

SUBSCRIBERS

To the PHILATELIC COURIER may receive back numbers on application, accompanied by a remittance of value.

As our circulation is now so large that it entails a heavy expense in postage, friends abroad ordering extra or specimen numbers will please enclose with their orders a stamp to pay return postage.

THE first postal law of the United States went into effect in 1792. The rate on a single letter was six cents within 30 miles, increasing proportionately until it was 25 cents for 450 miles and over. In 1810 the rates were lowered slightly by charging eight cents for 40 miles and so on up to 25 cents for 500 miles. In 1816 the rates were six cents for less than 30 miles, ten cents for 80 miles, 12½ cents for 150 miles, 18½ cents for 400 miles and 25 cents for a longer distance. This law remained in force 30 years. In 1845 the rates were greatly simplified, a letter under 300 miles being five cents, and over 300 ten cents. In 1847 stamps were introduced, and the rates fixed according to weight instead of distance. Cheap postage in the United States really dates from 1851 when the rate was made three cents within 3000 miles on prepaid letters.

MONEY ORDER DEFECTS.

Our money order system works well, and is a great accommodation on the whole, to the public. Still, like all human devices, there are little defects that crop up occasionally arising chiefly from differences in currency in different places.

For instance, a person desiring to remit per money order hence to Newfoundland will be assured that his correspondent will receive a certain amount. But the Newfoundland postal authorities will deduct the difference in the currency, and will only pay the remitter an amount reduced by 1 per cent. to equalize the value of the coins of the two colonies. If this principle is carried out in money transmissions to all places, or even to any considerable number of localities outside of Canada, no one can be sure that he sends what he thinks that he does. It would be wise, therefore, on the part of the Department to provide its money order clerks with full and accurate tables, showing exactly what any given amount paid into an office in the Dominion will realize in each foreign country to which money orders can be sent.

Another defect is, that whereas the agreement to mutually accept money orders exists between Canada and all the European nations—except the Danubian Principalities, Turkey, and perhaps a few other inferior states—the postal authorities in this country refuse to grant the sender the option as to what place within the agreement he shall make his order payable, in the event of his desiring to send money to some place outside of said agreement, and insist that the order shall be payable only at London. Thus, if one desires to remit to any, Servia, Bulgaria, etc., he is not allowed to make his order payable in any of the Eastern or continental countries, but is forced to draw upon London. This

is manifestly unfair to the public, as it must inconvenience the receiver as well as the sender. It is evident that the place on which the order should be drawn is that nearest to the receiver, as it does not affect the administration of the postal department, while the probabilities are largely in favor of its being more convenient to the party in whose favor the order is drawn. Again, it is far easier for purposes of identification, that the paying and receiving offices in such cases be situated in as near proximity as possible. It is probable that the smaller states to which we have alluded, have postal arrangements with their neighbors, in which Canada does not share, and that, while they will not directly accept our money orders drawn upon themselves, they are in a position to utilize and pay those drawn upon adjacent countries. This being the case, the local postal officer can more easily and in less time communicate with and be identified by the postmaster at the capital of a country near him, by whom the order may be made payable, than is possible in the case of his being obliged to send to London to get it cashed.

It will be readily seen that this is simply a question of accommodating the public, without in any way burdening the postal department, and we trust that the Hon. Postmaster-General will at once give the matter serious consideration, and issue the necessary orders that the inconvenience complained of be speedily ended.

OUR EXCHANGES.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries:—"Monitor Des Timbrophiles," "The Stamp World," "El Bogotano," "The New Jersey Philatelist," "The Stamp News," "Welt-Post," "Collectors Bureau," "Giardel Coleccionista," "Philatelistische Berichte," "Weekly Gazette and Newspaper Reporter," "Erdball Merkur," "Globus," "Lakeside Philatelist," "Old Curiosity Shop," "Granite State Philatelist," "General-Anzeiger Philatelic," "Collectors' Library Table," "Junior Record," "National Philatelist," "Union Exchange List," "Western Herald," "Monthly Echo," "Empire City Philatelist," "Philatelic News," "Universal Penman," "Our Own Fireside," "Diario de Centro-America," "N. S. W. Philatelist," "Canadian Mining Review," "La Patria," "Monthly Utopian," "Our Home," "Monthly Reporter," "Philatelic Headlight," "Shareholder," "Short-Hand Writer," "Natal Mercury," "Curiosity Collector," "New Era," "Feuille Official," "New York Sun" and Philatelic Advertiser."

RARITIES.

Dealers desiring varieties at special prices in quantities will please write for our private list.

Special attention is invited to my assortment of Provincial stamps, viz., Newfoundland, P. E. Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

HENRY HECHLER,
Importing Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps,
184 Argyle Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.