

## THE TORONTO STAMP

### Review

The American Magazine for July contains an interesting article on the value of the one dollar Columbians.

The Post Office for August to hand, the leading article being Minor Varieties.

The Dominion Philatelist is now out again, notwithstanding having had their second-class rates taken from them.

The Philatelic Era is to be a weekly from September 1st. Having run for six years as a monthly and as a semi-monthly for the last few months.

The Philatelic Facts and Fallacies for July have devoted a couple of pages to the Speculative stamp, the bicycle mail route, that was issued during the strike.

Roy F. Greene gives a good article in the Dixie called Cuba, a specialty, why not.

The Penny to hand for August, contains usual interesting articles.

### Surcharged Stamps.

A circular has been issued from the British Colonial Office concerning the practice of using the "surcharged" postage stamps, and the difficulties the post-offices have with stamp collectors and dealers. Wholesale stamp dealers have agents all over the world. When they hear there is a limited stock of stamps of a particular value in some outlying place, they buy up the stock and ask for more. The colonial officials, to avoid the delay of sending home for fresh supplies, print on stamps of different values the figures representing the price of those desired. Such a stamp is a "surcharged" one, and is sought for

eagerly by collectors. So the dealers buy them also. Some dealers keep small sums deposited all over with local postmasters, with instructions to forward the value of any surcharged stamps whenever issued. Stamp collecting however, adds considerable revenue to the various colonies. The republic of Liberia depends largely on receipts from postage stamps, which it has beautifully engraved in London, mostly for the purpose of selling to collectors. It is said that Liberia, being unable to give any money to a delegate of the Chicago Exhibition, gave a large supply of postage stamps. For every stamp used in the Cook Islands, probably a couple of hundred are sold abroad. Enough is gained in this way almost to pay for the Government expenses.

It is said that the Island of Jamaica is seriously contemplating the issue of a new set of stamps in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the Island's discovery by Columbus.

There seem to have been a positive mania for issuing Centennial and Jubilee stamps all over the universe for the past two or three years, undoubtedly largely promoted by the revenues obtained from the sale of special issues to philatelists.

The duplicate albums now on sale by dealers all over the country are very convenient. There is no better method of preserving duplicates, and every collector should possess one.

There were \$75,000,000 worth of postage stamps used in this country during 1893. The issue of 1847 was in use four years, and the total sales during that period amounted to but \$274,710.