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EDITORIAL.

An Apology. We must make an apology to our readers for lateness of our September, October, and November issues.

The cause of the delay was Mr. Staebler's extended absence from home. The November number will be mailed a few days after this reaches you. Owing to our lateness, this number is a little smaller than usual.

Fraud in the Air.

There is strong evidence abroad that a swindle in Hawaiians is on the tapis. In relation to this matter, we quote the following from *The Philatelic Facts and Fallacies*: Not long ago a peculiar, and, at least, to a stamp collector rather suspicious, order was given to a large electrotyping firm in San Francisco. The order was accompanied by a small piece cut out of a Hawaiian surcharged stamp of the 2 cent rose, containing the full surcharge, and the firm was ordered to arrange an electrotype exactly like the black portion, that is, the surcharge on this bit of paper. The order was executed and the electrotype

delivered to a large and very prominent lithographic concern in town. Our informant does not believe that the lithographic concern will make any mis-use of this electrotype, though he does not know what it will be used for. The name of the lithographer was carefully withheld. In all cases it will be advisable to buy Hawaiian surcharges only from reliable parties to make sure that the same are genuine. We shall endeavor to ascertain a little more about this mystery, but at present we have given all the facts known. **LATER.**—Before going to press we succeeded in obtaining considerable additional information in regard to the counterfeit plates of Hawaiian surcharges. We know now the name of the lithographing firm that ordered it, and sent it, about three weeks ago, to the Islands. We believe we can also make a close guess of the name of the Hawaiian dealer to whom the plate was forwarded. The plate consists of an electrotype, with fifty surcharges, or a whole sheet, and will doubtless be used to make very dangerous counterfeits. We are told, however, by an expert in the engraving and electrotyping art, that it is impossible to arrange the distance and details of the fifty surcharges so as to deceive the really careful observer. In connection herewith it will be interesting to learn that several weeks ago a large package of the exact size of the sheets of Hawaiian stamps passed through the San Francisco Postoffice en route from a leading American stamp firm to the Islands. It is easy to suppose that this parcel contained such unsurcharged stamps as the 2c vermilion, 1c blue, 1c mauve, 12c mauve and others whose value would be materially increased by a surcharge. We have asked this firm for information and should not be surprised if their customer and the party who ordered the forged plates prove to be same person. A sheet of the surcharge one-cent blue has been seen here on which every stamp was without the period after "GOVT." Probably these dots were removed by a good knife or acid. So far no counterfeit surcharges, to our knowledge, have reached this place, but the first lot is expected to arrive by the next steamer from the Sunny Islands. We shall keep our eyes open and hope in the next number of this journal to give further developments in this matter. We regret we are not allowed to publish the names of the parties connected with this peculiar piece of business, and we regret still more the fact that important and wealthy firms should be implicated in such a questionable enterprise.

The Press. The Post Office Department must be overwhelmed with business these days, if we can judge by the number of philatelic papers which have been appearing recently; among these are two new Canadian papers:—*The Queen City Philatelist*, published by H. Beasley, 155