

upon me. I am now prepared to enter upon the duties dependent upon me at once and shall be pleased to receive any donation that the members may be able to give to the library. I shall devote the necessary time to the proper arrangement of the magazines, etc., confided to my care. I am,

Respectfully yours,

H. S. DICKSON, *Librarian*.

ST. THOMAS, Oct. 28th, 1891.

*The Editor Canadian Philatelist:*

DEAR SIR,—I have been requested to allow myself to be nominated for Exchange Superintendent of the Philatelic Society of Canada. After some correspondence, and taking time to consider, I have consented to accept a nomination, but I think it only proper to state to the members the concessions I required as a *sine qua non* before allowing myself to be nominated. First, I insisted that the society should be incorporated. I have just had incorporated "The Elgin Historical Society,"—a society for advancing the study of the former history of this county, and have offered to carry through the incorporation of our society for nothing. I may, if elected, take first choice of one book on exchange as a return for my trouble, but no more, and I will not be grudging that I hope. Then I required to be allowed to make the rules for the department myself, as I have found something lax in the various exchanges we have had. Shortly what I propose to insist on is a "sales" and an "exchange" department. If parties participate in the former it must be "for cash," and if they do not remit they may expect to be cancelled on all other circuits. In the exchange, they must neither expect to receive or pay cash, but exchange and take all credits that may be due them at end of any time in stamps from other exchange sheets. Again I will require an agreement in writing from each one to carry out the rules and remit. This will be to the company and can be realized on by the official collector. These agreements will require to be guaranteed by a responsible person in every case, as I will not make fish of the president and flesh of the members or vice versa. We find no one in banks or financial institutions (not even managers) but have to furnish bonds, and I am sure, as all the good members look for mutual protection, they will not object to give a guarantee, and I am certain that the only ones who will object will be those who will

object intentionally or otherwise to pay any balance due from them for stamps taken. As to first choice of sheets, the constitution provides that six members shall constitute a circuit. I shall number the agreements as they come in. No. 1 will have first choice 1st circuit, No. 7 will have first choice 2nd circuit, and so on till the numbers are exhausted; then No. 2 will have first choice of 1 a circuit, No. 8 will have first choice of 2 a circuit, and so on. Again, if members wish to protect themselves against change of their stamps, they will have to put in ink under the stamp the country denomination or other distinguishing mark of the stamp in the space, and then a change can at once be detected. This will not entail much work and provide a great safeguard. It will be difficult just now for American members to participate in the exchange, owing to the customs duty; but if there are a few members in Detroit and Windsor, or Pt. Huron and Sarnia, it may be arranged. This is a short statement of what I propose if elected, and the members can vote for me if in favor of all my proposals and against me if not. They can rest assured I shall insist on the guarantee before they participate, no matter who they may be; so if I am elected no one need complain if I refuse to send to them without. It is only fair to those who place valuable stamps with the society that they should be protected as far as possible.

Yours truly, J. S. ROBERTSON.

ST. THOMAS, Nov. 12th, 1891.

*The Editor Canadian Philatelist:*

DEAR SIR,—Since my former letter to you, I have been informed that I am elected Exchange Superintendent, and I thank the members for their kindness in so electing me, and will be always ready to have suggestions from them as to the working of the department. Since writing my letter I have seen Mr. Stæbler, who draws my attention to the fact that it would be inconvenient to arrange any first in circuit as they come in, as the first might be in British Columbia and the next in Nova Scotia, and suggests arranging according to Provinces as near as I can. This is an excellent suggestion and I shall follow same. I beg to advise the members that I have the papers almost ready for incorporation and by the 1st of December I hope to have the incorporation complete and be in a good way towards getting my department in running order.

Yours truly, J. S. ROBERTSON.