

but Canada, with the concurrence of the British Government, at once applied for admission as a member. Meanwhile the letter rate between Canada and England was, by an arrangement with the Imperial post office reduced to the international rate of 5c the half oz.

The Canada Official Postal Guide was first published in 1874.

Post bands were first issued in 1873.

In 1875 changes of much importance took place by coming into force of an Act passed the previous session. By this Act compulsory prepayment of the postage upon all letters, newspapers and other mailable matter passing within the Dominion, and in the reduction of rates on newspapers, periodicals and miscellaneous matter. The new rates of postage were: Letters, 3c per half oz; drop letters (or city delivery), 1c per half oz; newspapers and periodicals posted from the office of publication to regular subscribers, 1c per lb bulk weight; transient papers, 1c per 4 ozs; parcels, 12½c per 8 ozs.

Request letters—that is, letters having printed thereon the name and address of the sender, with the request that such letter if not delivered in a certain time, be returned to the writer without passing through the Dead Letter Office—were first recognized by the department in November, 1875.

Next year the postage on letters for Newfoundland was reduced to 5c, and the registration fee between Canada and the United Kingdom reduced from 8c to 5c.

By the convention of Paris, dated June 1st, 1878, Canada was admitted to be a member of the General Postal Union from July 1st, 1878, and in consequence the letter rate between Canada and Europe became one uniform charge of 5c per half oz. Reduced rates also were allowed on other classes of merchandise, etc.

In 1881 an agreement was entered into for the establishment of direct steam communication between Canada, West Indies and Brazil. The first steamer—the Comte d'Eau—arrived at Halifax from

Rio de Janeiro on 31st December, 1881, with mails from Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Pernambuco, West Indies, and sailed on a return voyage January 11th, 1882.

On May 17th, 1882, an Act was passed by which newspapers and periodicals published in Canada, and mailed by the publisher at the place where printed, and addressed to regular subscribers or news-dealers in Canada, resident elsewhere than in the place of publication, were transmitted free of charge.

(To be Continued.)

## LONDON CITY CLUB.

The eleventh meeting of the season was held April 20th, at Keenan's Hotel, Crown Court, 64, Cheapside, E.C., when a very important and interesting discussion took place on "English Stamps Used Abroad."

The general opinion of the members was that although the postmark on a stamp did not alter its nationality, yet it is collectable from a philatelic point of view as being an interesting variety of an English stamp.

Mr. C. Forbes, Hon. Librarian, will be pleased to acknowledge receipt of any papers and books referring to philately. All sent are placed on the table for the benefit of the members.

## CAPT. ERNEST F. WÜRTELE.

The subject of our sketch was born on 29th of February, 1860, and, therefore, is now in his 36th year.

His collection was first begun in 1872, at which time he was attending the Galt (Ont.), Collegiate Institute. About this period he unfortunately lost his collection and it was not until the year 1886 that his old love was rekindled by again finding his long-lost collection.

At present this numbers 6250 postage stamps, 2000 revenues, 300 postal cards, an aggregate total of 8500 varieties. At the Central Ontario Exhibition held in