

based on the calculation for three months or less and the consumption for three cent stamps for the year just closed being about ninety million, it will be seen that one-fourth of that, or a three months' supply, would warrant an issue of three over twenty million, whereas only twenty million are to be issued. The same is true with respect to the six cent stamp, the annual consumption of which in 1896 was only three hundred and seventy-two thousand.

The Jubilee stamps are not issued to enable speculators and sharks to enrich themselves. Whatever profit is to be made ought to be made by the department for the public. There is an official authority for the statement that there is a sufficient number of half cent stamps and six cent stamps to supply all the legitimate demand in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and foreign countries for complete sets. There is a general impression that all the Jubilee stamps have been issued, but this is wholly erroneous. It is safe to say that probably nearly one-half of the halves and sixes, as well as of the others, are still in the hands of the engraver or the department at Ottawa, and the general public need not, therefore, be afraid that they will be unable to obtain the stamps they require. Every care is being taken for this purpose, and any dissatisfaction will in the end be found to be confined to those speculators who richly merit the name of stamp sharks, who are prepared to go to any lengths for the purpose of exacting tribute from the general public both in Canada and abroad.

#### What is Gained by Collecting.

One who has never seen a collection of nice, clean stamps, cannot have the least conception of how beautiful such a collection can be. There is nothing more beautiful, or more interesting; nor is there anything which will impart as much valuable information in one evening spent with it, as a good general collection of stamps. You will learn more regarding the history and geography of the different countries, of the world; more about the rulers and prominent men of these countries, from earliest time up to the present time, in one evening spent with your collection, as I have said, than you would learn as a member of a General History class in one month. This is a fact, and for this reason, if for no other, older people should enter the ranks and make collections. There are many other reasons, however, why, if they do start to collecting, they will remain collectors always, and not the least is the fact that nothing gives more pleasure or recreation, than this now world-wide and universal hobby. Nor are the emoluments to be "sneezed at." If one is careful, and exercises good judgment in the selection of his specimens, there is no reason why he should not double the money invested every year, for stamps, the better grades, especially, keep increasing in value and price very rapidly. And they will continue to do so, for the reason that wealthy people are joining the ranks, more and more of them, every year. These people do not care what a stamp costs, if they want it, they will have it.