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To the PHILATELIC COURIER may receive back numbers except No 1, on application. We will pay 25 cents for any copies of No 1 that our subscribers will return to this office, our supply being exhausted.

SEND POSTAGE.—As our circulation is now so large that it entails a heavy expense in postage, friends abroad ordering extra or specimen numbers will please enclose with their orders a three-cent stamp to pay return postage.

POSTAL PROGRESS.

The history of the postal service is a record of continuous reform. There has been no retrogression. Extreme radical changes excepting the abolishment of the Penny Post in England—have not, at any time, impelled its progress, but it has moved steadily along with the advancement of science and even apace with the wonderful educational strides which mark the present era.

Step by step the provisions of the Post have been brought within the reach of the people, so that to-day its facilities can be, and are, as conveniently availed of by the laboring classes as by the wealthiest in the land.

Not alone in the gradual reductions in postage rates has the postal reform been distinguished. The universality of the system of the treatment and conveyance of the mails is one of the marked features of recent postal improvements. The wide world over no one people enjoy greater advantages in this respect than another. The suggestions of the advanced and most practical thinkers on postal matters, adopted by the Postal Union, are simultaneously utilized by all constitutional governments, and hence the postal machinery, not of one country but of the civilized world in unison, now moves with the regularity of clock work.

Is it necessary to jot down the reforms that have been accomplished during the last half of the present century? It is not certainly called for because postal exactions affect the people so directly that every concession that has been made is, so to speak, as familiar as household words.

It may not be amiss, however, to refer to one or two changes for the better that have recently been made as indicating the character of the reforms that are now taking shape. The extension of the classes of mail matter is one of these. A few years ago nothing but letters and newspapers could be forwarded through the post, even within the borders of our own country. Now, a postal card that, originally, had a very circumscribed limit, can be sent to the most distant countries, and samples for trade purposes, and a book post that covers a long list of miscellaneous articles, can be carried everywhere at a rate of postage so trifling that it may be truly said to be next to nothing.

And yet, the limit of postal facilities has not been nearly reached. The spirit of the present day is not satisfied with the progress that has characterized the last decades—splendid as that record is. There are undoubtedly great achievements in store in the post office. Only within the last few days the Canadian government, alive to the desires of the people, has intimated its intention to abolish the tax on newspapers from the office of publication, so that the newspaper which has become so

indispensable in the homes of our people will, henceforth, be conveyed there free of post.

In all probability in a very short time the Parcel Post rate will be considerably reduced and, while now confined to the Dominion, will then be extended to all parts of this continent, to the United Kingdom, and perhaps to other European countries. England is already moving in this matter of the Parcel Post. What a boon will this be! Other improvements—local and general—must follow in rapid succession, for the great Postal Service is bound to adapt itself to the unmistakable genius of the age.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The *Stamp Dealers' Gazette* of Bury St. Edmunds, England, remarks:—"The numbers of new philatelic papers pressed upon us at this season are legion. Collectors should each support two of the oldest and best." We would remind our contemporary that the *oldest* is not necessarily the *best*.

The *Stamp World*, Cincinnati, for March is at hand. It claims to have doubled its circulation with that number. It is a good paper and we rejoice in its success.

The May number of the *St. Louis Philatelist* has been received. This journal is in its tenth year and contains much valuable and interesting information in each issue.

The first number of a new stamp paper—the "*Moniteur des Timbrophiles*" published in Belgium, has been received. It is well gotten up on clear, white paper, 8 pages somewhat smaller than the PHILATELIC COURIER, and contains a large amount of valuable information. We wish it full success.

The March number of the "*Dresdener Illustrirtes Briefmarken-Journal*" is at hand. It is a good paper and has a deservedly large circulation among German-speaking philatelists.

The 1st and 2nd numbers of "*O Brazil Philatelico*", published at Sao Paulo, have been received, they are very creditable in appearance and in contents and will, doubtless, command a good circulation and achieve success. The first number favored us with a flattering notice which we shall try to continue to deserve.

The "*New Jersey Philatelist*" for March was pleased to refer to us most kindly, and to encourage us in our notion of making this paper a monthly. We are deeply obliged to it for its kind wishes, and would gladly make the change if the support received from our Philatelic friends would warrant us in doing so. We do not as yet see our way clear but our ambition is to become a monthly. Our contemporary is one of the best and most valued of our exchanges. We therefore regret that the April number has not as yet reached us. We never receive a number without learning something valuable from it.

TO OUR EXCHANGES.

We shall be much obliged to publishers of other Philatelic journals if they will send us copies of their papers regularly and promptly in exchange for ours. Any notices with which they may be disposed to kindly favor us will be appreciated, acknowledged and, as occasion may offer, reciprocated.