

wonderful facilities afforded by the C.P.R. for the transmission of mails and passengers between Vancouver and Halifax, it will make Canada the great highway to the Australian colonies and the islands of the Pacific, as it already is becoming to China and Japan.

(To be Continued.)

SPECULATIVE ISSUES.

THE war against this so-called pest of philately has brought out a great many entirely different opinions.

A collector is allowed to do just what he pleases, and to get his stamps where he can. It is all right for the dealers and publishers to slightly direct the tastes of the majority of collectors; but a great many individuals, and in most cases just the most desirable ones, simply do not care to be governed to any degree by societies or dealers. Happily, collecting stamps is a hobby that can be adapted to the most different tastes. We know of specialists in all lines, and are pleased to say we know of specialists in lines that do not belong to the fashionable emissions of the day. Far greater danger than in these so-called speculative issues, lies in the increasing prominence that is given to the most minute varieties. Do not think that we want to discourage careful study, but even a good thing can be overdone. When the beginner sees in every one of the better class of papers minute varieties of English Colonies and United States, brought out with attention to each detail, he must necessarily think that any other part of the world is not worthy of collecting, and as he does not care to make of a pleasant pastime for idle hours a deep study, he is easily tempted to throw the whole thing overboard. That is what has happened. Boy collecting has fallen off, and after all that is the future of philately. No matter how many specialists have full sheets, plate numbers or anything else in a few countries, the generalizer is the strong foundation on

which collecting has to rest.

A few words regarding the Olympian issue of Greece. These stamps are too beautiful for the philatelic fraternity to drop them without struggling, and for that reason we presume, says *Filatelical Facts and Fallacies*, stories have been spread about the indefinite circulation of this issue. Now comes the information that the period of postal usefulness of these stamps will expire on October 13th, of this year and further, that one value, the 60 lepta, is now sold out. Strange facts are connected with this value. In the 5 and 10 drachmai (face value \$1 and \$2) 100,000 and 50,000 were deemed necessary for the short period of six months, of the 60 lepta (face value 12 cents) only 20,000 copies were issued; and rumor has it that this was not done entirely accidentally, but that some person of a good healthy pull wanted, without too much outlay, to corner one value in order to reap a handsome profit. Nevertheless the set is beautiful. A great many collectors will like it, and no doubt it will find its way into a large number of collections. The following quantities of each value were delivered to the authorities at Athens by the Parisian Printing house:

1 lepton.....	4,000,000
2 lepta.....	8,000,000
5 ".....	8,000,000
10 ".....	2,000,000
20 ".....	4,000,000
25 ".....	2,000,000
40 ".....	150,000
60 ".....	20,000
1 drachma.....	200,000
2 drachmai.....	150,000
5 drachmai.....	100,000
10 drachmai.....	50,000

The issue of the Republic of Cuba is, from a philatelic point of view, even more worthless trash, issued by a government that is not in existence, for the sole object of raising funds for a struggling body, powerless for what it is supposed to be made for—that is, to carry letters. We