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BUSINESS OFFICE.

24 ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

THE season is very busy with us, but nevertheless we are looking ahead. About middle of October will be issued a large sample copy edition of this paper, mailed to many names sent in at various times during the past year for sample copies and price lists. The edition will run from 4000 to 5000, and we trust to gain many subscribers by such distribution, owing to our low subscription rate. We will have something of importance to announce to dealers in a future issue. Every one advertising is sure to benefit. Regular advertisers have space at no advance, but to those who wish space in that issue only, rates will be just double, and we are sure no advertiser will lose.

IN connection with the present 3-cent stamp question has just arisen a point as to whether or not a change in the color is advisable. Recently a prominent Ottawa barrister was charged by an officer of the department that he had been using 3-cent stamps which had been treated with acid, the interference being that they were cancelled stamps which had been cleaned. Had it not been for the high professional standing of the gentleman referred to a prosecution might have followed, as within the past year or two many parties have been prosecuted for using cleaned stamps. When the matter was brought to the attention of this party he was able to show from stamps in his possession that the one complained of was a specimen of several others held by him and which he had discovered in his pocketbook where they had been hidden for some months. During that period they had completely lost their salmon color and taken on a much darker tint. For protection therefore of the community generally Mr. Mulock should see to it that a change is made in the color of the stamp, which is perhaps more used than any other in Canada.

MANY dealers in the United States are under the impression that a duty is taxed on stamps coming into Canada. Such is not the case, and has been obsolete for the past two years.

It is rumored that the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. will price unused revenues in their next edition. Wonder how prices will range? Many wide-awake collectors lately have been preparing for this move.

UNITED STATES 1861 ISSUE.

THOSE whose interest extends beyond merely filling the spaces of a printed album are probably aware of the existence of proofs of certain values of the 1861 issue, which lack the usual ornaments at the corners. But I think that few know that these designs were issued as stamps—gummed, perforated, and complete in every way—that they have done postal duty, and that there is a full set of them, each differing in some way from the corresponding value of regular issue. After some study of this subject, I am prepared to assert these facts, and also that this set constitutes the first printing from the first plates of this issue.

The difference between these first engravings and the normal types may be described as follows:

ONE CENT. From the numerals in the upper corners arabesque ornaments extend downward and also across the top, resting upon the curved frame-line of the stamp. The extreme tip of the upper left-hand ornament is directly above the P. of postage. In the first type this tip rests upon the curved line, but does not extend below it. In the second type there is a strong dash under the tip and below the line. Other, though lighter dashes, appear further down the curve, above the S and opposite the U of U.S. There are also shading lines under the upper ornament on the right. None of these marks appear on the first types.

THREE CENTS. The first type of this stamp is better known to collectors than any other value in the set. Outside the irregular rectangle of lathe-work there are only some trifling ornaments and the stamps look bare and unfinished. In the second type this has been remedied by the use of more elaborate ornaments especially at the corners, which have been built out so that the outline of the design is now approximately rectangular.

FIVE CENTS. The two types of this stamp differ but little. The delicate, leaf-like ornaments at the corners lack, in the first type, the leaflet (if we may so term it) which projects farthest. The variation from the ordinary type is so slight that it would probably escape the atten-

tion of many collectors. I have seen proofs of this stamp which lacked entirely the foliations at the corners and the outer line which frames the mat of lathe work. I presume these are proofs taken in the course of making the die and do not think any plate was made from the design in this condition.

TEN CENTS. The first engraving of this stamp is the type I of catalogues, which was brought to the attention of collectors last year. In the upper part of the stamp are five white stars on a background of ruled lines. This background is separated from the label containing U. S. POSTAGE by a curved white line. In type II a heavy line of color has been cut along the lower ends of the background lines, above and following the curve of the white line. An outer line has also been added to all the ornaments above the stars. It is strange that this extra line has escaped the sharp eyes of philatelists while the less prominent one has been pointed out.

TWELVE CENTS. The first type of this stamp differs so materially from the second that at first glance one scarcely recognizes it as a prototype. There is nothing outside the mat of lathe-work except a thin wavy line following the outline. In appearance it is even more unfinished than the three cents of the first type. To make the second type small ovals and arabesques were added at each corner and little scrolls at the sides. These additions, as in the case of the three cents, make the outline of stamp about rectangular.

I have not been able to find variations in the twenty-four and thirty cents stamps. As there was but one plate for each value I doubt if any changes were made in the designs. The colors differ very decidedly from those of the ordinary stamps, as will be noted later. A few slight retouches may be found on some of the twenty-four cents stamps, but I think they indicate late touching up of the plate rather than alterations on the die.

NINETY CENTS. Above the ribbon with U. S. POSTAGE the lines of the frame meet in a sort of gable made by parallel lines of color, separated by a white space about one-half millimetre wide. To form the second type a strong point of color is added at the apex of the lower lines of the gable and a series of little dashes drawn through the centre of the white space, making a broken line of color, between and parallel to the other lines. On many of the stamps this broken line is too faint to be seen, but colored point usually stands out clearly. I think it will be agreed that the appearance of the stamp would have been improved if, instead of these microscopic marks, something more elaborate had been added to