



VOL. 5 NO. 1

APRIL 25, 1899.

WHOLE NO. 25.

TIMELY TOPICS.

BY A. LLOYD JONES.

NEW PAPERS.—New stamp magazines are springing up about as thick as they were at this time three years ago. However, there are none of them midget papers like many of those three years ago were. If the outlook for Philately can be judged by the number of new Philatelic papers, there is no reason for feeling glum. We can't keep from wondering how many of the new papers will survive the summer. Surely not all of them, when old papers are falling out right along.

NEW ISSUE FOR MEXICO.—It has been announced that Mexico is soon to have a beautiful new issue of stamps. We hope they will not come in their usual multitude of minor varieties, and each denomination in a half-dozen different shades, about ten varieties of perforation, and from a dozen to two dozen different kinds of paper.

ONE EFFECT.—Canadian dealers say the mail trade among the United States boys is rapidly increasing. It is thought that this is mainly due to the fact that the boys write to the Canadian dealers in preference to United States dealers, as the Canadian stamps used on the letters are worth saving

while the United States Stamps are not, unless they are Omahas, which happens rarely.

TWO AND FOUR CENT PROPRIETARIES.—A note was recently noticed in a stamp paper saying that the two cent and four cent United States ninety-eight issue proprietary stamps, are rarely found used, as but few bottles of medicine are of a size requiring those denominations. The writer of that note must have forgotten about the tax on chewing gum, as the two cent and four cent are about the only values found on chewing gum. The number used in this way makes them quite common in a cancelled condition.

SHADES.—Do you know that if you are not a collector of shades you are missing a good deal? The collecting of shades will give the eye necessary training, besides the pleasure and profit it brings. Some of the commonest of stamps abound in shades, the two cent red United States for example, and it is therefore not a costly pastime. A complete collection of the different shades of one and one-fourth cent, and one-fourth cent proprietary stamps must be seen for its beauty to be appreciated. By the way, why can not a standard color chart be adopted? Everybody admits the pressing need of one.

 Subscribe for this paper. 