

The Philatelic Courier

AND STAMP-COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

Vol. 1.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER, 1882.

No. 4.

The Philatelic Courier

AND
STAMP-COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL
IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

AT 184 ARGYLE STREET..... HALIFAX, N. S.

Terms of Subscription \$1.00 per Annum.

Postage prepaid to all parts of Canada, Great Britain, United States, and other countries which deliver journals at commuted rates.

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HENRY HECHLER, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR,
184 Argyle Street,
HALIFAX, N. S. CANADA.

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THE WORLD'S POSTAL SERVICE.

The following statements showing the developments of postal arrangements in various civilized nations were obtained at the French Post Office Department from the statistics of 1880 of the postal service in countries belonging to the Universal Postal Union. The number of letters and postal cards despatched and received in domestic and international services *per capita* of population in the various countries was as follows:—Great Britain 37, United States 22, Switzerland 22, Netherlands 17, Belgium 19, Germany 15, France 14. Estimating the population of the whole globe at 1,400,000,000 individuals, the number of letters and postal cards per individual averages three and a half. In the larger countries the number of newspapers despatched by them ranged as follows:—United States 18,379,000, Great Britain 16,698,000, France 15,894,000, Germany 8,760,000, Italy 5,031,000, Belgium 4,001,000, Spain 3,118,000, Netherlands 1,252,000. In a comparison between the length of railway lines, high roads and water routes used in 1880 for the conveyance of mails in

various countries, it is shown that the U. S. occupies the first place, the length of such routes in the United States being 550,000 kilometres, France 227,000 kilometres, Russia 171,000 Germany 101,000. No information relative to Great Britain or British India is furnished on this point. Another item given is the number of kilometres traverse? by travelling post offices or railway mails in 1880. In this respect the United States ranks first, 154,000,000 kilometres of railway mail transportation; Germany 102,799,000. France 66,151,000, Austria 29,168,000, Russia 23,204,000, Hungary 12,505,000, Spain 5,943,000, Sweden 5,659,000 Switzerland 4,773,000, kilometres. Regarding Great Britain and British India there are no statements. In mail transportations effected by means of post routes, the United States again ranks first with 121,713,000 kilometres, Germany 62,745,000, France 48,869,000, Russia 33,416,000, Austria 31,744,000. No particulars are given in reference to Great Britain and British India. Under the heading of annual mail transportation by ships in 1880, the United States is first, 9,070,000 kilometres having been traversed by ship mail., France 5,240,000, Sweden 3,513,000, Argentine 3,453,000, Russia 2,856,000, Hong Kong 2,600,000, Austria 1,835,000, Italy 1,711,000, Belgium 1,671,000, Norway 1,665,000, Japan 1,249,000, Hungary 1,067,000, Germany 1,010,000 kilometres. Great Britain and British India not given. According to the statistics of 1880 Germany obtained the largest gross revenue, viz.: 190,229,000 francs, United States 176,454,000 francs, Great Britain 168,336,000 francs, France 112,687,000, Russia 59,694,000, Austria 41,500,000, Italy 28,189,000, British India 22,324,000, Spain 18,723,000, Switzerland 17,590,000, Hungary 15,890,000, Belgium 11,599,000, Netherlands 8,829,000, Sweden 7,133,000, Japan 644,000, Denmark 551,000 francs. The largest net revenue was obtained by Great Britain, viz.: 64,944,000 francs.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our correspondence in all parts of the world is rapidly growing, and is becoming very expensive in the matter of postage. We are therefore compelled to request all who write to us desiring a reply, to enclose in their letters, stamps to pay the return postage. In future, we shall not notice letters from anyone who does not do this. Subscribers and others may obtain back numbers of the PHILATELIC COURIER at any time, on application, accompanied by the money for the same. Subscriptions may commence from any number.

The receiver of more than one copy of this number will please give copies to stamp-collectors in his vicinity.

Les personnes qui auront reçu plus d'un exemplaire de ce numero sont priees de les transmettre aux philatelistes de leur communaute.