

PHILATELIC SUB-STUDIES.

II.—PERFORATIONS.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE number and kind of perforations on a stamp quite often is an important factor in the value of a stamp, just as *paper* has been shown to be. Let us first clearly understand the meaning of the term "perforated."—When the stamps are printed, they are usually found in the entire sheet, with no means of separating them except by *cutting* each stamp from the sheet separately; this it can readily be seen is a very slow and unsatisfactory method of separating the stamps; yet nearly all the earlier issues of stamps were separated in this manner. Then followed the invention of the various methods of perforation. The commonest variety of perforation is that called *regular* perforation; the stamp thus perforated has rows of small round holes punched, or *cut out*, from between the stamps. This is the ordinary variety generally met with. Then, again, it is quite often the case that a different perforating machine is used to perforate quantities of a certain stamp, and the perforations are of a different size, consequently further apart; a line commonly used, is when a stamp is said to be *perforated 9*, or *perforated 14*, as the case may be. The number, or size, of the perforation described in the two foregoing terms are determined by a measure called the Perforation Gauge, and the number of these little holes punched in the space of *two centimetres* determines the size of the perforation. Thus, if 9 of the little holes are punched out in the space of two centimetres, the stamp is said to be *perforated 9*. As I have said before, the size of the perforation often makes a great difference in the value of a stamp; for example, take the 2 pence rose of Prince Edward Island, *perforated 9*; this stamp is worth \$2.00, while *perforated 13* it is worth but 10 cents. The abbreviation of the word perforation, "*perf.*," is nearly always used in preference to the word spelled out in full; therefore, a stamp with 14 perforations to the prescribed measurement is written, "*perf. 14.*" A stamp that is not perforated is said to be *unperforated*, or *imperforated*—the abbreviations of which are, *imperf.* and *unperf.* The other varieties of perforation outside of regular perforation are executed differently; instead of the little bits of paper being pressed out, the holes are pricked out, little slits cut on little indentations made. In cases where the holes are pricked out instead of being punched out, the stamp is said to be *pin perforated*. The stamps of some of the later issues of Mexico are an excellent example of this method of perforation. When the stamps of a sheet are separated by rows of straight little indentations, thus — — — —, impressed heavily, the stamp is said to be *rouletted*. At times the rouletting is done on the press where the stamps are being printed, instead of on a rouletting machine; this makes the little roulette indentations colored like the stamps; it is then said to be *rouletted in color*. *Pointed*, or *denated perforation*, or, as the French call it, *Perce en pointe*, is a variety of perforation in which the line of separation follows a zigzag course; of one side will be found to fit into the opposite side thus — — — —, when separated and replaced, the points. *Scalloped perforation*, or, in French, *Perce en arc*; in this case the separation is effected by means of successive small cuts in the form of curves. When the stamps are separated by a somewhat different variety of wavy line, with *small breaks* between the

curves, it is said to be *serpentine perforation*, as its appearance implies. In some cases one or two sides only of a stamp are perforated, the remaining sides being left unperforated; in such cases, the stamp is said to be *part perforated*. In *rare* cases, the little punches used for cutting out the holes in "regular perforation" are of different sizes, resulting in making the perforations of different sizes; this is called *irregular perforation*; but this variety is seldom met with. The above form the principal varieties of perforations; two or three other minor varieties are known, but they are of little or no importance.

I am pleased to see the interest manifested by the younger collectors in this series of brief explanatory articles; and I shall in all cases endeavor to make my descriptions as clear as is possible. In my third paper, in the December issue, I shall take up Engraving, Lithography, etc.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

PHILATELICS.

BY L. H. BENTON.

SOME time since I noticed a philatelic dodge emblematic of the "pure stubbornness" of surcharge fiends. It was a case of surcharging a 2½ cent stamp "1 cent," and then to get some 2½ cents (that denomination having been sacrificed for surcharges) by having *another* denomination surcharged 2½ cents. Being a "provisional" (!!) issue, this could have been avoided, as many 50-centers would not have to be surcharged and used as 1-centers ere a regular emission could be secured.

Though a certain initial number of a philatelic periodical recently brought \$1.80 at an auction sale, stamp papers in general are mighty hard things to dispose of for cash. One can dispose of any quantity in exchange for stamps and other philatelic journals, but when it comes to the real old cash, the papers are "not in it" with stamps for ogling the dimes from their "pocket-book home."

There is one advantage used stamps have over unused ones, and that is, if not counterfeit, they have come from the country they represent; so if we have a used stamp from Australia we know that the little bit of paper has travelled from that far-distant land, thousands of miles away; while in the case of the unused specimen, it may have been received by the dealer direct from the makers, and though it be all right, and is a stamp of a certain country, it has not the charm attending a used one, as mentioned above.

When I see those queer English stamps, some of those "revenue-*for-postage*" kind, with the malediction "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*" on them, I cannot help thinking, Did J. J. Morgan, Tingley, or any of those philatelic brigands ever see them, and realize the meaning of that little French phrase? For the benefit of those who may not be familiar enough with French to understand the point, I will state that the English interpretation of the phrase is, "Evil be to him that evil thinks."

Why is it that the "R" German registered stamps are not catalogued, while those Bavaria "return letter stamps" (!) are?—those labels which any printer can and will print for a few cents per 100, and from which printing-office most convenient to the dealer they probably emanate.