

fair representative of the succeeding ones, it is sure to succeed.

Mr. E. F. Herdman has again undertaken the publishing of the *Philatelic Star*, the former official organ of the International Philatelic Union.

The old reliable *Philatelic Monthly* comes to hand for March and is up to its usual standard.

The Stamp World this month contains the first part of an article on "The Stamps of France," which will no doubt be valuable to the collector.

Mr. J. H. Raaymond is making his paper, *The Collectors' Companion*, one of the best stamp journals now published. He has indeed put new life into philatelic journalism.

Scott & Co. have sent us that wonderful magazine, *The American Journal of Philately*. Comment is unnecessary.

A correspondent of *The Hermes* warns collectors that Fabricio Silva, of Bahia, Brazil, is a swindler of the blackest type.

The publishers of the following papers will please accept our thanks: *Philatelic World*, *Philatelic Herald*, *Capital City Philatelist*, *The Gem*, *Empire State Philatelist*, *Tidings from Nature*, *The New England Philatelist*, *Stamp Collectors' Journal*, *Exchangers' Aid*, *The Collector* (very good).

We hope that our example in publishing a philatelic journal will be followed by many Canadians. The *Toronto Philatelic Co.* issued No. 1 of the *Toronto Philatelic Journal* last month. It makes a very creditable debut.

No Official Stamps for Canada.

An article stating that Canadian stamps had been received surcharged "OFFICIAL" is being published in a number of European papers. A late number of *Erball and Mercur* contains the following:—

CANADA—Herr Von Jerzabek informs us of the following, and sends us at the same time some of the articles in question: "In the year 1877 stamps were issued here differing from the current postage stamps in having a black imprint of the word "OFFICIAL" in low broad letters. These came into use but after a short circulation were withdrawn. They are now rather rare since only a comparatively small number were issued. One must be very cautious in purchasing them, for there are in circulation a host of counterfeits of this issue—"OFFICIAL" as well as "SERVICE." The following stamps have the surcharge from the left hand below to the right hand above— $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 6c and 10c.

The rest have horizontal surcharge, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, 15c, 1c and 3c envelopes and 1c card. Herr Von Jerzabek presented us also with green 2c stamps, halved perpendicularly and cancelled by the writing "Halifax, N.S., 18th Sept., 1884." Two cent stamps, halved in this manner, he remarks, have been employed for a short time in the postal service to do duty for one cent stamps. In the same sheet we find that Vron Herr Kropf, Prague, has received the one cent post card printed on bright chamois; and the envelopes one cent blue and three cent red with three black impressions as official marks.

- 1 At the top in the centre, the English coat of arms with lion and unicorn.
- 2 Over the stamp "SERVICE."
- 3 Below on the left "Headquarters 63rd Rifles."

The same gentleman sent us the Bill Stamp 6c green (Queen Victoria's head in widow's reds) cancelled by the imprint "Halifax, N.S., Oct. 23rd, '84," thus having been used post ally.

Upon reading this we at once wrote to Ottawa about it, and received the following reply:—

Post Office Department, Canada,
Ottawa, 10th March, 1885.

L. F. BARKER, Whitby,
Sir.—In reply to your letter of the 7th inst., I am directed by the Postmaster-General to say that no stamp or envelope has been issued by this department bearing the word "OFFICIAL" on it, but a stamp "OFFICIALLY SEALED" has been used in the Dead Letter Office since 1881.

(Signed) WM. WHITE,
Secretary.

It is quite evident therefore that the worthy Herr Von Jerzabek has been misled by some enterprising employee of the Halifax Post Office.

New Issues.

CEYLON—The following stamps have been surcharged "Postage and Revenue, five cents," 8, 16, 32, 36, 48, 64 and 96 cents. The following provisionals have also been seen: