



THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

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NEW YORK NOTES.

Much regret is expressed by collectors and dealers here that the Daily Stamp Item has ceased publication. Although issued mainly in the interests of the Mekeels, it contained the latest news, and was quite an addition to the breakfast table. But the time has not yet come when a daily will pay for itself. Even the American Wheelman published every morning, has not proved a financial success as yet.

A bill has just been passed by the U. S. Government authorizing the use of private postal cards, the cards to be no larger than the official ones, and to be carried by affixing a one cent stamp. The bill takes effect July 1st 1897.

It is reported here that E. T. Parker, the well known Bethlehem dealer, will shortly publish a philatelic paper, with a prominent P.S. of A. member as editor.

The American Philatelic Association are having rather hard luck at present. About 60 members have resigned since November 1st, presumably owing to the dues having been increased to \$1.80 a year.

Another bill has been passed by the Government by which senders of registered letters may be indemnified in a sum not exceeding ten dollars in any one case, for loss of the letter in the mail, to be paid out of the postal revenues.

H. C. Champ a former Toronto collector and once a member of the Toronto Philatelic Club is residing here.

SWYEN.

OTTAWA NOTES.

The last quarterly supplement to the Canadian Official Postal Guide contains the following interesting notes:—Several cases have come under the notice of the department lately in which newspapers passing free by post to subscribers, have contained hand-bills contrary to regulations. In some cases these hand-bills have been designated as "supplement," though an enquiry showed they were sent out entirely in the interest of the business advertised. Papers containing such unauthorized enclosures become liable to the third class matter rate of 1 cent per 4 oz.

Postmasters are requested to examine from time to time the papers posted free at their offices with a view to detecting and reporting such irregularities. No paper with an unauthorized enclosure should be allowed to go forward. Any postmaster receiving papers with such enclosures should at once forward them to the department with a report.

Certain postmasters have reported that newspapers continue to come free of postage to persons who refuse them and who declare that they are not subscribers. It is proper, therefore, to mention that for purposes of free postage no person is to be considered as a subscriber who declares that the period for which he subscribed to a given paper has expired, that he has paid for that period, and that he refuses to receive the paper or other publication any longer. If the names of such persons are sent to the department the office of origin will be instructed not to forward the paper to their address free.

Order lists such as are used by merchants, seedmen, etc., when sent separately, are liable to a postage rate of one cent per two ounces as printed forms, but they may be enclosed in printed trade catalogues passing at the rate of one cent per four ounces, without giving rise to a higher rate of postage.

In section 5, under the head of Registration, page xx of the Postal Guide, it is stated that "Registered correspondence addressed to a deceased person may be delivered to the legal representative of the deceased." An exception is, however, to be made to this rule in the case of letters from the Office of the District Paymaster of British North America at Halifax, addressed to an Imperial Army Pensioner or Reservist. Such letters are not to be delivered to any party whatsoever claiming them on behalf of a deceased Pensioner or Reservist—but are to be sent to the Dead Letter Office for return to the District Paymaster.

The department finds that under the guise of "ornamental printing," certain business firms have introduced words and designs into the printing of the

address side of private post cards, which virtually serve the purpose of advertisements. It should be clearly understood that this is not permitted. The department has been obliged in several cases to prohibit the use of cards open to this objection.

Postmasters are again reminded that they cannot exercise too much caution in re-directing (i.e., in changing the address of) letters that have come to their offices for delivery; inasmuch as, if any loss occurs through an erroneous or unnecessary re-direction, it will fall on the postmaster who took upon himself the responsibility for doing that for which he had no authority. If a letter has come to a certain office, being plainly addressed thereto, the proper province being also specified in the address, then nothing short of an order from the addressee, or the possession of positive and certain information that the letter was intended for another office, can justify a postmaster in re-directing it. See Postal Guide page xxv., sec. 15, second paragraph.

Parcels up to seven pounds in weight may now be sent via England to the following places in Venezuela: Caracas, Carupano, Ciudad Bolivar, Cumana, La Guirara, La Nela de Coro, Maracaibo, Puerto Cabello. The rates are: 1 lb., 98c; 2 lbs., \$1.06; 3 lbs., \$1.14; 4 lbs., \$1.32; 5 lbs., \$1.40; 6 lbs., \$1.48; 7 lbs., \$1.56.

MICABOW.

THE ISSUING OF STAMPS.

Most stamp collectors seem to have no knowledge of the reason for certain stamps having been issued, which should be one of the special studies of collecting. Of course every stamp was issued for a purpose, but some varieties may call for special mention. Canada has produced several oddities of this kind, notable among which are the 2 cents issued in 1861, also the same denomination of New Brunswick, 1861, and Nova Scotia, 1862, all of which were struck off to pre-pay soldiers letters to Great Britain (who had been sent to Canada in 1862, on the occasion of the Slidell Mason affair.) Another Canadian stamp was the 12 pence, black, which, as most collectors know