

## A VERY FAVORABLE SHOWING.

We are in receipt of some figures of membership from Secretary A. H. Adams of the Dominion Philatelic Association, from which can be seen that the Association's affairs are in a better position than is generally supposed. The gross membership is somewhat over two hundred, from which must be taken those who have resigned, and those who have been dropped at various intervals, also a few who have been expelled. The membership, as reported by Secretary Adams, is as follows:

Membership paid up to January, 1897..150  
Membership paid up to January, 1898..101

There are also several members (among them some officers) who have not yet paid up for 1897, but who undoubtedly will do so shortly. All members not paid up at least to January 1897, have been dropped, so the Association may now be said to be carrying no deadwood. We are disposed to regard this as a very favorable showing, and the thanks of the Association are due Mr. Adams, for his untiring industry in our behalf. The idea suggests itself now, why not re-number the members?

## The Grand Bust Up!

*The C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., of St. Louis, again in the soup.*

The topic of the month is the grand smash of the Mekeels. It was not entirely unexpected, and consequently,

though a matter of lively discussion, was not the cause of such surprise as their first embarrassment a few years ago. The cause of the failure is put down to "hard times," and unprecedented slackness in the stamp trade. The firm also was not in the best repute, and this no doubt had its share in bringing down from its proud eminence the house of Mekeel. It appears, however, that C. H. Mekeel made rather a good thing out of it all along, taking some \$6000 per annum, while G. D. and F. A. managed to crawl along with just \$3,000. It will thus be seen that although the firm was poverty stricken, its head men were not. There is no doubt but what the assets more than balance the liabilities, but stamp assets are peculiar things, and not always convertible into cash at their real value, at the moment. Whether the gallant C. H. Mekeel will ever re-embark in the stamp business again, is a moot point; perhaps the failure has been profitable to him in a pecuniary sense, such things sometimes are.

E. T. PARKER, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania,

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