

THE BOYS' OWN PHILATELIST.

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Ten Years Ago.

By D. O. MINION.

I. PHILATELIC JOURNALS.

Have you ever sat down to a huge pile of stamp papers issued ten years ago or more? If you have not, do not miss the first opportunity you have of doing so. You have no idea of the amount of real pleasure you will enjoy comparing them with the stamp papers of to-day.

Few philatelic magazines issued in 1887 are alive to-day and almost every one that is alive claims to be the oldest in existence.

Some of the foremost journals of ten years ago, were: The Philatelic Journal of America, American Journal of Philately, Empire State Philatelist, Keystone State Philatelist, Quaker City Philatelist, Quaker City Philatelist, Toronto Philatelic Journal, Stamp Collectors Figaro, The American Philatelist, The Old Curiosity Shop and The Halifax Philatelist.

The papers of that day will compare favorably with any of those now in existence. For instance take The Keystone State Philatelist published at Philadelphia. The first number of this paper appeared in January, 1887. It was an eight page covered journal chock full of good reading matter with a plentiful supply of advertisements. For a first number it was better than any paper that was launched on the stormy sea of philatelic journalism in 1897.

It is really surprising to think that the stamp papers of the present time are really inferior, as far as good reading matter is

concerned, to those published a decade ago.

Among the articles contained in the first number of the K. S. P. is one entitled "Stamps of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries." The writer describes the system of prepayment carried on in Paris by M de Valayer in 1653. Instead of the Adhesive stamps they were strips of paper wrapped around the envelopes and on these bars were printed "Postpaid the —day of—, 1653 or '54; these blank bands were sold at various places. The writer then goes on and describes the system authorized by Spain in 1716, and by Italy (Sardinia) in 1819 and then he comes down to the time when the first adhesive stamps were issued in 1840. For this he gives credit to Mr. Rowland Hill.

In another column of the K. S. P. is an article reprinted from Bric-a-Brac, the Stamp Collectors' Manual, this is an extract from the Report of the Sir Rowland Hill committee. This article proves that Mr. Chalmers is the originator of the adhesive postage stamp and not Sir Rowland Hill although the government accepted the proposal of the plan by Mr. Hill.

Following is a squib taken from the first number of the K. S. P. "Isn't it funny, when the P. O. Dept. cancels a stamp the stamp dealers can sell it again? The P. O. Dept declare that they will not allow a discount on any amount of stamps purchased, and yet allow a margin on every sheet of 100 stamps—even ones."

The Keystone State Philatelist issued seven numbers in all when it was consol-