

RANDOM NOTES.

(BY PHIL. A. TELIC.)

Motive in stamp collecting has been discussed quite freely of late, but I believe that nine collectors out of every ten collect for the financial gain there is in it. Some papers say they collect for the pleasure there is in it but they use great care in purchasing stamps. They do not want stamps that they will lose money on but they want stamps that will increase in value in the course of time. Why don't the majority of philatelists collect Seebecks? They are beautiful stamps. Simply because Seebecks will never increase in value.

It is a curious fact that for every philatelic paper that discontinues publication two new papers start.

Starnaman Bros., publishers of the Philatelic Advocate, have the handbook of the Dominion Philatelic Association in course of preparation. We may look for something fine.

It is hard to get a hinge that will be satisfactory in every way. I have tried a number of different kinds of hinges and I find that the "Omega" hinge is one which meets the demand of the ordinary collector and I can recommend it.

We hear much about publishers wishing that the day would come when they will receive "cash with copy" with all advertisements. We find something like the following in most papers: "Terms: Strictly cash with copy." Yet if anyone sends an advert. without the cash, the publisher will have it inserted and trust to luck for his pay. If publishers would live up to their rule in regard to terms, they would not be wishing the day to come when every advert. is accompanied by cash, but the day will be here!

W. C. Stone, review editor of the Era, seldom has a good word to say about any philatelic paper. He even suggests that we could do without certain publications as they do no good to philately. We might get along without some papers, but every philatelic paper, large or small, accomplishes some good. "The more, the merrier."

GAINING EXPERIENCE.

As always experience is the greatest teacher, even though her school fees are the heaviest, holds good in the realm of philately as in all other pursuits and walks of life.

What collector at times in looking over his album, gazing here and there at some treasure, sighs when he remembers under what circumstances that particular specimen was secured, how he had sent a batch of

good select American stamps to a foreign collector for that certain stamp and when in maturer years finds that his American stamps were far in excess of value to the solitary stamp he received in exchange. And the auction sale at one time it was an attractive medium for securing stamps for his album but that was before he had seen Scott's catalogue, and when his knowledge of the prices of stamps were meagre, when his judgment, good or bad, mostly bad, was ushered into use, when bidding on certain lots and now he grieves when he remembers the high bids on cheap stamps and the low bids on select stamps, so low in fact as to be ridiculous. If he were successful in any of his bids it was only because he displayed his usual good judgment and business ability.

And there was the corresponding with the foreign collectors in their own language which causes the collector to wince and to reflect that even a philatelist has much to learn of foreign languages. He saw the advertisement in one of the journals of a party in a South American country who desired to trade South American stamps for those of the U. S. and mentioned that correspondence would be carried on in either English, German, French or Spanish. He chose the latter, not because he was familiar with the language, far from it, but to show Los Senor of the southern clime that even North Americans know a thing or two of different languages. He purchased a 25c. Spanish at a glance and after some effort managed to make up what he thought a first class letter. In happy expectation he invited a reply and a parcel of stamps in exchange for his stamps. He received the reply alright which said something about him being a dumb fool, or something of the sort, and no stamps with it.

Then another fit that seizes upon the average collector and like an epileptic fit is soon over, and that is to start out as a stamp dealer which generally winds up with an auction sale of a complete dealer's stock.

What philatelist at some time or other has not been seized with the all absorbing idea that he had in him the Divine Afflatus, or Divine something that finds its level in the publication of a stamp journal and have found out after or two months, as a noted traveller once said, "that there was more real pleasure in anticipation than in realization."

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405 90-94 1d slate.....	12	7c
406 90-94 1 x 1d green.....	8	6c
407 90-94 1 x 1d brown.....	12	8c
408 1894 1 on 1d brown.....	15	8c
409 1896 1d slate.....	10	9c
410 1897 1 on 1d slate.....	8	9c
501 1895 1d carmine L Card.....	8	5c

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5-2c Maple Leaf.....		100
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THOS. R. JOHNSTON, SALTSBURG, Pa.