

lot would ever show up. Indeed *this very day* a new provisional may have been brought into use. If not, prices will go still lower.

I learn that a new "V. R. I." for use in the Transvaal has been issued. It has been seen at this writing (Aug 12) only on the 1d and I presume there will be a mad rush for these provisionals.

The advance sheets of Scott's 1901 catalogue are being awaited with interest. The first instalment is expected in the early part of September. To the uninitiated it might be stated that these sheets are supplied to those dealers and collectors who are so desirous of getting advance information that they are willing to pay for the privilege. I anticipate many changes in the prices of United States Colonials.

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## United States Minutes.

CONDUCTED BY USONA.

With the extension of rural free delivery come various regulations for the government of that service; "Drop letter" or one cent rate is abandoned, though otherwise no change in rates is caused by the free delivery. The carriers are not to bring to the office mail matter collected by them which may be delivered on their routes before completing their trips. The benefit of the stamps cancelled will go to the postmaster where the delivery is made, if he be of the fourth class. The cancellation will be made, until suitable stamps can be provided, with the indelible pencil furnished to the carrier for use in registering letters.

The Postmaster General has issued a circular extending domestic rates of postage

and other advantages, as far as possible, to all ordinary unregistered mail sent to or from persons in the military or naval service of the United States while they are in China.

On July 1, 1900, 47 postoffices came into the Presidential class, while 11 Presidential postoffices were relegated to the fourth class.

In spite of the hot weather Drew & Co. and Bogert & Durbin have been holding successful auction sales. Prices were higher than might have been expected. The former firm succeeded in getting \$3.20 for a set of Hawaiian officials, and the writer, who expected to get some bargains, found that the prices almost always exceeded his limits. This is a decidedly encouraging prospect for the coming season.

The 1900 edition of the International Postage Stamp Album will have no space for cut square envelopes or wrappers other than those of the U. S.

Independent of patriotism, the philatelists of the Lady of the Snows who are fighting for the Empire in South Africa will almost be repaid for their hardships if they can corral a few sets of the Mafeking provisionals. A set of 19 varieties is worth £50. Our Aguinaldo provisionals and overprinted colonials haven't as much romance connected with them, though interesting.

*Grant's Philatelic Monthly* has joined the ranks of 25 cent journals.

Joseph Vincent, Quebec, has been debarred from the U. S. mails for violation of the lottery act.

The Postmaster-General has established in China "Military Postal No 1, China" and this postmark will be an interesting one on U. S. stamps for collections of adhesives on original cover.