

that. Not only does the Canadian Government refuse to allow the illustration of Canadian stamps, but prohibits cuts of those of every other country, even German locals.

Messrs. Harper and Bros, the well-known publishers, will hold a reunion of the readers of *Harper's Young People*, the well-known juvenile paper, in New York City, on Dec. 7th, 8th and 10th. The young people will be given an opportunity of meeting their favorite authors, who will be present on the occasion. The reunion will also partake of the nature of a fair. A large number of these young people are stamp collectors, and the paper we have mentioned conducts a stamp department. This fair will include a stamp exhibit. Mr. F. W. Ayer, of Bangor, Me., will exhibit the 20c. St. Louis, which is said to be the rarest of all stamps; as only 4 specimens are known. Other well-known collectors will also exhibit their gems, and the value of the stamp exhibit will exceed \$25,000. Stamps and albums will be sold at the fair. The proceeds, which we trust will be large, are to be devoted to charitable purposes.

A great deal of discussion is at present being published relative to the so-called speculative issues. We quote the following opinion of Mr. Richard Hollick, a prominent English philatelist, from *The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*:

"Although philatelists may look askance at certain issues, which can be classed as unnecessary, it is entirely their own faults if they spend their money on such productions. It would be as well if the facts be kept in view, that postage stamps are merely printed receipts for money paid to the post offices, and the postmark only the cancellation of the offer to render equivalent service for the face value of the stamp. The post offices should be sources of income to their respective governments, and if they become such, the general public are relieved of an amount of taxation equal to the profit. The genuine student of philately will judge to which class stamps belong, making him keener after certain issues, and more careless of his attainment of others. This, of itself, will regulate the market, as price must follow the laws of supply and demand. Moreover, as soon as the producer finds the market unprofitable he will cease to cater for it. In the August number of *P. C. & A.* a list of 'unnecessary stamps' is given, which could be commented on. *French Colonies and surcharges on same*—The various titles of these are printed on the stamps to facilitate keeping accounts. The surcharges are caused by philatelists, or their providers, buying up certain values to force provisional issues, the stock of stamps being always kept low in hot or damp countries.

Chinese Locals of every kind—Those of Shanghai, at least, have a postal use. *Commemorative cuts of exhibitions, etc.* These have but little postal significance, but were available for postage. Specimens which have passed through the post are interesting. *Labuan and North Borneo*—These colonies, belonging to the postal union, should have no place in the list; although the *London Philatelist* proclaimed the issue of Labuan and Borneo stamps as being made for collectors. The last two mails bring my correspondence from Labuan franked with this issue, and my correspondent informs me that no other stamps are procurable at the post offices there, and as a proof that the high values are used I had a brick sent me by post, the necessary postage being paid with such stamps. *Hawaii Provisionals*—These represent an important epoch in the history of the islands. No unnecessary delay occurred in the production of a permanent set, and the post offices of Honolulu had no hand in the speculations of buying up certain values. *Seebeck's of any kind*—Undoubtedly a paying arrangement for the Hamilton Bank Note Co., yet genuine used specimens will be appreciated in the near future. *Niger Coast, 2nd and 3rd issues and surcharges*—The first issue on English stamps was a provisional one, made to carry on until the preparation of a permanent one. But in the meantime the title of the territory had been altered from Oil Rivers to Niger Coast Protectorate, so the new dies were altered accordingly, thus forming the second issue. The third issue consists of a set from an entirely new die. The three issues are entirely legitimate, but, as the climate is very damp, the stock of stamps is kept very small, and it is no unusual thing for a seaman to walk into a post office with an order which reduces a particular value to a dangerously low ebb, then the surcharge is produced. These surcharged stamps were not sold, but placed on the letter by officials. All are scarce, and some of a very high degree of rarity. *Company Stamps, such as British Central Africa*—The high values of British Central Africa are sold and used in Africa. They are available for local as well as postal purposes, but are chiefly used as payment of post office accounts. *San Marino issues and surcharges*—Very few stamps would suffice for the republic outside Mr. Otto Bickel's correspondence. *Russian Locals*—These are used to prepay postage from outlying stations to the nearest point on the trunk postal routes. Probably the demand at some of these stations for old specimens, which have become scarce, has caused other villages to issue. *Commemorative issues*—The income derived from the United States Columbus issue will probably produce a full crop of these on the slightest provocation."