

The Central Stamp Exchange.

Mgr.—A. N. Estes, Spring Hill, Tenn.

Sec'y.—J. O. Waters, Nashville, Tenn.

Official Organ—THE PHILATELIC ADVOCATE.

New Members since last report.

32. L. T. Webster 33. F. W. Bernd.

We are still growing and every member is always more than pleased. Join and be satisfied.

A revision of the rules is being contemplated and new sets of rules will be sent to members as soon as they appear. Others wishing to receive copies can do so by sending their addresses together with a two cent stamp to the Secretary.

The Central Stamp Exchange is now prepared to do a stamp business in all lines. Buying, selling and exchanging departments are now open and correspondence is invited with interested parties. Dealers are invited to write to Mr. A. N. Estes, Manager, Spring Hill, Tenn., for special terms on cash sales.

The exchange department is always open and ready to do business. Under the capable management of Mr. Estes it has grown to be one of the best organized departments of its kind in the country. You cannot fail to be pleased when you give us a trial.

Write to the Secretary for all necessary information and don't forget to enclose return postage.

J. O. WATERS, Sec'y,

407 Fatherland St., Nashville, Tenn.

The Stamps of Ste. Marie de Madagascar.

GEORGE CARION.

The island of Sainte Marie de Madagascar, which does not appear upon the maps of the American edition stamp albums, is situated at the northeast of the main island of Madagascar, between Choiseul on the North and Foulpointe on the South.

In 1892, when the set of stamps for Diego Suarez et Dependencies was issued, the French Colony of Ste. Marie de Madagascar was one of the dependencies of the govern-

ment of Diego Suarez, and consequently the stamps of Diego Suarez and dependencies were used in Ste. Marie de Madagascar.

But later on some differences were raised regarding money valuations. for a dollar in one town was sometimes worth only 75c in another, causing a loss for the colony on the sale of postage stamps. Therefore a set of stamps of the same type as those used in other colonies was ordered from Paris, with the name of the colony printed on them.

During the time required to print the stamps the following values of the Diego Suarez colony were surcharged "Ste Marie de Madagascar" in a double lined circle, in blue ink. This was in April, 1894, and the values were as follows.

1. On the 1881 issue of French colonies, perforated, 35c., black on orange.

2. On the 1892 issue of stamps of Diego Suarez et dependences, 1c, black on blue; 2c brown on buff; 4c claret on lavender; 5c green on greenish; 10c black on lavender; 15c blue on white quadrille paper; 20c red on green; 25c black on rose; 30c brown on straw; 40c red on straw; 50c carmine on rose; 75c black on orange; 1f bronze-green on straw. These stamps were not surcharged for speculative purposes. As only from 30 to 35 of each value, so surcharged, are known to exist, it can safely be inferred that those provisionals are the scarcest of all the French colonial stamps, and come next to the Reunion, 1852 issue in point of rarity.

In all probability those stamps were only used for one mail, as the sets with the name of the colony printed in Paris, were received in May 1894 consisted of 13 values, the same as those mentioned above.

The above stamps have since been replaced by the set bearing the name of Madagascar and Dependencies, issued in 1896, as the colony of Ste. Marie de Madagascar was attached to the Government of Madagascar after the conclusion of the peace and annexation of this colony to France. Therefore all the stamps of this colony are now obsolete, and since the correspondence of this small island never amounted to very much, these stamps will some day become rare.