

improve upon the phraseology of the Provisions Act, and opened the door to the admission of stamps, the use of which had not been contemplated by it. If our readers have determined to collect stamps overprinted for their special benefit, let them, at any rate, see that they have genuine specimens. Every day we read of unauthentic surcharges and overprints. We have written these few words, not with a view of deterring our readers from collecting legitimate surcharged stamps, but to relieve our minds of the indignation we feel, in common with them, at the growing system of turning the Post Office into a trading shop, in which it looks to them for custom."

Our Christmas Number.

We shall issue a special Christmas Edition of the CANADIAN PHILATELIST, on or before December 15th. This will be the largest number that we have yet issued, and will consist of about 50 pages, besides several very fine supplements. We shall issue 10,000 copies of this number, and advertisers desiring space should notify us at once. There will be no advance upon the regular advertising rates.

Regarding the New Catalogues.

We are thankful that there is at last going to be a keen competition for the first place for the Standard Catalogue, which will be used by collectors of this continent. It is resulting in many much-needed additions being placed therein. We notice, that in addition to their previous field, the forthcoming catalogues will price Mexican and Canadian Revenues, and contain a complete catalogue of post cards. The catalogues of both Mekeel and Scott will be issued in a pocket edition. As to which catalogue will be best we cannot say, but at any rate we may reasonably expect a high-class work from both of the firms referred to. The catalogues are almost ready, and we expect to review the same at an early date.

Our Illustrated U. S. Catalogue.

As will be seen from the announcement on the last page of cover, our illustrated catalogue of U. S. Stamps is now ready for delivery. This much talked of work is, we believe, the most needed work of our entire series of hand-books, and should have a very large sale. The paper used is the very best obtainable, and half tone cuts used are considered the very finest workmanship that it is possible to secure. The book is about ready at the time that this number is issued, and will be ready for mailing by the time the orders reach us. Only 2000 copies were issued, and as the demand for the book will be very great, parties desiring a copy of the work would do well to order at once, thus avoiding disappointment. For further information, we refer to the last page of cover.

R. E. Pentecost. We desire to warn our readers of Aurora, Ill. against one, R. E. Pentecost, of

Aurora, Ill., who has been securing stamps from dealers, for which the only settlement he makes is his thanks and a promise to return in a few days. After writing him several times, we had all of our letters—excepting the one containing the stamps—returned marked "uncalled for." We have lost a considerably quantity of rare U. S. by this party, and other dealers have informed us that they have suffered likewise. We should be pleased to enter into correspondence with dealers or collectors who have been swindled by this party.

Albrecht & Co's We have before us the catalogue of 16th Sale, a fine lot of stamps, which Messrs. R. F. Albrecht & Co., 90 Nassau-St., N. Y.,

are offering in their 16th sale, which will be held on the evening of Tuesday and Wednesday, 21st and 22nd. The stamps offered include some exceptionally fine U. S. and Mexican stamps. We believe that, without exception, the stamps are listed in their catalogues more accurately than by any other firm that holds auction sales.

Right of Possession.

The Post Office Department, at Washington, has ruled that the writer has a right to gain possession of a letter, providing he can prove, to the satisfaction of the postmaster at the office from which it is sent, that he was the writer of it. Even if the letter has arrived at its destination, and before it has been delivered to the person to whom it is addressed, it may be recalled by the writer by a telegram through the mailing office. The reason assigned is that the U. S. is only the agent of the writer while the letter is in transit. This decision is important to business men and to private individuals.

Queensland Philatelic Society.

A meeting of Philatelists was held in Mackay, North Queensland, on Saturday, August 25th, as a result of which we have the formation of The North Queensland Philatelic Society, which has the following objects in view: 1—To facilitate the interchange of stamps, and open communication with various parts of the world. 2—To assist members in detecting forgeries, new issues, varieties, etc. 3—To promote friendly intercourse between philatelists in North Queensland. 4—To form Branch Committees of philatelists throughout North Queensland. Some twenty members were enrolled at the first meeting, and officers, and a committee of three, to hold office until first annual meeting in January next, were appointed as follows: Patron, Hon. W. H. Wilson, M. L. C., Postmaster General; President, J. V. Chataway, M. L. A., Vice-President; A. Ulcoq, Esq., Manager] Queensland National Bank; Hon.