



DEATH MASK STAMPS.

The Serbian issue which is in demand among collectors.

According to a Belgrade correspondent, the publication of the story of Queen Natalie's intrigue to revenge herself on Serbia, followed by the sudden withdrawal by the postal authorities of all the new coronation stamps, is the sole topic of conversation throughout the Balkan states.

In order to celebrate King Peter's coronation the Serbian government decided to issue a series of large postal labels bearing the new monarch's portrait beside that of his ancestor Kara-george.

The engraving was unfortunately entrusted to a Frenchman named Mouchon, a person, it is alleged, very friendly toward Queen Natalie, and he very skillfully introduced into the design for the new postage stamps the ghastly features of the queen's murdered son, King Alexander.

A vast number of the coronation stamps were issued to the public before it became known to the authorities that the new issue was regarded by many of King Peter's superstitious subjects as a "heavenly sign" that the new monarch's reign was to be "brief and bloody."

If one of the new stamps be held upside down the unmistakable death mask of King Alexander may be seen, formed by a portion of King Peter's head with that of his ancestor, Kara-george. The nostrils of the two heads together form the eyes of the murdered monarch, the mustaches make the eyebrows, and the eyebrow and eye of Kara-george form King Alexander's nose and mouth.

The "death mask stamps," as the new issue has become known, have undoubtedly made a great impression in the army and among the uneducated classes.

"I learn on the best authority," concludes the correspondent, "that the government is making desperate efforts to buy up as many of the dangerous labels as possible and is even sending agents abroad to France, Germany and England to secure them at any cost from speculators and foreign stamp dealers."—London News.

The Earth's Internal Heat.

Whether the internal heat of the earth was in the first place due to the presence of radio active matter or to other causes is a very debatable question, for the answer involves considerations of the origin of the earth as a member of the solar system. Whatever view may be taken of this problem, there can be no doubt that the discovery of the distribution of radio active matter in the earth throws grave doubt on the validity of these calculations of the age of the earth which are based on the assumption that it is a simple cooling body and tends to show that the present internal heat will be maintained for a much longer interval than was at first supposed.

On this theory of the maintenance of the internal heat no definite limit can be set for the age of the earth, but some deductions can be made of the probable variation of the internal heat within time.—Professor Ernest Rutherford in Harper's Magazine.

A Story of Tom Watson.

Before Thomas E. Watson attained to his present confidence while addressing audiences he had several misadventures on the platform. On one occasion he was speaking to a mixed crowd not far from his home and was blazing away in good style when a singularly beautiful young woman entered the hall. The orator, impressed with the girl's loveliness, lost the thread of his discourse, hesitated and finally stopped. The audience, not understanding his embarrassment, encouraged him with cries of "Go on," but Watson knew he could not respond with good effect. His quick wit came to his rescue, however. Stepping to the front of the platform, he said in a low voice, "Ladies and gentlemen, I should be glad to continue, but the lady who has just come in fairly took my breath away." Then he sat down amid a hearty round of applause.

Why All the Pearl Streets?

Can you tell me why it is that in nearly every town of any size you are sure to find a Pearl street? There is reason in plenty for Main street, State, Front, River, Market, Church, Chapel, High, etc., but this so often repeated Pearl street is too much for me. If it were only here and there it might pass for a coincidence, but it is so general that I am inclined to think there must be some reason for it, though for the life of me I can't imagine what the reason may be. Though it may seem queer to you, I have a special ground for wondering about this thing. I am not jealous of the man or woman or thing that may be the cause of it all, but whoever or whatever he, she or it may be I am anxious to find out.—Margaret Thompson in New York Times.

Collapsible Theater Hat.

A collapsible theater hat which may be folded into a minute space and when necessary will resume its former symmetry has been invented by a London milliner for the benefit of her sex. The hat, which has been patented, is made on an ingenious framework, which can be covered with pliable straw, chiffon, lace or cloth—indeed, any material save velvet, which would crush too much to be of service. It can also be modeled in any shape to suit any style of beauty.

LAMPMAN'S BOYHOOD.

Judge Barron Testifies That He Gave Early Promise of Greatness.

Judge Barron writes in The Globe: The ever-increasing interest in all that relates to the late Archibald Lampman is my excuse for this short letter. Prof. Edgar, quoting from Mr. D. O. Scott, the friend and biographer of poor Lampman (as his older friends and admirers now so often speak of him), gives the impression that in early life Lampman in no way gave promise of his subsequent greatness.

