

## U. S. Notes.

BY DOTTIE LONESOME

There were 155 different plates used in printing the Omaha series. 125 for the 2 cent, 14 for the 1 cent, the others having one, two, or three plates for each denomination. A good chance for a few hundred varieties for the plate number collector.

December 23rd, our government shipped to Havana the following stamps, all surcharged on current U. S. stamps, for use there in the post office department, now operated under military rule; the lot consisted of 1,000,000 1c de peso on 1c green,

1,000,000 2½c de peso on 2c rose

4,000,000 5c " " " 5c blue

400,000 10c " " " 10 brown

Shortly after the above shipment was made another lot of about the same quantities was ordered to be shipped at once.

The secretary of the Treasury has been requested to submit to the Postmaster-General, designs for a set of stamps for Cuba. As yet no designs have been decided on.

An order was sent out from the post office department some time ago, to all the post offices in the country, calling for all the newspaper and periodical stamps on hand to be returned to the department at once. Stamps of all denominations and issues have been pouring in ever since. The department has not yet decided just what to do with the stamps. Some of the more prominent dealers have been consulted as to the disposition of the stamps. The dealers do not agree. Some want them sold at face value, others want them sold at \$10.00 a complete set, others think \$5.00 the right price. The department have not as yet made any plans known.

Bartel's plate number catalogue has appeared giving a complete list of all postage and revenue plate numbers issued by the government since 1890 together with prices for the different positions, etc. The book is a very handy pamphlet but would be more in keeping with good business to sell it for ten cents.

Of the new colors for the regular issue, the 4 cent red brown, 10 cent light brown and 15 cent olive green have all appeared. The 4 cent and 10 cent are nearly alike though. The 10 cent will have to be printed in another color.

Attempts have been made to counterfeit the I. R. surcharged stamps. The object being to defraud the plate number collector. There are some very valuable plate numbers of the surcharged stamps and a successful counterfeit would be very hazardous to those interested in plate numbers.

It is generally conceded that the 6 cent and 10 cent Canada maple leaves are under priced in Scott's supplement to the 58th edition catalogue. The 6 cent brings about \$5.00 a hundred and the 10 cent about \$8.00 a hundred. Either the prices quoted in the catalogue for these two stamps are too low or all the others are too high.

The \$30.00 revenue stamp was put into circulation about Dec. 1st. It is a bright red color.

There will be no more Omaha stamps printed and as soon as the present supply is exhausted, the regular issue will take the place of the Omaha.

January 5th, *Mekeels Weekly Stamp News* issued what to our mind is the best single issue of any stamp paper ever published, unless we except the magnificent