

Toronto Philatelic Journal

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TORONTO, JUNE, 1885.

NOTICE!

The Toronto Philatelic Co. have removed their office. Kindly address all correspondence as follows:—Toronto Philatelic Co., 76 Baldwin Street, Toronto, Canada.

NOTES.

It is suggested that the mucilage on postage stamps would be improved if flavoured.

We want agents in every city and town in the world to get subscribers for this paper.

The small boy learning the alphabet is like a postage stamp. He gets stuck on the letters.

We send you a copy of this paper as an inducement to subscribe if you have not already done so.

We have received from Mr. Aug. von Glahn a copy of the Constitution of the Chicago Stamp Collectors' Union.

Mr. Lyman H. Low announces for sale a very rare Cabinet, known as the Athole Collection. The sale will take place on 18th June.

Mr. W. G. Whilden, jr., has favored us with a copy of the "International Collectors' Guide." We commend it to the study of collectors.

Every day the London postmen walk a distance equal to twice the circumference of the earth. There are 4,030 of them, and they average 12 miles a day each.

The total number of letters delivered in this city by carriers during the week ending 30th May, 1885, was 126,068. Of these 3,981 were registered. Total number of newspapers, 39,266.

'In many of the railway stations in England boxes are placed, acting automatically, to supply travellers with a postal card, or envelope and sheet of paper. Drop a penny into an aperture on the top of the box, and open a little drawer and there is the postal card, drop in two pennies you get the envelope and paper. It is so nicely adjusted that it will not respond to a bad coin. Such a convenience shames Yankee invention.

The hoard of 800 Roman coins unearthed in Cobham Park, England, in the spring of 1883 is supposed to be part of the treasure sent from Gaul by Magnentius shortly before his overthrow in A.D. 353. They belong to him and to the Emperors Constantius II. and Constantius Gallus. The argument rests on the unworn condition of the coins.

The oldest bank note probably in existence in Europe is one preserved in the Asiatic museum at St. Petersburg. It dates from the year 1399 B.C., and was issued by the Chinese Government. It can be proved from Chinese chronicles that as early as 2697 B.C. bank notes were current in China under the name of "flying money." The bank note preserved at St. Petersburg bears the name of the Imperial bank, date and number of issue, signature of a mandarin, and contains even a list of the punishments inflicted for forgery of notes. This relic of 4,000 years ago is probably written, for printing from wooden tablets is said to have been introduced in China only in the year 160 A.D.

An extraordinary capture of coiners took place at Birmingham, England, recently, two convicted thieves, named George Davis and William Bermingham, were charged with manufacturing spurious coin. For some time past the prisoners had been suspected of making counterfeit coin, and one day Detective Gartfield and another officer went to the place and found both men busily at work in the manufacture of half-crowns, florins, and shillings. The battery and a large number of unfinished coins were seized, and the prisoners taken into custody. They both admitted the offence, and Bermingham added that he understood Mr. Gladstone wanted to raise 14,000,000 of money, and they thought they could help him out. Prisoners were remanded.

British postal savings banks have \$223,868,865 on deposit.

The Toronto Philatelic Society held a meeting on 29th May at 76 Baldwin street. The President in the Chair; Mr. H. Morell, Secretary, and Mr. T. J. McMinn, Treasurer, were appointed to write up a constitution and submit it at the next general meeting.

The London *Lancet* warns people against the danger of licking adhesive stamps and envelopes, adding that it is a most perilous practice, producing local irritation and sore tongues, whilst occasionally other diseases are propagated by the habit. It gives the following instance of the danger it points out:—An envelope was received from a person who habitually took large quantities of morphia hypodermically; the receiver of it reclosed the envelope by licking the adhesive surface. He became violently sick, the mere touch of the tongue of the taker of morphia having rendered the gum intensely nauseous. Though one may reasonably doubt whether many people would choose this way of reclosing an envelope, it is clear that even with new stamps and new envelopes it is better to wet them in some other way than by licking them.

A "newspaper dog" of a very remarkable character flourishes in one of the suburbs of London. It is a greyhound, and its habit is to follow a particular postman on his rounds with the object of stealing one or more of the newspapers he has to deliver. It tries door after door through which the postman in question has pushed a paper, until it finds one that yields to pressure, when it seizes the paper lying on the floor inside, and darts off with it at a rate rendering pursuit hopeless. It would be very interesting to know how this trick was acquired, and what the greyhound does with the papers it takes so much trouble to obtain.

We have received the following stamp papers up to date:—American Journal of Philately, The Philatelist, Canadian Philatelist, The Museum, The Collector, Tidings from Nature, Capital City Philatelist, Collectors' Companion, Philatelic Herald, Our American Youth, Pine and Palmetto, Philatelic Monthly, Keystone Stamp and Coin Gazette, Stamp Collec-