

The Ontario Philatelist.

A MONTHLY FOR COLLECTORS.

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Merely a Suggestion.

BY E. A. WHALEN.

I often think that if things continue in their present direction the philatelist will in time be a most important factor in the financial and economic condition of the nations of the earth. Already the stamp collector is recognized by chancellors of exchequers and financial ministers and his failings turned into hard cash. True this recognition is hardly an unmixed blessing, but recognition it is all the same, and of course we should pat ourselves on the back and jubilate.

Every year it seems to me the philatelist is getting more honor and recognition—and more stamps to buy. He smiles his approval on an exposition for Brussels, he recoups with commendable generosity the depleted treasury of "this Canada of ours" and raises petty principalities to affluence, all by the purchase of stamps. In far-off Australia the philatelist founds hospitals, and in the liberty infested United States he parts with his hard earned cash willingly, that the Omaha Exposition shall pay expenses. Thus we see the philatelist in his world wide patriotism and benevolence scattering with lavish hand wealth and goodwill in all climes and unto all men.

But while this is very fine and all that, my intention, primarily,

was to tender to the nations of earth a few modest suggestions. In brief, my argument is this: that the various governments, having assiduously bled the collector all his life, are in duty bound to see that in his old age he does not suffer, and to cheer his declining years with the protection of paternalism. If this suggestion is considered favorably; by the governments we shall see Homes for worn-out Philatelists, and pensions for those collectors who are adjudged to have creditably discharged the duties of stamp collectorship.

The Canadian Variety.

Rochester, N. Y., April 7, '98.

Editor of the O. P.,

Dear Sir:—

Having read the notes of your Ottawa correspondent in the April number of THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST concerning the difference in size of engraving of the ½, 1, 2 and 3 cent of Canada's new issue of stamps, I desire to state for the benefit of the readers of your paper, that I have unused blocks and strips of the above four denominations in two distinct sizes of engraving. Those that are shortest are a trifle wider than the longer ones and are printed on slightly thinner paper. The ½ cent stamps differ also in gum and color of ink.

Yours, etc., W. A. C.