

Journal, Mr. Barker, among other things says: "My paper has succeeded beyond my expectation, and I think I may safely say, has been received very favorably by stamp and coin collectors in this and other lands. * * Besides being a source of amusement, it has been fairly remunerative, and I must thank my many stamp dealing and collecting friends from the able support I have received from them." Alas! How many of the careers of our philatelic papers, which have been published in recent years, have ended up their career with a valedictory of this kind. When a stamp paper of the present year suspends publication, its publisher generally feels so blue, that he forthwith withdraws unceremoniously and disgustingly from the philatelic world, and the only notification one has of the discontinuance of the paper, is its non-appearance.

In March, 1885, Mr. Lowe, in the first number of his paper, thus speaks: "There being few stamp papers of any importance published in Canada, we have started this paper as a means of advancing our science in this country. There are numerous stamp papers published in the United States, but none that have been started in Canada seem to have survived the first year. Whether we shall do so or not remains to be seen."

Mr. Lowe's paper was, during its first year, a four page, two column journal, of newspaper style. Its advertising pages were well patronized, and considerable interest seems to have been taken in it—if the amount of discussion on various stamp subjects can be taken as an index.

During its first volume, this paper changed hands three times. First Mr. Lowe sold it to Mr. Parker, who in turn sold it to Mr. Morrell, and from this last party, Mr. Lowe re-bought it.

The most notable feature about both the papers above referred to, is the entire lack of information referring to philatelic societies. In one of the late numbers of the Toronto Philatelic Journal, reference

is made to an informal meeting of stamp men in Toronto for the purpose of organizing a local club. From this meeting has grown the strong local clubs and large national societies which have since sprung up in the Dominion.

I. E. WELDON.

THE DECREASE OF GOOD SPECIMENS.

IN transferring a collection of some six thousand varieties of stamps from an old album to new quarters recently, the fact forcibly impressed me that number of any obsolete stamp cannot only never become greater, but is constantly becoming smaller. This is perhaps as important a factor in the raising of prices as the increased demand caused by the increased collecting population. I do not refer to the number of stamps lost by fire and water, or otherwise disappearing, and which is no doubt comparatively insignificant; I intend to speak particularly of those stamps injured more or less in the handling and re-handling they receive as they pass from dealer to dealer. Dealer to collector, and are transferred from album to album. In the case of the great rarities whose values are placed in the hundreds of dollars, and that are already in, and will remain in the hands of philatelists who know their value, accidents by tearing, creasing, or soiling are reduced to a minimum. In fact it is safe to say that the only danger such stamps are subjected to is from fire, and that 99 per cent. of such stamps will continue to exist intact until the papers they are composed of turn to dust. But the great rank and file of stamps, among which are the scarce and many even rare ones, are not guarded as carefully as these pampered gems. I believe that I am more careful than the average collector, with all his love for stamps, and yet in transferring this collection of mine I damaged, by slightly tearing, two good stamps, and perhaps eight or ten common ones. This was usually done in

(To be Continued.)