

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

We clip the following from a United States exchange: "As the United States Government is likely to adopt the post-card system, the various objections to it are being discussed by the papers with some eagerness. With the view of doing away with the publicity which now belongs to them, two plans have been suggested at Washington. One inventor proposes a card which will fold in the centre, the edges being supplied with gum-arabic. Another suggests a card with a lappet of brown paper folding over the written matter. Either of these plans seem simple and convenient."

An old lady from one of the rural districts astonished a clerk in the Post-Office a few days ago by inquiring if he had any "yalley developments such as they did up letters in."

Some difference! In Mr. W. P. Brown's catalogue the market value of the Brattleboro stamp is set down at \$20; but Mr. Taylor can sell the *genuine* (?) article for one cent.

We hear that "The American Stamp Mercury" is soon to be revived, under the management of Mr. F. Trifet.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

Once upon a time the congregation of a certain parish church, resolved to present their minister, with a barrel of cider, in return for his valuable services. The plan adopted was, that each member should bring a bottle full, and pour it into the cask. But one man, being rather stingy, thought that if he brought his bottle full of water, it would make no difference, among so many bottles of cider. When the barrel was tapped there flowed forth a stream of nothing but pure water, for each man expecting that all his neighbours would bring cider, had poured in a bottle of water.—We relate the above old story, for the benefit of those of our correspondents who have decided not to send in their names until the subscription is reduced to 35 cents. Remember that the sooner you subscribe so much the sooner will the price be reduced, and you can always be certain of having your money returned to you, so don't liken yourselves to the congregation in the fable.

We have had a good many enquiries as to what our stamp lottery will contain. We have made but few arrangements for it yet, but will mention that there will be 300 tickets at 15c. each; 50 prizes, from 25 cents to \$10, amounting in all to about \$40. The prizes will consist of Stamp albums, collections, packets, sets and rare stamps, full particulars will be given in a future issue.

THE CANADIAN POST:

FROM THE EARLIEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

By F. N.

Although much has been written on the above subject, still we think that there is quite room enough for another article, for the benefit of those collectors, who are just starting on their Philatelic career and have not had the opportunity of reading the foreign magazines. Before beginning we would say that everything stated in this article can be perfectly depended upon, as nearly all is taken from Official documents.

The earliest record we have of a post office is in the year 1750, when the renowned Benjamin Franklin was Deputy Postmaster General of North America. His salary amounted to £300 a year, but even this small sum was more than the Department could Under the management of this able man the revenue was soon greatly increased, and we find, that in a short time he was able to hand over £3000 a year to the British Government. At this time the postal accommodation was of the most scanty kind, as will be seen by the following advertisement taken from the Quebec Gazette.

"Post Office, Québec, August 1st. 1764.

The Post for New York sets out on the first and third Monday of every month. All persons are intreated to put their letters into the Office before 10 o'clock, as the bag is shut at that hour precisely, and Letters cannot possibly be taken in a moment after.

The Post returns from Montreal every Saturday at 11 o'clock at which hour the Letters will be delivered out, and attendance given till two, when those remaining will be delivered to the Penny Post."

When the war of the American independence broke out in 1775, Franklin, having taken sides with the colonists, was succeeded by Mr. Hugh Finlay, who had been formerly postmaster at Quebec. This gentleman seems to have introduced some improvements, as a regular monthly mail to England was first started during his term of office.

In 1800, the third Deputy Postmaster General, Mr. Geo. Heriot came into office, he had under his control the postal service of, not only Canada, but also that of the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick.

Mr. Heriot having resigned in 1816, was succeeded by Mr. D. Sutherland, and at the same time, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island were withdrawn from his control; New Brunswick was also withdrawn in 1824, thus leaving only Canada proper under one administration. The first regular Postmaster General's report was made out in 1827, by which we find there then