

# The Philatelic Advocate.

VOL. 5, NO. 5.

BERLIN, ONT., NOVEMBER, 1898,

WHOLE NO. 27.

## U. S. Jottings.

By DOTTIE LONESOME.

Porto Rico is now lost to Spain. October 18th the I-land passed into the hands of this government. Military rule will prevail, likewise the postal rules and arrangements as now in operation, until Congress shall meet this fall and provide a form of government and postal department for the islands. The peace commission now in session at Paris, arranging the terms of settlement of the war with Spain, seems to be putting Cuba and the Phillipines under the stars and stripes. There is no certainty as yet, Porto Rico being the only colony transferred to this government.

During the coming session of Congress there will be introduced a bill which will provide for the use of postage stamps as a medium of exchange. The department will not redeem unused stamps for cash at present owing to the commission basis on which many hundred of the smaller offices are operated under. The plan to be introduced will however, do away with the above obstacle, by being cancelled when purchased. The bill is very lengthy and will be hailed with approval from all who do any sort of mail order business.

Many changes in color have been made lately in all our stamps. It is impossible to give a complete list at present. Changes have been announced that have not appeared as yet, but very shortly we hope to be able to furnish a complete list.

There has been a noticeable thinness to our stamp papers during the last few months. One or two enterprising publishers have kept their papers up to the standard, but the average publisher has had a close call to make ends meet. The ever regular and never forgotten, "New is the time to subscribe" has not had the financial attention wished for and the low prices have not been such as to tempt dealers to advertise. A brisk trade seems assured and we hope our papers will thicken up as the season grows older.

A contract for the printing of our stamped envelopes has been awarded to the Plympton Morgan Co., which will make us another set of stamped envelopes to add to our collections. The dies will have to be altered in some secret way something similar to the Continental and National prints of our own stamps in the seventies. It may be that the colors may be changed.

Philately has been admitted as a science by the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and has been given a department to be known as "Section of Philately." Lectures, business and exchange are the features already established. To some collectors philately is a science, to others a mania, and to the most of us a hobby. The hobby collector would be satisfied to have one variety of each denomination of the first issue of Brazil. The Science collector must have eighteen varieties of the 30R and 90R, and twenty four varieties of

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