

became first interested in stamps in 1890. For a couple of years however, he lost interest but again he took it up, this time going into stamps as a business and forming the firm that bears his name.

Mr. Peckham is exchange superintendant of the D. P. A., and during his term of office he has placed it on a good sound basis.



ED. A. WHALEN.

We next present to our readers the features of Mr. Ed. A. Whalen, who for a time was associate editor of the *Halifax Philatelic Magazine*. Although but nineteen years of age he is well known among philatelists. He is Secretary of the *Halifax Philatelic Club* and it is said by those who know, that he fills that office to perfection.

A San Francisco collector has a specimen of the 12 cent green of 1869 valued at \$350 or thereabouts.

## ORIGIN OF THE POSTAGE STAMP.

### Curious Incident Which Caused a Revolution in the Postal Service.

The incident which resulted in the invention of the postage stamp was a curious one.

A traveler journeying through the north of England chanced to reach the door of an inn just as a postman stopped to deliver a letter. The young girl for whom it was intended came out to receive it. She turned it over and over in her hands and asked the price of the postage. The price demanded was a shilling, and as the girl was poor she returned it to the postman, saying that it was from her brother, but that she had not that amount of money. The traveler in spite of her protest, paid the money to the postman and handed the letter to the girl. When the postman departed the young girl admitted that she and her brother had arranged by certain marks upon the letter that the other should know that the writer was in good health and prospering.

"We are so poor," she added, "that we are forced to invent this way of letting each other know of our welfare."

The traveler continued on his way asking himself if a system giving rise to such frauds was not a vicious one.

The sun had not set before Rowland Hill (such was the traveler's name) had planned to organize the postal service on a new basis.

His views found favor with the English Government, and on