

## CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

The Duke was presented with a collection of Maltese stamps, dating since 1866, by the Exhibition Committee. He also accepted a general collection from Baron Testaferatta, CMG, which he had been uniting since 40 years ago. Mr. R. Leonandini very kindly filled some valuable gaps in the Duke's collection.

Postage stamps of the 1861 issue in metallic cases were circulated because of the scarcity of small change during the civil war. The circular metal cases had mica fronts through which the stamps were seen and the reverse side often bore advertising announcements. The cases were patented by J. Gault, August 12th, 1862, and Sterliug gives the following list of stamps that were encased: 1c., blue; 3c., red; 5c., reddish brown; 5c., yellow; 10c., green; 12c., black and 14c., violet.

The latest rumor at hand is that a change has been made in the "V. R. I." surcharges on the stamps of the Vaal River Colony. It is reasonable to believe that with an exhausting of the supply of any values surcharged in this manner that the new combination "E. R. I." would be the order of the day. If we may believe the correspondent of an English paper, this has already taken place, the 1d. being the value undergoing treatment.

Among the most picturesque postmen of the world are the "Camel Express Messenger" of Bokhara. The men wear serviceable red uniform, and a large green turban, embroidered with gold thread.

From their girdle hangs a curved sabre in a red sheath. The camels are adorned with trappings of gay cloth and tassels,

ornamented with blue heads and cowrie-shells, and with small brass bells round their neck to give notice of their approach.

The rough and rapid trotting of these animals, sometimes at the rate of eighty miles a day, is so trying to the riders as to shorten their lives.

If you were in Japan, you would see lithe, wiry runners, darting here and there among the crowd. Everybody gives way before them, for they are the postmen of the empire. Their letters are carried in small baskets strapped to their sides.

More than a gallon of pearls were found in the famous Effigy mound, near Chillicothe, Ohio. In the same region more than forty bears' teeth, with pearls set in them, lying near skeletons, were discovered.

Quartz is the most abundant of all the minerals. It is No. 7 in the scale of hardness.

Copper is so called from the Island of Cypress, whence the Romans obtained their principal supply. Copper appears to have been known to the nations of antiquity, and often when brass is mentioned in old books copper is understood.

What is the most precious metal in the world? Gold! No, indeed there exists several varieties of metals far more precious than gold. Gallium is quoted in the market at \$3,000 an ounce avoirdupois. Tons of zinc ores, in which it occurs, must be worked over to obtain even a trifling amount. Here are a few more; Germanium \$1,125 per ounce; rhodium \$112.50; Ruthenium \$90 and osmium \$62 an ounce.