

From our special correspondent.

Northwestern Happenings.

BY HOSWORTH.

St. Paul has a new firm, Mr. A. B. Nessonson and Mr. E. Beldin being the partners, under the style of Nessonson & Beldin.

Minneapolis is now blessed (?) with two papers, *The Northwest*, which has been running for nearly two years, and *The Minnesota Philatelist* just two months old. Both are well printed, though the contents of the latter might easily be improved.

And now Duluth comes to the front with the promise of a new journal. It will be called *The Zenith City Philatelist*, and will be run by E. T. Bonnis, 515 East Second Street, Duluth, Minn. We will soon have a surfeit of our class journals, but the old theory of "the survival of the fittest" will undoubtedly apply.

Mr. F. S. George is contemplating a change of residence. He has an offer of a good situation at Fargo, and if he goes Minneapolis will lose one of her most ardent collectors. Well good luck Frank, but we hope to occasionally see your face in the "banana belt."

W. C. Whitall, the exchange superintendent of the Northwestern Philatelic Association, informs me that he has three books on circuits amounting to about \$1.25. By the way, this society is coming rapidly to the front in both membership and influence.

The A. P. A. can soon look for five new members from these parts. The fellows have at last awakened to the fact that the A. P. A. is something of a society and that it pays to join it. We hope many other Northwestern collectors will take interest enough in it to send their applications.

During the recent curling bonspiel at St. Paul there were present many Winnipeggers, and rumor has it that some of them possess fine collections. It was your scribbler's misfortune to be out on a trip and thus the pleasure of meeting some of them was denied.

Mr. Chas. E. Williams, the efficient auction manager of the Northwestern Philatelic Society, says that the second sale will occur on March 15th, and he hopes to have his catalogue ready by February 15th. There are some excellent things in it and the bidding will be quite lively. Anyone wishing a list may obtain one by writing him at Palmyra, Wis.

On December 30th one of Minneapolis' old time collectors crossed the river to which we are all advancing. Mr. H. H. Harry, as I knew him, was one of "nature's noblemen," and his sudden demise has caused a vacancy among us which will never be filled.

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CHICAGO NOTES.

BY CHRIS. PETERSON.

The N. P. U., Branch No. 1, held a special meeting at J. A. Pierce's rooms on the evening of January 31st and elected officers for the following year. The well-known Chicago collector, A. E. Fritz, was elected president, A. R. Neing, Vice-President, and C. B. Bergquist, Secretary-Treasurer. After the election the Exchange department was settled up, which leaves that department in first-class shape. The dues for the branch will be \$1.50 per year. Meeting adjourned 10 p. m.

The C. P. S. held their regular meeting on the evening of February 1st, at the society's rooms in the Masonic Temple. After their regular routine of business, Dr. B. A. Cottlow, who was elected Exchange Manager at the previous meeting, distributed exchange books among the members at the nominal price of three for a quarter. The 29th reserve auction sale was announced for February 15th. Meeting adjourned at 10.30 p. m.

The meetings of Branch No. 1, P. S. of A., have not been held regularly, owing to much sickness among the members, but a meeting will soon be called and all Chicago members are expected to be present.

Canadian collectors are warned against a Chicago party offering complete sets of used Columbian stamps for four dollars per set. It is a rank swindle, and several complaints have been received from collectors outside the city who have been victimized. The party lives in an old shanty on the north side, and from appearances would show that the man never owned a dollar in his life. A dealer from Indiana, who received a letter from the accused party offering the stamps for sale, came to town the other day on a special train and was going to buy several hundred sets, but on going to the house was told that the stamp man was down in the city. "I am out 25 cents and the fare," said the booster, "and am going home." Another dealer went to the house but received the same answer, that the stamp man was down in the city. The matter will be brought before the post office authorities with additional proofs, but in the meantime take warning that Columbian stamps cannot be secured at such bargains, for if they could there would be plenty of buyers in this city, but as yet they have only been offered to collectors in other cities.

The Columbian Stamp Co., P. O. Box 590, Chicago, have suspended operations and are trying to straighten matters. It is better so.

J. A. Pierce's first auction sale of World's Fair postal rarities and a large collection of U. S. and foreign stamps will take place about the 1st of April. The catalogue will be a novelty and will be sent on application.

It is probable that Chicago will have a new post office, to be the finest in the country.

Prices of Columbian stamps will soon take a great jump upward. Only a few of the lower values can be procured. The 3, 4, 5, 8 and 15 cents are entirely sold out and no more can be had at this office, and we hear the same to be the case in the New York, Boston and Kansas City post offices.

The United States Coin and Stamp Exchange hold their first auction sale on the evening of February 26th, at their rooms in the Masonic Temple. There are 150 lots, all U. S. stamps, and will be sold to the highest bidder without reserve.

All Canadian collectors should join the Philatelic Society of America. Fine Exchange department and separate one for Canada; fees, 10 cents; dues, 25 cents; for benefits, etc., address W. R. Ashcroft, 120 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

C. E. Severn has secured second prize in the writing contest in *Mekel's Weekly Stamp News*. We congratulate you brother, "Shake."

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