

last long. There are three different sets those with the stamps all originals, advertising generally at \$25; those with the \$5 reprinted, usually selling at \$6.50; and the sets with the five higher values reprinted, advertised at from \$4 to \$6.

Oil paper has replaced the parafine paper in the stamp booklets.

A parcels post convention has been concluded between the United States and Nicaragua.

The Nebraska Philatelist, after hibernating a couple of months, has changed hands, Mr. Kennedy having sold out to R. L. Sheppard, of Omaha.

"The island of Porto Rico and the territory of Hawaii are included in the term 'United States,' and the island of Guam, the Philippine Archipelago and Tutulla are included in the term 'Island Possessions' of the United States." From circular of P. M. General of June 12, 1900.

Philatelic Associations.

BY J. SYDNEY DALTON.

A collector who has never been a member of a stamp association asks the question "what are its advantages?" first. This question is a hard one to answer, for, although the member can explain about the official organ, exchange department, etc., yet he can not explain to the fullest degree the advantages an association incurs.

The new member has these things to find out for himself. He finds that after he has been a member for some time his advantages are much greater than could have been explained.

A member that joins an association and does his best to forward the interests and

successes of the association is the member that all societies are fond and proud of.

Now, painfully, we must turn to the other kind of member—the member who joins for his own good and not the society's—who joins to get all he can out of it and tries to push himself to the front and become an officer, as near president as possible.

Ah yes! this is the one who is going to do the association more harm than all the other members put together. He will find himself "chucked" and will find that he can not reach the top in this way.

It is with much regret that we must admit this fact very often i. e. That collectors do sometimes join associations purely for the benefit that they themselves can derive from it.

We must now turn to another question. There are too many philatelic societies and yet every week (more or less) we hear of a new society and what is the result? Their days are short and sweet.

The leading societies of the day will come out on top. They must, for when you compare a society of about 500 members to one of about six, including officers; and one run by the leading philatelists of the day, to one that has been started by one or two collectors who are trying to work in opposition to a big society, the "old reliable" will down them in a very short time.

Sooner or later it will and must be known that no more than one society of a kind can be supported.

If only some of our influential philatelists will start a society to protect collectors, dealers and publishers, it will be much better than exchange clubs. Let us unite and remain that way throughout our philatelic career.