

collectors who may not be so "fly" as he is, now that he has a good stock of the specimens in question owing to the so-called generosity of the proprietor.

Permit me to congratulate you, Mr. Editor upon the completion of the 2nd edition of your catalogue of Stamps of Canada. It should have an extensive sale as it gives a much truer estimate of the relative values of Canadian stamps than any other catalogue in existence. A few additions might still be made, but it is certainly almost perfect.

It is a great pity that careless or economical collectors cannot find some substitute for those abominable fag ends of gummed paper off sheets of postage stamps. The paper is too thick and the gum is often dirty. They are often the cause of injury to a stamp printed on thin or soft paper caused by trying to remove them without soaking.

Can anyone explain why Scott & Co. Catalogue the 1c. Black Netherlands 1869 issue, at 1c., used, and Stanley Gibbons & Co., price them at 1/ stg. used and unused? Such differences in values are absurd and are certainly very puzzling to collectors. This much I can say, that in about 40 approval books of the C. P. A. exchange department I have never seen but two specimens offered. They could not have been in use more than a few months as a stamp of the same value and design was printed in green the same year. I wonder how many specimens Scott & Co will supply at 1c. each?

—Holland or the Netherlands as a stamp issuing country has never attracted much attention owing no doubt to the fact that its postal issues are small in number and not at all rare, and the kingdom is generally considered as a small affair. It will probably astonish the majority of collectors to know that Holland, in extent of Colonial possessions is only exceeded by one country in the world. It is scarcely necessary to say that country is England. The total area of the Dutch Colonial possessions is almost 800,000 square miles and among her dependencies are some of the

finest and most valuable colonies in the whole world.

Halifax is to have a summer carnival this year to last two weeks, commencing fourth week in July. President Hechler suggests holding the Second Annual Convention of the C. P. A. at that time as the trip will be a very pleasant one at that season of the year, and railway and steamboat fares will be away down. I think if the suggestion is carried out we might confidently look for a large attendance.

### CANADA SERVICE ENVELOPES.

In regard to certain envelopes, wrappers, and postal cards of Canada that has been surcharged *service*, and have been offered for sale in certain quarters, the *Philatelic Record* says:

"We have received through Mr. Campbell the history of these surcharges, as given by the Postmaster of Halifax, which tallies exactly with information we received from Major Evans. Mr. Fletcher was a Captain in a volunteer regiment despatched to assist in putting down the insurrection, and had the words "official," or "service" printed on a number of government envelopes, post cards and wrappers, as desired, for sending notices of drill, etc., to his company, but they were neither issued or recognized by the Government of Canada. It is for these, which the postmaster says are intrinsically worth nothing, that at the present time a dollar each is being asked.

We should not again have referred to these manipulated stamps had it not been that in the supplement of M. Moen's catalogue, now in course of publication, they are recorded without notice of any doubt as their being a genuine government issue. It was a smart notion of Mr. Kechler to turn his military duties into the direction of his business as a stamp dealer, but the collection of amateurs are now so overlaid with postal stationery that they may dispense with specimens of these without much sorrow of heart."—*P. J. of A.*