

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

ton, sent off messengers every day between New York, Boston and Philadelphia by railway. Two octagonal stamps were used for Boston and New York and a stamp with an eagle and the words "American Mail Co." was used for Philadelphia and New York. Next to appear was the stamp of W. Wyman 8 Court and 3 Wall St., with the representation of a railway engine in the centre. This was issued for Boston and New York letters.

About this time Brainer & Co., of 58 Wall St., issued a circular stamp to be used on their letters between New York and Albany.

These private firms injured the state post office and forced a lower scale of charges which took place on March 3rd, 1845, when the postage on letters was fixed at 5 cents for any distance under and 10 cents above three miles. This did not prove satisfactory however as the postmen who did not receive any other payment for their services, demanded 2 cents on each letter.

The success of the private post offices so annoyed the authorities that a law of March 3rd 1851 declared the streets of the cities "Post routes" holding for themselves the exclusive right of collecting the district letters and conveying them to the central offices for despatch to their place of destination. The stamps inscribed "Post office despatch," "Government City Despatch," etc. are sufficient proof of this service having been rendered by some of the private firms. At length the law suit instituted by the government against Kochersperger & Co., the success-

ors of D. O. Blood & Co., gave the finishing strokes to all these private post offices. It was officially decided that, in accordance with the law of March 3rd, 1851, the streets of the cities had become "post routes," and that the government had the sole right of letter carrying. Thus by this law all the private post offices except a few who undertook the delivery of parcels, etc. were prohibited from further engaging in the business.

Mounting Indian Relics.

The attractiveness of many collections is impaired by inartistic mounting, or not being mounted at all. Recently the writer arranged a collection in the following manner: First, a whitewood board (any soft wood will do) 16 x 18 inches in size and $\frac{3}{8}$ in thick and planed on both sides was covered on one side with silk velvet slightly padded with cotton wadding. The velvet was tacked on at the sides with small brass-headed tacks.

This made a rich background. The arrow points, etc., were fastened on with fine annealed wire, which was passed through holes made with a small sharp brad-awl. The wires being fastened at the back. An Indian photo was placed in the centre, and tacked at each corner.

Around it were placed a number of arrow points in a circle. At each corner of the board was placed a large specimen, then a small semi-circle of arrow points, pointing towards the corner. Between these semi-circles were arranged the larger specimens; the whole forming a pleasing