

the country. Auction sales of stamps are held there, and dealers are springing up all over the country.

It is said that Mr. Chas. L. Borg, a popular Chicago collector has no hands having lost them in a railroad accident. In placing his stamps in his album, he uses a carpenter's chisel, manipulating it with his teeth!

Mr. E. J. Hatch, of Centre Montville, Me., warns collectors and dealers against Graham Frank, of New York City, to whom he sent approval sheets on June 7th, 1894, and from whom he can obtain no reply.

After the covers of this issue were printed, we received a letter from the Michigan Stamp Co., stating that their stock and trade had been sold to Messrs W. J. Lawrence & Co. of the same city. When answering this advertisement, please note the new firm name.

Mr. E. B. Jones, of Ruthven, Iowa, is preparing a comprehensive check-list for collectors of philatelic literature, which promises to be of great value to those engaged in forming a library. The price of the book is, we believe, 30 cents. The low price should place it within the reach of all.

Beginning with our next issue all subscriptions must begin with the first number of the year, as we wish to have all subscriptions expire with the end of the year. Those whose subscriptions expire during the middle of the year may forward, *pro rata*, a sufficient amount to continue till the end of the year.

We have to thank Mr. Wm. C. Stone for informing us that the article in our August number, by Capt. Mildmay, entitled "Our Philatelic Society's Meeting," is taken almost verbatim from W. L. Alden's "Adventures of Jimmey Brown." The article in question we purchased from Mr. Kenneth Dunbar, under the impression that it was original. The story had been adapted so as to be suitable for a philatelic paper, by changing a few words. We fear that other similar articles by Mr. Dunbar were adapted in a similar manner. We regret very much that these articles should have appeared, and on this account we owe an apology to our readers.

We wish to rectify a matter that appeared in the columns of our August issue. On the strength of a letter from Mr. J. A. Caron, Rimouski, Que.,

we published Mr. Maurice Belin, 52 Rue de la Madeline, Brussels, Belgium, as a fraud. We have received a letter from Mr. Belin, stating that he had never received any communication whatever from Mr. Caron. We have written Mr. Caron for an explanation but up to date of publication, have not heard from him. On enquiry, we find that Mr. Belin occupies a prominent position in Belgian Philatelic circles, and we regret that the item in question was inserted and we take this opportunity of undoing any injury the note may have caused him.

We have at last been compelled to abandon the publication of our handbooks Nos. 5 and 6, after having made every possible effort to publish the books. After the Canadian P. O. Department refused to allow us to publish the books in Canada, we made arrangements to have the same published and mailed from England, but we have recently had it brought to our notice, that even though we had the books published in England, we would not be allowed to sell and mail the same, either here or in the United States. Consequently on this ruling our loss is nearly \$1,000. All subscriptions will be refunded in order of receipt, by registered mail. We are very sorry to have to disappoint our patrons in this, but assure them that we have done all in our power in the matter. The cuts and text of the book were long since completed. We have had considerable difficulty with the Canadian P. O. Department during the last year, in regard to the *Canadian Philatelic Weekly*, handbooks 5 and 6, and this journal. We have been forbidden to use illustrations of any stamps whatever in our publications in future. During the past month the dealers in the United States have had some trouble in regard to the same matter. All the albums, etc., of the leading dealers and publishers, with illustrations of stamps in them were seized by agents of the Secret Service Department. The matter was submitted to the Solicitor General of the Treasury, who rendered a decision favorable to dealers, however, advising the seizure of all cuts and plates, from which the books were printed; permission being given to sell the stock of catalogues and albums remaining on hand. Both the Scott and Mekeel Co. refused to allow the seizure of their cuts, as in the opinion of the U. S. prosecuting attorney for St. Louis, there was no law by which they could seize plates of stamps, unless evidence was forthcoming that they had been used for counterfeiting purposes. We understand that this opinion has been forwarded to the Attorney General at Washington, and it is believed that he will agree with the decision rendered by the District Attorney.