

nate your best man as *Chairman, pro tem*; if possible an older collector, who is respected by the others, and as a *rule* this will ensure perfect order.

Your Chairman secured, the next step will be to elect a Secretary, *pro tem*, who will keep the records of the first meeting. The best and most satisfactory method of voting is by ballot. Appoint from among those present two scrutineers to take charge of the distributing and collection of ballots. This done, the first step will be to select a suitable name for the society; by calling for a number of nominations and leaving it open for discussion, the interest of those present will be secured, especially as the name is generally an important point. The election of officers is the next step succeeding the selection of the name. If the number present is large, I would recommend that the full list of officers as given below be elected; if however on the other hand you have but few prospective members, combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, and those of Auction and Exchange Department with that of the Sales and Purchasing Agent. It will be necessary to elect in order the following officers:—

President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; Librarian; Auction Manager and Exchange Superintendent; Sales and Purchasing Agent; and an Auditor, whose duty it will be to examine the reports and books of the officers at least once a month.

Your officers elected, a few hints as to the best methods of running and duties of officers will not be amiss.

The President shall preside at all meetings; the Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President; the Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the society, and I would suggest that the reports kept be *full and minute*. The Secretary should also be instructed to forward reports of each meeting to such papers as publish the same. Many of the leading papers do this, and make no charge. The duty of the Librarian shall be to take charge of such books and papers as may be donated by the members to the Society. The Librarian also takes charge of the counterfeit collection if there be one. The Auction Manager and Exchange Superintendent takes charge of the auctions and exchange business of the club, while the Sales and Purchasing Agent takes charge of the selling and buying of the club. An Executive Committee composed of all the officers is usually added.

A constitution and by-law is one of the first necessities for the guidance of the club and its officers. At your organizing meeting have a committee appointed to draft a constitution and present it at the following meeting. In the small space allotted me it will be impossible to give the duties of officers to any greater extent than has been done above.

As a first-class order of business I would suggest the following: I.—Opening. II.—Minutes of preceding meeting. III.—Secretary's report. IV.—Treasurer's report. V.—Librarian's Report. VI.—Report of Auction Manager and Exchange Superintendent. VII.—Report of Sales and Purchasing Agent. VIII.—Committee reports. IX.—Unfinished business. X.—New business. XI.—Readings and discussions. XII.—Auction sale. XIII.—Closing.

Sale or exchange of stamps should be prohibited during meeting hours. The library should be in such a position that it could be used at each meeting. Do the above and do your best and success is yours.

It is my hope that the few crude hints I have thrown out in these two articles may be of use to the readers of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST, and may lead to the organization of many local societies and the benefit of our beloved science.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

WRITING FOR THE PHILATELIST PRESS.



FIRSTLY, have something to write about, and don't wander over two or three pages with no fixed subject. The next thing after a subject, is to present it in a pleasing manner.

Original matter is in demand at a good price, but old, dry, "mummified" statistics and old matter wrought over in a different form are not worth the paper they are written on to a wide-awake, representative magazine, but such is often published by third-rate sheets.

The greatest detriment is, that many publishers will not give a fair price for good original matter, thus offering no encouragement to a writer. Publishers generally want to give advertising space in payment for articles; some will give good stamps, and a very few give the "cold, hard" cash.

Instructive articles on stamps are the most acceptable, not just the information a collector can get from a common catalogue, as there is no excuse for not having one, and stories are also in demand, but do not command the price of the former.

In regard to disposing of articles, it is always best to send an article to the editor of a magazine for examination, than to write first asking if he can use an article. It is very seldom a first class magazine will decline an original article unless it is on account of the high price asked. Good articles should be worth from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per thousand words, in good stamps or cash. Of course, you must always enclose return postage when sending articles; but, of course, if an editor requests an article, you need not enclose postage for return. It is best to set a price on your work, and not leave the editor to decide.

First and last, always remember that *originality* will win the day.

W. A. WITHROW.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC CLUB.

The fourth regular meeting of the London Philatelic Club was held at their rooms, the W.C.T.U. parlors, on Monday evening, Feb. 6th. Meeting called to order at 8 o'clock, Vice-President Staebler in the chair. Minutes of preceding meeting were read and adopted. Mr. Bernstein handed in his resignation as auction manager, which was accepted after considerable discussion. It was decided to create a new department—that of a sales and purchasing agent. Mr. W. C. Benson was elected as Exchange Superintendent and Auction Manager. Mr. C. B. Chapman was elected Sales and Purchasing Agent. The reading of the by-laws and constitution was finished, and, with amendments, adopted. For important reasons, it was decided to again change the meeting night, making it Wednesday, as it originally was. A number of members promised some interesting papers for the next meeting. An auction sale will also be held. Members present: Messrs. Staebler, Dickson, Benson, Stockwell, Bernstein, Bartram, Chapman, Boyd, McMartin, and three visitors. Next meeting will be held in the rooms of the club, Wednesday, Feb. 22. A full attendance is requested.

It is estimated that there 6,000 postmistresses in the U. S.