

The Montreal Philatelist

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

Since our last number went to press the world has been shocked by the cowardly assassination of William McKinley, the far-seeing statesman, the sincere patriot, who will rank in history as one of the great presidents of the United States. The daily and periodical press of the country has fully recounted, during the past month, the prominent events in McKinley's career. How those events touch Philately will be recorded in the albums of the stamp collector, ever the index of all important facts of history. The Spanish war of 1898, and its prompt and successful termination, the foundation and development of the United States colonial empire, the independence of Cuba, the annexation of Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines and Porto Rico, all so prominently marked in Philately, will always be associated with McKinley, under whose administration they occurred and whose portrait will shortly be depicted on a U.S. postage stamp.

Our budget of news this month, in regard to stamps, contains no issue from the great nations, but it is nevertheless interesting. The Bahamas pictorial, we are the first to announce, it has come quite unexpectedly, that, a pictorial issue from the South Pacific and a new surcharge from South Africa are the most important items. The visit of the Duke of Cornwall and York to Canada does not seem to have had any philatelic features; our prominent collectors and societies have certainly been remiss in not taking advantage of the Royal visitor's presence to boom Philately, as was done in all other countries on his trip. Canadian collectors, however, are sadly lacking in a co-operative national spirit, and this is clearly reflected in the state of our societies, our press and our stamp trade. This is a topic we shall shortly touch upon editorially.

ENTRANCES AND EXITS.

AMAZONIA.—(A set of locals). In the June number of the *M.J.*, there was illustrated and described a set of stamps for this country about which, information was requested. In the centre of the stamps appears the figure of value, above is the

word **AMAZONIE** surmounted by a star, below appears the sea with two small ships, on each side are Indian warriors and tropical foliage, at foot the word **POSTE**. The set consists of 25c vermilion, 50c orange, 1 fr. blue, 5 fr. mauve, printed on tinted paper like the stamps of France, perf. 11½. A doubt is expressed as to their *bona fide* postal character. A Havre correspondent of *Le Philatliste Français*, furnishes the following information:—The stamps were made for the Carswene Ry. Co. for the use of the gold miners along the banks of the river Carswene and its tributaries. They prepaid correspondence by rail to Para, and from there by sea to Cayenne, where stamps of French Guiana were affixed to carry it to its final destination. The ownership of the territory where the stamps were used was claimed by France and Brazil, but arbitration last year has given the greater part to Brazil, and as soon as a regular postal service is organized, Brazilian stamps only will be used. The Carswene Ry. has applied to the Brazilian Government for permission to continue the postal service it has installed, but using Brazilian stamps instead of its own.

BAHAMAS.—(Id. pictorial). Mr. N. Huguenin has kindly furnished us with a specimen of a new and unexpected pictorial 1d. of similar appearance to the 1d. Jamaica. The central view, printed in black, represents a famous local scene known as the "Queen's Staircase," the frame is in carmine red. The stamp is the same size as the Jamaica 1d., but is an upright rectangle instead of oblong, and is watermarked C.C. and crown.



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BRAZIL.—(10r. unpaid letter stamp.) Another value of the current type of unpaid letter stamps has been issued 10 reis, dark blue.