I knew "Little Archy," as his boy companions were wont to call him, when he was but a child, and in my frequent visits to his father's home at Gore's Landing met with him, talked and walked with him very often. He was a delicate, feeble little fellow, and therefore was completely "out of" the rough-and-tumble of schoolboy outdoor life. He would look on when other boys played, but would seldom play himself. His companions always took charge of him, and every boy was taught to help and shield "Little Archy," and they did as they were told, for, I think, they loved him dearly. Each boy, young and old, rejoiced in owning a board plank, on which they nailed a box for a seat, and with a paddle in calm weather would venture far out upon the lake. Of course this led to racing, and on one occasion when a dozen or more were starting, "Little Archy" was seen to try it too. "Go back, Archy! Go back," came, it seemed, from every boy, and every boy forgot his excitement and returned, until the sudden impulse had left their little charge, and he was safe and remained on shore.

Though mentally quick, when his mind became riveted on a subject, yet he was so often away off in "dreamland" that the boys thought him backward, but my father, who observed and thought of him, I think, a great deal, many times remarked that he would become a brilliant boy if his physical strength could be improved. Herein was the trouble, and his early demise was not unexpected by all who knew him during his boy life. He became brilliant, however, in spite of his physical defects, and as a child he gave promise of that beautiful expression, which Canada has been all too slow to recognize. In his walks, which were seldom far, and always slow, for he used a crutch, he would suddenly, after a dreamy silence, break out into some beautiful reference to his surroundings so marvellous that the child seemed to be the master mind of the two, I fancy many and many a time his elders who watched and listened to him, have felt, if not said, "How wonderful and yet how sad."

Here it was at this lovely quiet spot on the shores of Rice Lake, a spot made historical by the late Mrs. Moody, that "Little Archy" conveyed to others his beauty of mind, and they who knew him then can easily recall evidences of the early child's promptings in his lines:

"What wouldst thou have for easement after grief?

When the rude world hath used thee with despise,

And sits at thine elbow day and night,

Fighting thy pleasure like a subtle thief?

To me, when life besets me in such wise,

'Tis sweetest to break forth, to drop the chain,

And grasp the freedom of the pleasant earth."

To roam in idleness and sober mirth,

Through summer air and summer lands,

And drink the comfort of wide fields unto tired eyes."

Canada's Trade and Commerce.

The report of the Department of Trade and Commerce notes an aggregate increase in the trade of the country of \$5,668,000. There has been an increase, it notes, of nearly \$18,000,000 in the imports, and a falling off in exports of over \$12,000,000. The increase in imports during the year has been general on all important articles, notably among them coal, coke, etc., to the extent of about \$4,640,000; sugar and molasses nearly \$2,300,000; tea, \$1,222,000; wood and manufactures of \$2,400,000; wool and manufactures of over \$1,700,000; electrical apparatus, nearly \$800,000.

On the other hand the decrease in exports amounted to over \$1,000,000 on animals living; over \$100,000 on breadstuffs (wheat); over \$1,000,000 on fish; over \$4,000,000 on provisions and over \$3,000,000 on wood manufactured. There has, however, been an increase in the exports of minor articles, aggregating nearly \$8,500,000, leaving a net total decrease of \$12,328,489. In point of fact, nearly the whole net decrease is attributable to the one item, wheat. The production for export in Manitoba and the Northwest was considerably less than in the previous year. The quantity inspected at Winnipeg was but 40,400,000 bushels as against nearly 52,000,000 the previous year.

"It may perhaps be said that the quantity inspected does not indicate the quantity produced, but it does indicate the quantity produced for export. The great influx of immigration into the Northwest, and the increased acreage prepared for the coming year's crop, would naturally account for the holding back of a larger quantity for consumption and seed than was the case in the previous year, reducing to that extent the quantity available for export."

As to the increase in the aggregate trade of the country for the twenty years from 1873 to 1893 was a little less than \$30,000,000, while for the eleven years since 1893 the increase has exceeded \$225,000,000, yet there is plenty of room for further expansion.

An increase of \$4,500,000 in the imports from British Guiana and the British West Indies is noted. This is due to the shifting in the course of the sugar trade, which "has unquestionably given the Canadian household a more satisfactory article than before."

A rather extended report is given of the commercial agencies. It includes a number of very sharp comparisons as to Canadian business men.

