

more collectors more interested in the gathering of stamps for the pleasure there is in it.

Directly the money value becomes mixed up with the delights of discovery and accumulation the pleasure of stamp collecting is ended.

We have always advised our patrons to collect for pleasure and not to spend one cent more than they can afford to throw away. Where this advice is followed philately is a never ending pleasure through life and a valuable legacy to the loved ones after death. Where stamps are bought principally for speculation, there is constant heart-burnings, a persistent struggle to get the better of a brother collector, strong temptation to spend more than you can afford, and in too many cases final defeat and discomforture.

Why should we endeavor to turn our play garden into a gambling hell? How often does the visitor at Monte Carlo beat the bank?

If then we collect for pleasure only, what matters it to us how many speculative stamps are issued. Very few of us can afford to collect the issues of the entire world; we make such a selection as is pleasing to us and are happy. To those who can afford to collect every stamp, the entire series of speculative issues combined do not represent the value of one rarity.

Speculative stamps are bad. It is unfortunate that any government has ever been tempted to make money in this way, but they cannot be suppressed and the more they are written against the more harm is done to philately.

Ninety-nine young people out of a hundred who are collecting imagine that "speculative issues," "reprints" and "remainders" are all synonymous for counterfeit and this has frightened more boys out of collecting than all other causes combined.

Multiplication of minute varieties and shades of color are also a potent factor in driving out old collectors and frightening new people from coming in. The knowledge of these things is good to acquire and should be preserved in the various magazines, but the sight of the long line stretched out in a catalogue has prevented thousands from ever attempting to make a collection.

The average man or intelligent boy, when he goes into a pursuit wants, at least, to think that he can acquire a complete collection. The modern catalogue will frighten all but a born collector, a millionaire, or a fool.

If you do not desire to kill stamp collecting, stop all agitation except against counterfeiting and dishonest dealers.

POSTAL NOTES FOR CANADA.

Canada will adopt the postal note system in vogue in the United Kingdom. Mr. Mulock has been studying the question for some months and is now considering the details, with a view of bringing the system into operation on July 1, 1898. Paper notes about the size of a bank bill will be printed on thin linen paper of the following denominations: 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90 cents, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50, \$3, \$4 and \$5. The cost of obtaining these notes will be one cent each up to 40 cents, two cents between that figure and \$2.50, and three cents each for all above that. These postal notes will replace the postoffice money orders for the transmission of all small sums through the post. The present money order system is a cumbersome and indirect method, and wastes much time. It will be continued, however, with some improvements, for the transmission of sums up to \$100. These postal notes will serve a great public convenience, doing away with the payment of accounts in postage stamps, the postal notes being payable at any money order office without the identification of the payee or any condition other than the presentation of the note. It is expected that the rates, low as they are fixed, will give a small profit. The system is very popular in England. The number of notes issued in 1881-2, a year after the system was established, was a little over 4,000,000, which had increased in 1886-7 to 67,000,000 notes.

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