

bottle. Other bottles stood near, and he glanced at a written formula as he added ingredients to his mixture. I watched him for a while in silence, then my curiosity overcame me.

"What are you doing", I said, "compounding a theory?"

"No," he replied, "I am mixing a metaphore but it's too clear. However, I think I can remedy that," and drawing an inference from a spigot near by, he added it to the glass and produced a successful muddle.

Not wishing to be abrupt, I said, casually, "how do you write your articles and that speech that was read at Hamilton lately?"

Mr. Muirhead looked thoughtful; that is, he continued to look thoughtful.

"The chemical analysis of philatelic literature," said he, "is a life-long question. Perhaps I am the only living philatelic writer who has thoroughly mastered it, and I don't know but that I am the only dead one. To epitomize, I hold that ambiguity, complication and erratic diction and contradiction, illuminated by the intensity of the indefinate is indispensable to the perfection of literary style."

I agreed with him heartily, and told him so.

"What are you engaged on at present," I continued?

"I shall devote the rest of my life to exterminate the Dominion Philatelic Association, and personal sketches, though it is considered by some as an infringement on the articles of our Gladitorial heroes." Mr. Muishead turned and began weighing his

words on a delicately constructed scale, and feeling that any remark of mine would be superfluous, I quietly left his laboratory.

LAYOS.

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### Penny Postage.

Ottawa, Sept. 13.—Concerning Canada's domestic postal rate, the Postmaster-General makes the following brief statement of his purpose: "It is my aim to reduce the domestic letter rate to two cents at the earliest possible moment, consistent with the interests of the taxpayers of Canada. Any deficit in the working of the department each year must come out of the general taxation, and therefore I do not desire to increase that burden more than is absolutely necessary. During the present year many changes in the department are coming into effect, one of which, namely, the adoption of the Imperial penny post, it is contended by some, will reduce our revenue materially. My own judgment is otherwise, but time will determine which view is correct. I think it only fair to the public to test the effect of the reduction to two cents on letters to the mother country before going into the larger scheme of reducing the domestic rate."

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### Important Notice.

A lengthy letter entitled, "The Other Side of the Question," dealing with Muirhead's Manifesto, will appear in November issue. Be sure you read it. Subscribe now or will miss it.