

## The Canada Stamp Sheet.

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QUEBEC, FEBRUARY, 15th, 1901.

### THE LEATHER CHAIR.

At 6.55 p. m. on January 22nd, 1901, at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, passed away our much beloved sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, Empress of India, at the ripe old age of 81 years, 3 months and twenty-nine days.

Canada, the United States, and in short the people of every clime have heard the news with the deepest sorrow. To the sons and daughters of England more particularly the death of the Queen comes as an overwhelming affliction. The great loving heart of the sovereign mother has ceased to throb, her words of pity, consolation and sympathy will no longer be heard by the distressed and sorrowful, but the memory of her life and kindly deeds will ever remain bright and shining in the hearts of all.

How will the accession of Edward the Seventh to the throne of England affect philately, is the question that is being asked on all sides by lovers of the science. It is perhaps a little early to make a reliable forecast of what is to come, but it seems but reasonable to expect that the advent of a new ruler will naturally lead to a fresh issue of stamps all along the line.

So far as our Canadians are concerned, it has been rumoured for some time past that the plates used in the manufacture of some of the denominations, the one and two cents for instance, are so worn as to be almost useless. That steps will be taken immediately by the Ottawa authorities to have these old plates replaced by new ones bearing the portrait of the King must be taken for granted.

There is little doubt but that a great rush will now be made by collectors to fill in the blanks in their albums with stamps of the reign of Her Late Majesty. That this large demand will bring up prices is to be expected. Holders of these stamps, particularly of the older issues, are not likely to throw them away at this juncture and an immediate stiffening of the market may be looked for. It would not be surprising if the prices given in Scott's 1901 Catalogue should be maintained net, and in some few cases a premium on these prices demanded.

Dealers, as a rule, report that the month of January was an exceptionally good one in the way of stamp sales. Generally orders begin to flow in with the beginning of February, but this year collectors appear to have taken up their albums much earlier.

In any case the prediction that