sent to prospective bidders for the contract for furnishing the postal service with cards for the next four years call for single cards of the uniform size of $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This is what is known as the international size.

Clippings.

All Clippings from newspapers thought by the Editor to be of interest to Collectors will be published in this column. Subscribers are invited to send clippings, which always prove acceptable.

The Duke of Cambridge is the only member of the English royal family who does not pay letter postage, he being exempted on account of his military rank as commander-in chief.

An estimate of the extent and value of the existing postage stamp collections, based largely on the showing of a census taken for the purpose, places those existing in England at a total market value of £125,000, and those in the rest of the world at £100,000.

1st Collector—"What are you putting all those blank pages into your album for? Locals and revenues?"

2nd Collector—"No, these are for my varieties of Columbian envelopes, cut square."

1st Collector—"Oh! that's it, I've bought me a new blank album for them."

It is stated that a special department in the Hamburg Stock Exchange is devoted to transactions in the Columbian stamps which were issued by the United States Post Office for this year only. The stamps are exquisite productions; but to carry on bull and bear transactions in them is introducing philately into finance with a vengeance. Still, the craze provides innocent amusement for a not too innocent class, and it might be a pity to stamp it out.

A Mayville, N. Y., lawyer, in search of a missing heir, became satisfied at last that the man he wanted was somewhere in Canada, but not knowing where, addressed a letter to him at every post office in Ontario and Quebec—nearly 4600 of them in all. One of the letters reached the addressee, and, as his inheritance was more than \$100,000, he probably won't object to the item, "Postage, \$92," in the lawyer's little bill.

A SEALED LETTER IS SACRED.—"The sanctity of a sealed letter is so well secured in this country," said Mr. Nash, the superintendent of the railroad mail service,—"that if a letter were received at the city post office in Washington, or at any other post office in the country, that was absolutely known to contain the evidence of fraud, the proof of the improper use of the mails, the postmaster general himself would not dare to break the seal. A letter passing through the mails cannot be opened by anybody until it reaches the dead letter office, after every effort has been made to deliver it in vain."

The man who introduced the first cancelling machine in the New York general post-office is employed there now, but he has lived to see his machine surpassed. His invention would cancel 4000 stamps in an hour, or less than the average number for a skilled man working by hand. Three or four other machines, each a little faster than its predecessor, were introduced in turn and discarded. One was invented that far exceeded the speed of the swiftest hand worker, and it was used until the discovery was made that it sometimes cut through envelopes and damaged their contents. Then the present machine, which cancels 48,000 stamps an hour, was introduced.