

THE PHILATELIC CANADIAN.

the German-Austrian postal conference, held at Carlsruhe (Grand Duchy of Baden Germany), the, at that time Post-director of Prussia, Dr. H. Stephan (also founder of the Universal Postal Union in 1878), at this conference acquainted some post officials with his idea of a medium between letter and printed matter, and also submitted to some of the officials, a written statement about his idea. But nothing came of it, neither "officially" at this postal conference, who, as a body, had no knowledge of it, and neither in Prussia, in which country he had submitted his idea, but it was not accepted. Meantime the North German Confederation was founded (1868), and Dr. Stephan as postal director, neither done, or could do anything in regards to his idea of a so called open card, with writing on same.

In short, nobody thought more of Dr. Stephan's idea, until suddenly in the year 1868, Dr. Emanuel Herrmann, an Austrian government official, submitted to the Austrian postal authorities a written plan regarding a postal card, with all specifications, as price, within Austria-Hungary.

The Austrian authorities had first to confer with their Hungarian postal confères (although Hungary is dependent politically upon Austria, affairs of both States are separated). After some delay Dr. Herrmann was notified that his idea was practical, and accepted.

Now Herrman claims that he had no knowledge at all of Stephan's idea. He was not present at the above related conference at Karlsruhe, and as nothing contrary has been proved, the world must acknowledge Dr Emanuel Herrmann as "defacto" inventor of the entire postal card.

But justice demands that we give the merit of a similar idea to Dr. H. Stephan. In the year 1868, Austria issued the first postal card—2kr yellow. As soon as

issued the Austrian people liked the invention, and within two months the big government supply was sold. In 1870 followed Belgium, Switzerland and Great Britain; Germany in 1871, and at the present time all countries of the Universal Postal Union issue cards for international purposes. The size of cards must be the same in all countries,

F. P.

INSPECTORS WILL NOT COLLECT.

We publish the following from a Philadelphia paper for the benefit of stamp dealers in Canada, and those in the United States who may not know of the new regulation :

"General Edgerton, post office inspector in charge of the Philadelphia division, comprising the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, recently received a ruling from the Post Office Department forbidding the collection, by officers of his department, of sums due to dealers in foreign and domestic postage stamps, from those persons who have ordered stamps for selection, and who fail to return either the stamps not wanted, or to pay for those taken. As it is the practice of those dealing in rare and foreign stamps to advertise for and receive them through the mails, it has been claimed that those who refuse to pay therefor, are guilty of using the mails to further a scheme to defraud, within the meaning of the statute prohibiting such use, but the Attorney-General for the Post Office Department now rules otherwise, and in the future investigations in this line and collections by inspectors will not be made.

This ruling was brought about by the representation of the Philadelphia office that stamp dealers throughout the United States and Canada, have adopted the method, widely advertised, of sending stamps on approval, to any