

meters and will agree with the number given in the catalogue, for the stamp measured. Besides the millimetre scale is useful in many ways such as measuring watermarks, grilles, etc. There is another use for the perforation gauge dottings which I do not think is generally known. Frequently perforated stamps, which are more valuable unperforated are clipped of their perforations and sold for genuine unperforated stamps. The revenue stamps of the U. S. are often treated in this manner.

Now is the time the perforation gauge comes in. The revenue stamps are perforated 12 and some one wishes to sell you an unperforated copy worth 8 or 10 dollars, you see a nick at some corner of the stamp and three or four irregular nicks along the edge of the stamp. Apply the row on the gauge designed to measure stamps perforated 12, to the stamp and see if the dots in this row correspond with the nicks in the stamp, if so, you may be very sure the stamp is a clipped perforated stamp worth little or nothing and your gauge has saved you from being, "taken in" to use a slang phrase and you will find that the perforation gauge will in many ways, help you in classifying and identifying your stamps.

If you haven't a good gauge get one—they are not costly—and you will find it of great value. If you have a gauge and do not know of its uses—by the way I had a gauge for nearly a year before I became acquainted with its use—I trust you will try it for yourself and you will soon find out its good qualities.

### Hamilton Notes.

The new issue is gradually appearing here in small instalments. One at a time, the various denominations appear and up to date of writing (Dec. 16th.) the following denominations have been seen here  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, 6 and 8 cent.

There is a big demand at present for unused stamps of all countries, especially British Colonials. Dealers are wisely laying in a stock of these stamps, while they last.

The newly organized local branch of the D. P. A. is proving a boon to Hamilton collectors. Three meetings have already been held, and the society is in a prosperous condition with a large number of members.

One of the stamp vendors in this city has a peculiarity in a sheet of three cent stamps. The stamps are perforated directly in the centre so that the white space between the stamp comes in the centre of the stamp as torn from sheet.

The Hamilton Post Office has adopted an electrical contrivance for stamping letters, and your correspondent was shown the working of it recently.

By the use of this machine, the work, which has previously occupied the attention of three or four can now be done by one. The operator simply feeds the machine which, cancels and throws out the letters. The new cancellation is a Union Jack with date at left hand side in circle.

The Star Stamp Co have opened an American Branch for the convenience of their many American customers at 170 Mariner St. Buffalo N. Y.