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Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

Our Philatelic Menagerie.

BY C. E. JENNY.

I HAVE already spoken of the birds we see on our stamps. I will now devote a short space to the animals.

On the carrier stamps of the U. S., and on the "Pony Express" we have man's noble companion, who, in those early times, was his chief assistant in carrying the mails in our Western Country. On the St. Louis local and on some of the California express company's stamps is found the bear, a relic of the days when west of the Mississippi meant wilderness, showing how rapidly has civilization progressed westward.

On the new stamps of the Straits Settlement a tiger is seen peering out of the jungle, an apt illustration of what the unwary traveler can expect in the more unsettled portions of this locality. Also, after long and careful consideration we have decided to call the fa-œ on the Afghanistan stamps, that of a tiger.

Bolivia and Peru display their most valuable beast of burden, the llama of the Andes. On the Cape of Good Hope stamps, by the side the figure of Commerce, is a ram. Wool is the principal export of this colony, not even being out valued by diamonds.

North Borneo and Persia display the royal beast, the lion.

Canada, which furnishes the world with valuable furs, shows us the beaver, and Newfoundland the seal, which has been the cause of so much dispute. Newfoundland also pictures the cod, the fishing for which is the principal industry of the mainland coast dwellers for thousands of miles, as well as of the inhabitants of the island.

On the stamps of Gwallor, one of the Indian native states, is seen the cobra half coiled, bringing to our mind Indian snake charmers and wonderful snake stories of that snaky land.

On the stamps of Tasmania can be seen that curious object, half bird, half beast, which puzzled and puzzles yet, naturalists. The platypus or duck-bill is a bird, but cannot fly, is a beast but cannot run, is not a fish, but can swim.

Liberia, the land of the free negro, shows us two bulky African inhabitants, the elephant and the hippopotamus.

The Jubilee set of New South Wales contains also a picture of the kangaroo, the pest of the farmers of that country.

This about completes the list of authentic animals, although there are many fabulous monsters such as the unicorn, winged lions, the Chinese dragon, and Neptune's sea-horses found in our menagerie.

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The Use and the Abuse OF THE Approval Sheet.

BY WILL H. PLANK.

I HERE has probably been no greater boon for stamp collectors, or nothing to influence the formation of new collections than the approval sheet. Just who was the first to establish this system of selling stamps, or who originated it, I am unable to say. But, nevertheless, it has become such an important factor in the stamp trade that now nearly four-fifths of the stamps sold at retail are sold by the approval sheet. Its uses and advantages are many, and for the new collector, whose collection is small, it is undoubtedly the best way to add new specimens. He can see for himself what the stamp is like, and in what condition it is. If he has not the time to examine his sheets or the ready money to purchase the desirable stamps, he can keep the sheets from seven to ten days, according to the time the dealer allows. These are the privileges the dealer allows the collector, and as it is a great help and benefit it should in no way be abused.

The methods of obtaining and returning sheets regularly to a young mind is not only a lesson of honesty but teaches him good business habits and many a boy's future can be read by the manner and condition in which he returns his sheets. If he is careless or slovenly it can readily be told, and we all know that bad habits formed in youth, if not then overcome, generally pursue one always. Many a young mind has been guided from crooked channels into paths of truth and integrity by the honest lessons learned in stamp collecting.

While the average collector receives and returns sheet after sheet of stamps, he often does so from a sense of honor.

That all men and all collectors are not honest, we know full well, and so while the majority of collectors are honest in their dealings with their fellow collectors and dealers, there is a class of collectors who have not been taught, or forget their teachings, that honesty in all things is best, solicit stamps on approval and fail to make any returns whatsoever. To these I would ask you to pause and consider. What profit or pleasure can there be in a collection of stamps dishonestly obtained? In future years when you turn over the pages of your album and find stamps therein that have not been obtained by fair means, the feeling that will come over you will cause all of the pleasure you have spent to fade away. To think of dishonestly obtaining so small a thing as a postage stamp. Few, very few of the collectors who would keep a sheet of stamps would rob a bank or burglarize a house. Why? Because the latter

seems a much greater offense. But it is not. The principle is the same in both cases. No dishonest person ever rises above dishonesty.

Dealers are in many instances to blame for the dishonesty of some collectors. Many of them send out sheets broadcast throughout the land, unsolicited, others offer packets or stamps for every one who will write for their sheets. Or others will make false statements in advertising to obtain customers, all of these methods only injure themselves. If a collector finds that a dealer has cheated him he will reciprocate for "turn about is fair play." If dealers would have collectors act honest with them, they let do likewise. There are dishonest dealers as well as collectors.

But as the years go by the number of dishonest collectors and dealers will grow less, and let us hope, one and all, that sometime in the near future a dishonest philatelist will be as rare as a Brattleboro. Let us be honest in little things and the greater ones will take care of themselves.

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OHIO NOTES.

The Ohio Philatelic Society, which originated in the mind of P. M. Weiss, is no more.

The luckiest man in Cleveland, as regards stamps, is without doubt A. W. Hoffman. He is always making a "find."

The Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, of Cleveland, is still in the swim and has over thirty members.

C. N. Stockwell, the secretary of the G. P. S. C., is at present residing in Painesville, a small town about thirty miles from Cleveland.

Ohio has twenty-eight A. P. A. members.

A branch of the Philatelic Sons of America will probably be organized in Cleveland in the near future.

V. J. Faith, of Alliance, Ohio, is an approval sheet fraud.

J. J. Overton, the vice president of the G. P. S. C., has a fine general collection of about nine thousand varieties which contain many rarities.

The stamp clerks at the Cleveland post office have the thirty-cent 1872 and 1888 issues for sale at fifty cents each.

H. W. Wilcox, the librarian of the Y. P. S. C., owns a full collection of United States stamps. Among them is a ten-cent 1847 out in half and used as 5-cent, on original cover.