

authorities for so doing, except Collectors of unused stamps. These unfortunates have no doubt, many of them, passed anxious days and sleepless nights, since the stamps came into use, for unused copies are almost unattainable. It is against the rules of the Departments for them to be sold or given away, and the penalty for such an offence is removal from office. Hence to obtain unobliterated copies, in a legitimate manner, is impossible.

The series for the Post Office Department has a numeral of value and "OFFICIAL STAMP" in an oval; "POST OFFICE DEPT." above; value in letters, and numeral below. Those for the other Departments are the same as the regular emission, except that the name of the department fills the place of "U. S. POSTAGE" above the profile. The colors have been aptly chosen, as for instance, department of Agriculture, straw; Justice, purple; War, red, &c. It may be that these stamps will be withdrawn, and give place to a uniform series for all, and indeed such is the rumor, but it cannot be traced to an official source.

The Stamp Collectors' Chronicle.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER, 1873.

THE friends and devotees of Philately generally, will note with pleasure the great progress this prince of recreative pursuits is making among the youth. The valuable information it imparts, while at the same time amusing and diverting, cannot fail sooner or later to be appreciated. Its lessons in opening up and continuing a correspondence,—thus giving young lads an introduction to the mode by which all importing and exporting business

of the present day is generally transacted by their seniors; its familiar and lucid rendering and conversion of foreign moneys; its inestimable instructions in geography, and the ideas of taste and cleanliness inculcated by its prosecution, are strong arguments in favor of its inception and sustenance. That it has already become universal, needs only a glance at our huge piles of letters, in every dialect, from every quarter of the globe, wherein man ever set his foot, for confirmation. Many of these proclaim the writers to be persons of advanced literary attainments and practical good sense, while others again reveal the uncultured and careless composition of the flighty school boy. Among our American neighbors the pursuit is firmly ingrafted, and it is truly wonderful the giant stride it has made in the past eight months, and we do not flatter ourselves when we assert that we were largely instrumental in bringing about this very congratulatory result. In almost every city in the United States may be found an Agent of the "Foreign Stamp Depot," who not only themselves offer for sale our goods, but in all the large schools in their respective districts, appoint sub-agents, supplying them with lists, sheets of stamps, &c., the profits on which while supplying the lads with pocket money, prove also a most powerful incentive for their sale. Of the progress of Stamp Collecting in our own Dominion we cannot say as much, these last few years there has been a sad falling off in the ranks of its advocates, and we doubt that were a muster roll now called not over two hundred supporters would answer to the summons. We hardly know to what cause to ascribe this lack of interest, apparently there is no individual reason why such a lamentable state of affairs should exist; it appears rather the result of general laxity on the part of our larger importers and