

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 smallest, simplest and best-protected post-office in the world is in the Straits of Magellan, and has been there for many years. It consists of a small painted keg or cask, and is chained to the rocks of the extreme cape in a manner so that it floats free, opposite Terra del Fuego. Each passing ship sends a boat to take letters out and put others in. This curious post-office is unprovided with a postmaster, and is therefore under the protection of all the navies of the world. Never in the history of this unique "office" has its privilege been abused.

An old almanac for 1814 gives the following as the rates of postage prevailing at that time: "For every single letter by land, for 40 miles, 8 cents; 90 miles, 10 cents; 150 miles, 12½ cents; 300 miles, 17 cents; 500 miles, 20 cents; and for more than 500 miles, 25 cents. No allowance to be made for intermediate miles. Every double letter is to pay double the said rates; every triple letter, triple; every packet weighing one ounce, at the rate of four single letters each ounce. Every ship letter originally received at an office for delivery, 6 cents. Magazines and pamphlets, not over 50 miles, one cent per sheet; over 50 miles and not exceeding 100 miles, 1½ cents per sheet; over 100 miles, 2 cents per sheet."

For the year ending June 30, 1891, the ordinary postal revenue of the United States, exclusive of money-order business, was more than \$65,000,000. Something like \$41,500,000 of this came from letter postage, the majority of which came from the sale of the two-cent stamps. It is estimated that the whole number of this stamp used exceeds two billions yearly.—*Boston Daily Globe*.

Washington, Sept. 29.—About the 15th of next month the new return postal card will be placed on sale at all post-offices. The two designs, one for the domestic and the other for the international postal union service, have been approved by Postmaster-General Wannamaker, and the work of printing and distributing the cards will be pushed with vigor. The half of the double card containing the message to which a reply is desired is 3½ inches wide by 5½ inches long. At the top of the card, and a little to the left of the centre, are engraved, in three lines, one above the other, the words "Postal card with paid reply;" "U. S. of America," and in smaller type, "This side is for address only." In the right-hand upper corner is a vignette of General Grant, encircled by a frame bearing at the top the words, "message card," and at the bottom, "one cent." At the lower left-hand corner are the words, "detach annexed card for answer." The international card is somewhat smaller than that for domestic use. In the border at the top of the card appear the words "postal card with paid reply," and their French translation, "carte postale avec reponse payee." A Liberty head occupies the right-hand upper corner with the legend, "two cents." In all other essential particulars the domestic and the international cards are very similar.—*Boston Daily Globe*.

Society Items.

[We desire the Secretaries of all Societies to send us *brief* reports of their meetings each month, and such will be published free, and we trust that Societies will not be slow in taking advantage of this privilege.]

The report of the secretary of the Canadian Philatelic Association for September shows a membership of 83, with no applications. It is to the credit of the C.P.A. that it promptly drops members for the non-payment of dues, which we regret to say the Philatelic Society of Canada has as yet failed to do.

The Stamp, of New York, has been appointed official organ of the Philatelic Society of Canada. The only report that appears in the October issue of that journal is the president's address. The motto of this bright little journal, *The Stamp*, is, "Fearless and Independent." Can the official organ of a large society be as independent as it would be otherwise? We think not.

The day is not far distant when the *Sons of Philately* will become the largest Philatelic Association on the North American continent, should they continue to increase as rapidly as they have done in the past. We are informed that they have now close on five hundred members.

The annual meeting of the Boston Philatelic Society will be held the second Wednesday in December, when the officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

A scheme is talked of to establish a paper for the P. S. of C., controlled by the society or executive, to act as official organ, next year. The society will not give any concern a bulk sum for the *privilege* of acting as official organ. If a subscription is paid for each paid-up member, that is quite sufficient: so says "Canadensis" in a recent issue of *Mekel's Weekly Stamp News*.

The dinner given in commemoration of the 18th anniversary of the organization of the National Philatelic Society, New York, took place at the Post Keller restaurant, corner Broadway and Barkley st., on the 17th inst.

San Francisco has four Philatelic Societies: Western Philatelic Union (branch); Philatelic Society of San Francisco; American Philatelic Association (branch); and San Francisco Philatelic Club.

STRAY HUMOR.

Sharp.—Do you see that broken-down cottage on yonder corner? It is a negative proof of the proverb that "Advertising pays."

Flat.—An unsuccessful merchant?

Sharp.—No, the publisher of a philatelic paper!

"If Columbus did not stamp his impress on his own age, he will on the present, with the assistance of Postmaster-General Wannamaker.—*Lowell Courier*.

KNOCKED OUT.

Enterprising Druggist.—Here's a card, madam. Each time you buy something I'll punch it. When \$2 are punched, you get five soda-water tickets free.
Madam.—That's a fine idea. I'll take \$2 worth of postage stamps now.—*Judge*.