

Correspondents' Column.

(This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any Philatelic question. Those who want any information should send in their queries, which will be published in the following number.)

St. Catharines, Ont., May 2nd, 1892.

Editor Canadian Philatelist:

DEAR SIR,—In reading the letter of Mr. E. J. Phillips, Toronto, in regard to the customs duties on Postage Stamps, I will give you an example of the way the collector of customs here charges. I received application for sheets from a collector residing in the U. S. I sent him 3 sheets valued at \$1.85. About a week ago I received a card saying there was a letter for me in the customs, which would be released upon payment of the duty. I called at the office and the collector opened the letter, and charged me 85c. duty, which I refused to pay on account of their being my own sheets. I immediately wrote to my agent, requesting him to send them to me in a plain envelope, which he did, and I received O.K. I then wrote a letter addressed to the Hon. Minister of Customs, Ottawa, of which the following is his reply:

Ottawa, Canada, January 7th, 1892.

Mr. Wm. A. Beatty, 36 Queen St., St. Catharines, Ont.:

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., addressed to the Hon. Minister of Customs, complaining of the duty levied on postage stamps. In reply I beg to state that there is nothing apparent in the complaint which you make which shows the Collector to have acted in every respect contrary to law. The stamps in question are brought into Canada for the purpose of trade, and it is necessary that the Collector of Customs should make any examination essential, to enable him to arrive at a proper value of the articles and, on so doing, to collect the duty to the full extent required by law.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. JOHNSON,
Commissioner.

Showing that, not only myself being charged, he charges every collector here, among the following, P. S. of C., No. 31; P. S. of C., No. 211; and P. S. of C., No. 219, and various others who do not belong to your society. Hoping that some action will be taken in the matter, I thank you for the valuable space in your paper.

Believe me, yours truly,

WM. A. BEATTY.

L. AND M., Baltimore.—We take no interest in and do not consider such oddities as you mention of any Philatelic value. They are probably the work of some collector in the works where they are printed. Not being a genuine government provisional, they may be collected only as a *curiosity*.

W. O. LOOMIS, Hubbardville, N.Y.—You have our best thanks for notes you so kindly send.

A. M. GRIGGS, Clinton, N. C.—Send 3c. postage for return of MSS. which we regret we cannot use.

Clippings.

All Clippings from newspapers thought by the Editor to be of interest to Collectors will be published in this column. Subscribers are invited to send clippings, which always prove acceptable.

From "The Stamps of British North America."

CORBEIL'S PRIVATE POSTAL SERVICE.

IN 1889 the Canadian Government issued an Order-in-Council raising the rate of postage on city letters from one to two cents. This order was received with a great deal of dissatisfaction, especially among merchants in the larger cities. It was this that led to the issue of the Corbeil Local, of Montreal. The following is a copy of the circular sent out to the leading merchants by the proprietor of the post:

BELL TELEPHONE,

No. 2463.

PRIVATE POSTAL SERVICE.

Sir,—In order to reduce the *extra* charges by the Postal authorities for the CITY DELIVERY, we have concluded to open an Office for the delivery of letters at ONE CENT EACH, for which we will issue our private stamp so as to facilitate settlements. Every one will have to sign forms of reception as proofs of good and efficient delivery.

Hoping to be favoured, we will call on you in a few days for your signature.

Truly yours,

J. A. CORBEIL,

Manager of the Private Postal Service.

At the Montreal Indian Store,
1658 Notre Dame Street.

The stamp consisted of the signature of the initials of the proprietor, "J. A. C.," written across the centre of the stamp in black ink. The stamp was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch square, and consisted of thick blue wove paper, *Perforated*. As the initials of each stamp were written separately *no two stamps* are exactly the same. This post had but a short existence, as the Postmaster at Montreal made complaint to Ottawa, and the authorities stopped its operation.

TRAFFIC IN FORGED STAMPS.—SENTENCE.—*Bernard Burghardt Assmus*, 36, was indicted for obtaining by false pretences from Morris Gilwelb the sum of £4, with intent to defraud. Mr. C. F. Gill and Mr. A. Gill prosecuted. In opening the case Mr. C. F. Gill said the existing mania for collecting stamps seemed to have produced a traffic in forged stamps. The allegation of the prosecution was that the prisoner was concerned in this traffic. When arrested he was in possession of the requisite plant for making the most rare specimens, including dies, colors, paints, acids, and things of that kind. Evidence was given, and the prisoner, in defence, emphatically denied the charge. The jury convicted the prisoner, and it was stated that 4,000 stamps were found at his house in Church-st., Islington, and 900 more were found upon him, of the total 800 were forged stamps. The Common Serjeant sentenced the prisoner to three years' penal servitude.