

Advance! Philatelia!

By H. I. WATTS.

It is hard for those who have never bowed at Philatelia's throne to realize the great interest centred in stamps and stamp collecting. Even many of those who are collectors do not realize it all. They do not understand that collecting is no longer a mere hobby but has become a science. No longer only a pastime; but a business. In every village, town and city the philatelist can be found.

Philatelia has distanced every competitor. Coin collecting is for the wealthy only; the "burton craze" was a craze indeed and those know-it-alls who said it would "rival stamp collecting" have been proved wrong and button collecting, like a mince-pie dream, has passed away. Ornithology and Geology are for the naturalist and scientist. Philately is for all; for rich and poor, young and old it furnishes alike pleasant pastime or profitable business.

But it now depends on those already in the field to see that Philately marches forward and is brought to the notice of those who have never heard of it and the result will be that those who have sneered at us and our hobby, as they call it, will sneer no more.

It must be remembered that if we stand still we will steadily lose ground and lost ground is ever hard to regain.

We must not retreat; we must advance. We must enroll new recruits and start new albums to gathering in the surplus stamps scattered over the world and then Philately will prosper

and receive that recognition from the general public it so well deserves.

The only thing regrettable in connection with stamp collecting is that so many persons are tempted to use paltry, dishonest means to get stamps without paying for them. These people who are the curse of philately, must be exposed and put down. Otherwise they will at last be the ruin of the noble structure which has been so many years building.

Every collector, whether a member of any national society or not, should work to bring harmony into the ranks and stop the quarreling and grumbling between the different organizations and all work with the object of advancing the knowledge of Philately.

Canada is likely to have a new issue of stamps.

Representations have been made to the Postmaster-General that it would be fitting for the Government to recognize the Queen's jubilee year by a new issue of postage stamps. Since the matter was first called to the attention of Mr. Mulock some stamp collectors have been moving in the same direction, although doubtless these gentlemen are more interested from a personal than from a patriotic standpoint. On his return to Ottawa, it is said, the Postmaster-General will decide whether or not to recommend his colleagues to make a change in the present stamp issue.

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