

LONDON NOTES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

It is now officially announced that a new series of French stamps will be put into circulation in May, 1900, commemorative of the Paris Exhibition. They represent the Republic seated, holding the hand of justice and a tablet on which the following inscription is read, "Droits de l'homme," (Rights of man.) On a scroll surrounded by laurels the value of the stamps is indicated.

I cull the following from the "Philatliste Francaise" and give it for what it is worth. The Canadian Government has netted £400,000 during the last two years by the sale of stamps to speculators and collectors.

The well-known philatelic auctioneers, Messrs. Tenton, Bull & Cooper, not to be outstripped in generosity by their other city confreres, now announce an auction early next month in aid of the war fund now being raised. They invite contributions from all philatelists and are giving their services gratuitously, so that the whole of the amount received will be handed over to the fund.

One of the most complete price lists I have yet seen is that issued by Mr. P. Halgatte, Le Vaudreuil Eure, France, containing as it does 130 pages of closely printed matter, giving current prices for almost every stamp, both used and unused. This gentleman will no doubt forward a copy to any collector who may be interested in same.

According to one of the leading London newspapers the Boers have obtained a supply of the current Cape stamps from some source and have surcharged them with the letters S. A. R. (South African Republic) and the value of the stamp P. & O. Exceedingly high prices have been obtained for the few that have reached Cape Town.

—W. F. Dick.

TORONTO NOTES.

A local collector dealer is showing a copy of the Canada 1870 3ct. on laid watermarked paper. To the best of recollections this is the first copy I have seen or heard mention of during my 15 years in stamps. The stamp is used and is undoubtedly unique.

The Canada envelope, 1898 3ct., red, Scott's type, E 5, is a good thing to hold for a future advance. Scott fails to price this envelope used in the 50th catalogue, and as fully two thirds of the remainder were recalled and surcharged, there is every probability of this envelope commanding a high price used or unused within a few years.

Another good thing is the 3c. Leaf, surcharged 2c. Judging by the demand there is for used copies to supply the large army of Forier's collectors and the large quantity there is reserved to go into collections, methinks that there is every likelihood of an advance over the present prices.

How many collectors possess one of the official wrappers, surcharged 1c., blue on buff? It is indeed a scarce article and is something one does not see in albums of advanced collectors. "Scott" does not price this wrapper and never will in my opinion, because very few were ever preserved to adorn the pages of a collection.

—PIONEER.

BOSTON NOTES.

Before starting on my regular notes would call attention to a slight error in last month's notes. The last two items which printer seems to have got tangled up some should read as follows:—

"One dealer here shows the 5 S. Zulu and in used condition. This stamp is rarely found thus and when the cancellation and surcharge are genuine it is a fine thing."

All the U. S. revenue stamps above 10c. value are in future to be cancelled by means of a punch or three straight cuts of a knife, this will cause the prices for regular cancelled copies to advance somewhat notably the higher values.

Contrary to expectations business has not been flourishing for the past month. However dealers here have no room to kick.

An oddity one seldom sees is found in lot 72-73-74 of Brown's sale held on Jan. 25th and 26th, is a block of 12 1c 55th unused, full gem, showing two types of this issue J and H. Unfortunately one has to secure all three lots to procure the thing intact as the blocks of 12 is divided into three distinct lots.

The new 1899 die 5c. envelopes are now on sale at the Boston post office.

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