

An Interesting Find.

By MAPLE LEAF.

A few months ago the writer (who had just moved to a certain town in Ontario) while having some old commercial rubbish removed, came upon a large collection of stamp papers printed ten or eleven years ago—there were no less than twenty-five different stamp journals—published all over the North American continent. No one knew how they came there, so it was not difficult to acquire ownership of the lot. Perhaps the most interesting papers in the lot were numbers 1 to 6 of the *Niagara Falls Philatelist* being the complete set as the publication discontinued with the 6th number, at the time the C. P. A. was just forming, and the first number contains a prospectus regarding it.

The set practically contains the history of the movement from its inception until its completion as an association duly officered, etc., and with other items of interest forms a valuable relic of Canadian Philatelic History.—Apart altogether from the famous locality which aspired to this journalistic effort.

Among the other papers are many instructive articles—one only of which I can now refer to—an illustrated contribution to the *Philatelic Gazette* of Chicago, on the "oddities" in stamps, these were chiefly in perforations, etc. It occurred to the writer that a most interesting page or two could be employed by every collector in this way—we all have run across oddities of perforations, and in the late issue of maple-leaf stamps may be found many broken letters and peculiar freaks in the printing, which now, owing to their variety

and scarcity must become valuable. This would seem to be the very opposite of the desire for perfection in specimens—the more unique the better—and would form a sort of philatelic "wild flower garden" embracing all sorts of curiosities in perforations, colors, imprints and errors, with a special value of their own.

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Early Days of the American Post Office.

By C. A. S.

In the office of the Postmaster-General hangs a little chart giving the postal statistics of the United States for each year since the beginning of the government. From this chart it appears that in 1790, the first full year of Washington's administration, there were seventy-five post offices and eighteen hundred and seventy-five miles of post-routes. The gross revenue was thirty-five thousand nine hundred and thirty three dollars, and gross expenditure, thirty-two thousand one hundred and forty dollars. In 1895 there were seventy thousand and sixty-four post offices, nearly half a million miles of postal routes, a gross revenue, in round numbers, of seventy-seven million dollars, and a gross expenditure—not including the earnings of the subsidized Pacific railroads—of nearly seven millions.

As an example of the salaries, it may be stated that for the year ending with October, 1791, the receipts of the post-office at Worcester, Mass., were fifty-eight dollars, of which one dollar was allowed for incidental expenses. thirteen dollars for the compensation of the postmaster, and forty-four dollars were turned in as surplus