

reduce the annual deficiency, and in order to achieve this result it may be necessary that cheaper postage shall prevail. In the United States the two-cent letter rate has been found most satisfactory. It is true that the territory of the Dominion is larger, and that our population is smaller and more scattered, and the postal expenses therefore greater, yet we are confident that if a cheaper rate were granted the number of letters sent by mail would be so materially increased that there would be little increase in the annual deficit. Another cause for just complaint is the postage rate on drop-letters. A note which has but a block to travel costs as much to deliver as would one sent from Florida to British Columbia. This should not be. The old rate of one cent for drop letters was fully enough, and when that rule was in force the letter boxes for city notes were used to a much greater extent. The third and last grievance is with that illogical department of the service where letters are registered. A fee of five cents is charged for registering a letter, and in return for the expenditure the citizen has only the guarantee that a little extra care will be taken by the department to ensure the safe keeping of the letter. If the letter is lost or delayed, the sender, and not the P. O., is held responsible for the inclosure. In other words the letter is insured for safe delivery, the premium is paid, but no insurance is guaranteed. The service would not be weakened, if instead of demanding the fee for unfulfilled services, an arrangement were made by which postal orders for small sums might be obtained. In the near future we must either be supplied with postal currency or be provided with postal orders for small amounts. —Critic.

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT YOUR COLLECTION.

A collector cannot be too careful in selecting stamps for his or her collection. Before selecting a stamp note that it is evenly centered, lightly cancelled and perfect in every respect. Sometimes it is necessary to put stamps in your album that are imperfect but as soon as better specimens can be obtained, they should be substituted for the poor ones. In placing stamps in your album be sure to put them in square and straight, as nothing offends the eye more than to see the stamps put in irregularly. Be sure that all pieces of paper, etc., are removed from the backs of the stamps and hinge them in neatly and squarely with the hinges at the top, so they can be laid back without trouble. Underneath each stamp put the date when you received it, from whom and the cost, also, if desirable, and in a short time your collection will be one of pleasant memories.

Should a blank album be preferred to a printed one, the stamps may be arranged to best suit the owner's taste.

A very pretty and attractive manner is to arrange the stamps in the form of some emblem, or of the flag of the country which you desire to put in. For instance the stamps of Cape Colony might be arranged in the form of an anchor, etc. A collection so arranged would be a pleasure to look upon. Again I wish to say, be careful with your collection, and the results will more than pay you. I sincerely hope this article may prove of benefit to some at least.

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