CIVIL CODE OF QUEBEC

BEST PREPARED SET OF LAWS EXISTING IN ANY COUNTRY.

France's Civil Law in French Canada—Facts Brought Out at the Recent Celebration of the Centenary of the Code Napoleon in Montreal—Eulogy of Keme on the Reform Effected by Cartier in 1857.

At the annual dinner of the Montreal Bar Association recently the proceedings were mainly in celebration of the centenary of the Code Napoleon. Sir Alexandre Lacoste, Mr. R. C. Smith, K.C., and Mr. Pierre Beaulieu expressed the admiration which all jurists feel for that great system of law. The collection and organization of the laws of France is the noblest work of peace with which the name of Napoleon is connected. It was under the authority of his decree, issued as First Consul in 1800, that the commissioners began their labors. At the beginning of 1805 their great scheme of legal reform came into force. It consisted of five codes—the civil code, the code of criminal procedure, the penal code, the code of civil procedure, the code of commerce. It is one of the latest products of that spirit of reform which labored through the revolution period to bring order out of disorder, and establish institutions upon a scientific basis. Like the idea of the Encyclopedie, begun long before the Revolution, the project of a new incorporation of the laws was in the air nearly half a century before it was actually overtaken.

Corpus Juris Civilis.

Though, as has been mentioned, there were five bodies of French law promulgated in 1805, that to which the name Code Napoleon has come to be specifically applied is the civil code. This is one of the truly monumental achievements of legal codification. Every French province had its own set of civil laws, some of which were written and some customary. To collect all these and arrange them into a national fabric was a task not beyond the powers of a commission of able lawyers, but to make of them the complete and harmonious whole that we finally produced, genius must have been joined with jurisprudence. The one similar work with which it may be compared is the immortal Code of Justinian. The Code Napoleon has remained the civil law of France ever since. It is now to be revised. A commission of sixty-five members has been appointed for the purpose. These commissioners are to search in the legislation of foreign countries to find ideas by which the Code Napoleon may be made more perfect. For, it is to be remembered, the code was adopted by many other nations who have possibly made developments upon it that may be regarded by the commissioners as improvements. In particular, the countries known as the Latin nations have appropriated it, and among these are to be included some of the Republics of South America. This wide adoption is due to the fact that it is so rational an arrangement of all the essential laws which govern the relations of persons, the administration of property, and all forms of contract and obligations.

Quebec's Civil Code

From the fact that the bar of Montreal makes the centenary an occasion for extolling the Code Napoleon, it is not to be inferred that the Province of Quebec is one of the communities by which that code has been taken over bodily. In that province the French civil law was established by the Quebec Act of 1774, thirty-one years before the work of codification under Napoleon was completed. The practical identity of substance would seem to make the acceptance of the entire Code Napoleon a natural step. But Quebec's law was not based on any collection of the laws of all the French provinces. It was what was known as the custom of Paris, though this was the common law of all France when Quebec was organized as a province of that country. From this beginning Quebec civil law produced its own development and its own local peculiarities. Between 1663, when civil Government was introduced, and 1760, when the province passed under British rule, several ordinances of the French Kings specially applicable to Canada were added. Further, there were the arrests of the Sovereign Council of Quebec between 1774, the year of the Quebec Act, and 1841, the date of the Act of Union. At all events, Quebec's civil law went its own way, though starting from an origin largely the same as that of the Code Napoleon. In time, however, the province found necessity for codifying its civil law.

Sir George E. Cartier was strongly impressed with this need, and in 1857 persuaded the Legislature to provide for it, recommending that the lines of the Code Napoleon be followed. Three commissioners were appointed. Their labors continued from 1859 to 1866, and the Civil Code they drew up came into force on the first of August of the latter year. As Hon. T. Chase Casgrain has said, the province takes a legitimate pride in that code. He regards it as one of the most complete compendiums of the civil law in existence. Quebec is the only Canadian province which has a civil law of its own, but, of course, the province is subject to the Criminal Code of all Canada. Sir John Abbott once said that the French civil law and the English criminal law form the greatest law system on earth. Cartier carried his codification scheme against the strong opposition of many lawyers and judges. Objection, too, came from the church, whose liberty in regard to education, marriage, and the establishment of parishes was said to be restricted by it. Eventually the code was referred to Rome, where, after careful examination, it was pronounced the most carefully prepared set of laws existing in any country.

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