

The Philatelic Courier,

AND STAMP-COLLECTORS' JOURNAL.

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The Philatelic Courier

—AND—

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HENRY HECHLER, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR,
184 Argyle Street,
HALIFAX, N. S., CANADA.

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TO EDITORS OF PHILATELIC PAPERS, PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF PHILATELIC SOCIETIES AND PRIVATE, PRACTICAL PHILATELISTS.

The name of this paper in itself explains the objects for the furtherance of which it is published. We would be obliged to the above to notify us, with their full address, of the appearance of anything new respecting the art—as new issues, sur-charges, types, provisionals, etc., etc., as soon as may be possible. Their names and addresses will be recorded with us and we will notify each of any information received from any one of them. Our aim is to make our office a central Philatelic bureau of information with a view to bringing about a corresponding Union of correspondence throughout the world. In this manner we are convinced that much benefit both to individual Philatelists and to the art may be brought about. If this suggestion is favorably received as we believe it must be, we would recommend the name of the "Universal Philatelic Union" for the proposed General Society. Not only would correspondence result but, also, probably, conferences more or less frequent on the interests of the science.

OUR POSTAGE STAMPS.

We are rather surprised that the postal authorities of Canada have not followed the example set them by Spain and its colonies and by other countries of issuing a different series of stamps annually or at some other limited period.

The present series has now been current for about fifteen years and we fail to find another instance in the history of postal matters where one die has been employed for so long a period. It is quite true that we had a change. The portrait of Her Majesty, though it might have well represented her as she appeared long years ago, does not do so now. Besides this the engraver's art has much progressed in the interim since this die was first made, and the stamps of a country should illustrate the progress that that country has made in civilisation as shown in the fine arts. Many weaker, poorer and less enlightened countries have far handsomer stamps than has Canada and we would like to see her come to the front in this matter. Another argument that should bear much weight is that the old die has become so much worn from repeated use that it no longer gives a clear impression so that the later issues are very indistinct and, therefore, discreditable to the department.

We have seen some excellent work turned out by the British American Bank Note Company, and do not doubt that if the task of designing and producing a new die for our stamps was intrusted to it the result would be equally creditable to Canada and to the Company.

More than this the issuance of new series from time to time would cause them to be enquired for and talked about by thousands of philatelists in every land and would create a desire to know more of the country that they represented. Thus they would become in some sense valuable immigration agents, costing the country nothing for the great good that they would do it in inducing people to learn more of Canada, her history, resources and the inducements that she offers to settlers within her borders.

If this was done hundreds of dealers in stamps would purchase large numbers of each new series not for use in the mails, but for philatelic purposes, thus materially increasing the revenues of the postal department, and largely aiding in solving the problem of cheap postage benefitting both the government and the public.

We commend the idea to the consideration of the Postmaster General who is understood to be now wrestling with the question of reducing the postage to two cents without creating thereby a deficit.—[BY THE EDITOR.

Enclose return postage if you wish a reply.

Les personnes qui auront reçu plus d'un exemplaire de ce numéro sont priées de les transmettre aux philatélistes de leur connaissance.

The receiver of more than one copy of this number will please give spare copies to other stamp-collectors in his vicinity.