

THE C. P. A.

WE have now what may be called a fair trial of the C. P. A. and are sorry to say that in all its branches with but one exception, it is very nearly a failure. The exception spoken of is the Exchange Branch, and this under the able management of Mr. Grenny, is proving a success, as far as he can make it.

He cannot do so unless members send in sheets for exchange, and this, judging from a number of books which have passed through my hands, they are not doing a large proportion of the sheets in the books, being the property of several American dealers, and some small ones among them. With but few exceptions their sheets are the best, but one of them seems to be under the belief that Canadian collectors will take anything that looks like a postage stamp. On one of this worthy's sheets were the following STAMPS, viz:—A set of "Musgroves Business College" Bill stamps, a Belgian Registered letter Number, and a few assorted of Samoa and Alsace and Lorraine forgeries. The rest of the sheet was made up of torn and miserable specimens.

Now I think that all the members of the C. P. A. should send in sheets for exchange, and not leave it in the hands of a few outsiders. I can say of our Branch Society here in Halifax, that out of twenty-two members, sheets have been sent in by nineteen.

Speaking of Branch Societies reminds me that we are the only one existing in Canada, surely there are enough collectors in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, to form one in each of their respective Cities.

It is unfair to members who send in sheets for exchange, particularly from N. S., because when a book comes to Halifax, it goes through twenty-two collectors hands, and its other circuits as well. Ours will go through the hands of six people only, that being the number on a circuit. It will thus be seen how disadvantageous it is for us.

Another thing is the pricing of stamps, this is not done as it should be, I seen on one sheet three tenpenny Canadas, one damaged badly, piece out for \$2, one fair, for \$3, and one marked unused for \$6. It is of the damaged and the unused I wish to speak; the damaged one had a fair sized piece torn out of the top and mended with blue paper only \$2.00.—The unused one though marked that, was not so, having part of the envelope or letter on which it was, on the back, and with a glass faint traces of cancellation could be seen, price only \$6.—Scott prices it unused at \$3.—You can buy as good a specimen of it as any one can desire, at any of the frequent auction sales in New York for \$2.50 or \$3. This is only one instance out of many equally glaring, a man has of course a right to put his own price on his own stamps, but at the same time he ought to do so within moderate bounds.

Another cause of complaint is the official organ—It contained no Philatelic matter worth speaking about, and, poor as the paper is, it is not even sent regularly—possibly they are ashamed of it.—There is surely a sufficiently large number of Philatelists in the Dominion, who dabble in their special line of literature to put a little reading matter in it.

However, it is to be hoped if we have a convention, that a friendly talk and discussion will correct a lot of this.—For a place for the convention to