

## JUBILEE ISSUES.

From Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.

### Canada.

The first act of the Suppression Committee, as now constituted, will be, we trust, to blacklist all those discreditable emissions which, from a philatelic point of view, have marred the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen. First, and worst of all for shameless dishonesty, is the Canadian jubilee issue, about which so much has already been written. The authorities of this great colony, in their haste to rake in the dollars, appear to have overlooked the fact that a government stamp is a piece of government paper, a kind of note, either promising the performance of certain services, or indicating the payment of or receivable for certain taxes. A considerable portion of the price of the highest two values of this precious issue—labels which have been actually forced upon purchasers of the lower values—is simply a robbery of everyone who bought them. Each \$4 and \$5 stamp, as soon as ever it has passed into the possession of a private individual, is at once reduced to the value of \$3.59, a reduction of ten per cent. on the price paid for the one, and of nearly thirty per cent. on the price paid for the other. For it seems that \$3.59 is the highest amount of postage that can possibly be paid upon a packet in Canada under existing regulations. The issue of these high values is, therefore, not merely unnecessary, but, as we have said, actual robbery. At the same time, the government declines to redeem in cash these promissory notes, which it cannot redeem in any other way, an act which would be equivalent to a declaration of bankruptcy on the part of any business firm! It seems a curious position for the government of an important colony to assume, and that in honor(?) of Her Majesty's Jubilee.

### Newfoundland.

The jubilee issue of Newfoundland is comparatively venial; the values are modest, and all of them such as can be postally used; still the same evil principle is behind it. The labels of this colony are very pretty, and their designs eminently suitable for advertising the resources of the island; and we can only wish that it were not too late to retain these as a permanent issue of Newfoundland stamps, in which form they would be welcomed by every philatelist. As it is, Newfoundland must take its place on the list by the side of its larger neighbor, and share in the loss of reputation which post-office speculation must entail.

The author of this article evidently did not know very much about existing postal regulations in Canada. We do not intend to defend the methods employed to compel the public to buy the high value Jubilee stamps, but there certainly is use for these stamps, even the \$4 and \$5.

Sample copies of newspapers in Canada are allowed transmission through the mail at the rate of one cent per pound. This postage is paid by the publishers affixing in a book specially provided for that purpose by the postoffice department sufficient stamps to pay the postage on the lot of sample copies mailed. The postoffice official cancels the stamps and returns the book to the publisher. It is not uncommon for ten or twenty hundred pounds of sample copies to be mailed at one time, necessitating a payment of \$10 or \$20.

It is for this purpose that the dollar value can be used for postal purposes at the full face value.

## NOTES.

The United States proposes to follow Canada's example and establish postal savings banks. A bill has recently been introduced into Congress, which provides that money order offices selected by the postmaster general are to be made branch postal savings banks with an office in the department to be called the centre bank. Any person may become a depositor under this act, including married women and minors above twelve years. Deposits are limited to a dollar and its multiples and not exceeding \$300 each and deposits accumulating above \$1000 will not draw interest. Postal savings stamps and cards of the denominations of five and ten cents are to be sold. Interest is to be at the rate of two per cent. a year, to be added to the principal on June 30 of each year.

The postmaster general of Canada has decided to reduce the rate of postage to Great Britain and all the British colonies from 5c per one-half ounce to 3c per one ounce. The reduction will take effect Jan. 1, 1898.

A correspondent from Bowmanville writes us that he had submitted to him on approval recently a copy of the 1869 Canada bill, \$2, with inverted head. He examined it closely with a good glass and it looked all right, but, on being soaked for a time in warm water, the stamp came apart and revealed that it was a clever fake.

T. S. Clark, formerly of the Bank of Montreal, Belleville, Ont., is now occupying a similar position at Kingston, Ont.