

be proud of her stamps, and might even congratulate herself with having no Postmaster Mulock, with his blatant vaster empire than has been and Xmas stamps that persist till that particular Christmas is gone, through a whole year, even until the coming of this season's flowers that bloom in the spring.

I think a little observation of the stamps of Greece, Switzerland and some few other countries would serve to educate our ideas and win us away from the idea that a postage stamp can acceptably emulate a lobster can label.

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United States Minutes.

CONDUCTED BY USONA.

The present issue of envelopes is becoming remarkable for the number of varieties. Three recognized dies of the two cent, two of the five cent, and latest is Die C of the four cent. This die C is distinguished by the omission of the serrated line outside Lincoln's head, and is conspicuous in its variation.

Fiscal collectors would do well to look out for the provisional Philippine revenues some of these are surcharged on the U. S. regular issue, and others are of original design.

Mr. Neely, a United States postoffice clerk in Cuba, is adding to the joys of philately, he is alleged to have failed to destroy \$45,000 worth of the surcharged U. S. stamps when ordered to do so, as he considered that this would tend to deprive collectors of a chance to complete their sets of colonial provisionals. His name should be bracketed with that of the governor of Guam as a philatelic philanthropist.

The American exhibit at the Exposition will be the headquarters for a number of our prominent dealers and collectors. Unfortunately the clerks in charge have permitted the theft of three sheets of proofs, one of which is the \$48 newspaper, and the United States exhibit, which was helped out by about \$1000 worth of privately owned stamps may not be sent on after all. It will be unfortunate should this be the case, as the stamps of this country as a whole, and especially as regards the newspaper and revenues, are far more beautiful than the run of European issues.

The sets of newspaper and periodical stamps, so much maligned, are going to be good property within five years. The issue was 50,000, and of these quite a number were not sold, and enough were turned in at the close of last year to more than counter balance the number of sets in collections prior to the issue. A reprint was made of the higher values, and an apparent storm of protest followed. More apparent than real, a storm to cause timid speculators to unload their purchases, and with the would-be speculators who find they need the cash, these sets are now selling from \$4 up. But no one should presume on this unsettled condition to put off the acquisition of a set; the flurry caused by this unloading will pass off in a year at most, and then the rise will be rapid. The stamps are beautiful, and the Seebecks are an ever present example of the fact that beauty will atone for a multitude of sins in the direction of speculation. If you have sets, hold on to them, if you intend to get a set, get it now, some of the big dealers are advertising them below the government price, a condition that won't