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56 Guba, Porto Rico, and Phillippines. 70 cents.
69 All different Asia, price $\$ \mathbf{1} .60$.
103 All different Canada, price $\$ 2.50$.
SPECIALS ..... WM．R．ADAMS
TORONTO，ONT

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# Che Canadian Pbilatelic magazine THE COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY 

## Side Lights on Stamps.

Leaving it to the enthusiastic specialist to exult over some stamp, which (by the aid of his perforation guage) he has ascertained to be notched along one of its sides to the scale of nearly r3 instead of the normal $12 \frac{1}{2}$; the intelligent and thoughtful philatelist will dismever in his Album a veritable treasure-houso of information, unfolding to his mind a sort of dioramic procession a chronicle of many of the most importảnt and striking events which crowd the pages of Modern History.

How instructive and at the same time how pleasurable it is to trace out in this way the story of the unification of Italy; the consolidation of Canada; the transition from cantonal to federal government in Switzerland; or to notice how large a number of stamp-issuing states has finally become merged into the German Empire!

But it is not merely with generalties that we have to deal. The internal commotions and political crianges of many countries are also graphically described; and Spain will furnish us with a good example by way of illustration.

Begining with the year 1850 and extending onward until 1867, we are confronted by various emissions of stamps, mostly bearing the profile of Queen Isabella, Though occasionally the royal arms.

But then 2 change! The next year shows the same stamps in provisional use, but having the obnoxious features defaced and overprinted with the legend "Habilitado por la Naction" or (even more explicit and suggestive) "Habilitado por la Junta Rebolucionaria"; in the case of one particular commune the head being.first turned upside down, so that no indignity might be wanting. Then we have a regular issue with an allegorical figure; giving way in turn to a kindly portrait durthe brief reign of Amadeo; who so keenly experienced the bitter truth of the adage. "Uneasylies the head thatwears a crown."

Then comes more allegorical figures; followed by royal portraits once again in the successive sets of Alphonso XII possibly indicative of his sorrows and his wasting life, until we arrive at another change which prompts the student to: exclaim:-

> "what is this.
is. That rises like the issue of a king, And wears upon his baby brow the round And top of soverignty?"

And thus we are brought face to face with the present possessor of the Spanish crown-the only instance in moderntimes of one "borne in purple," a monarch from the very moment of his birth.

In addition to all this, an interesting side-light is thrown upon the narrative by the Carlist stamps, which testify of another claimant to the thron?; while the war tax

## THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

labels indicate the difficulty experieuced in defraying the expenses of resisting the protender.

But here the story ends, so far at least asthe mother country is concerned; though we can pursue it further when we turn to the pages of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. In all three cases we are shown how the baby has grown into the boy; but these series of stamps had only a brief course to run. For the American war broke out; and soon we find postage stamps of the United States overprinted with the name of one or other of the three Spanish dependencies. And in the case of each it is curious to notice how accurately the course of subseqent events is reflected on the philatelic page. Cuba with a lovely series of its own, emblematic of a new order of things; Porto Rico retained as a lawful prize of war; and the Philippines with a stamp issued by the insurgents, who are still vainly disputing with the United States for victory and final supremacy.
On turming our eyes across the silver streak, and taking notice of the political ups and downs of our nearest neighbors during the last fifty years, it is instructive to find how faithfully these events are recorded in the pages of our albums
Starting soon after the revolution which drove Louis Philippe as a refugee to seek the sheiter of ever-hospitable Albion, we have a fine series of stamps inscribed "Repub. Franc." and showing the profle of liberty- In the next issue the superscription is the same, but the image is that of Napoleon. Ere long we have another set displaying the same features,
but a momentous change has occured in the inscription which now reads "Empiro Franc." Then after the famous plebiscite was taken and the prospects of a settled dynasty appeared to be assured, a new emission of stamps took place, with laureated head and the fullerlegand "Empire Francais." But such hopes were destined to remain unfulfilled, as we can percieved from the succeeding issue, made hurriedly at Bordeaux, without perforations, roughly lithographed, and with many variationsof colour. What a reminder we have here of Sedan, ${ }_{r}$ and Metz, and Paris in the hands of the commune! The series which follow tell of settled government once more; and their varying designsmay be regarded as emblematic of as many phases in the constitution of the Republic
But at the present crisis in the history of the Brtish Empire, the student will turn with alacrity to the tale so graphically disclosed by the stamps of the South African Republic, better known to us as the Transvaal. From I870 till 1877 we are confronted with the familiar square stamps, displaying the arms of the Republic, more or less coarsely éxë̀cuted.

Then came the British occupation, indicated for a time by overprinting these stamps with V. R., and the altered designation "Transvaal". In 1878 we have a new issue bearing the well-known profile of her most gracious Majesty, and with the value expressed in English currency.

A Sphere of British influence thus became a British possession; not destined fiowever to remain as such for long; since the memories of Majuba hill still ranklein our minds; followed by "the great

## THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

betrayal" and the ignominious "scuttle out" though some were found who called it "magnanimity"! The depth of clagradation to which portion of the globe is well typified by a pair of succeeding stamps, one overprinted with the Dutch value Een Penny, and the other having the Queen's head defaced by the surchargeTwee Pence
$\because$ Z.A. R.
a disgrace which is happily without parallel in. British philately, but which at last bids fair to be blotted out, now that our victorious flag floationce more above the government büldings of Pretoria. and before these fines appear in print, the current stamps of the South African Republic will be arriving in this country overprinted V. R. I.; to be followed in due coarse by a new and permanent issue, recording on the philatelic page the last extension of the Empire.

More gratifiying is it to the average Briton to turn by way of contrast to the story of another race for supremacy, as revealed to him by the stamps of Fiji. First he will notice C. R.(Cæcumbau Rex), surmounted by a crown, and the value expressed in pence. The next issue with the value surcharged in cents in suggestive of American influence prevailing for a time. Then C. R., appears overprinted V. R., and the cents give place to pence once more. Finally C. R., and cents alike entirely disappear; while V.R., is engraved as part of the permanent design on the stamps of the lower values, and a bold profile of the Queen on those of Ish. and 5 sh. Rivalry being at an end, a peaceful sunset scene fitly closes an interesting historical chagter.

## Chinese Postal System.

One of the most peculiar institutions in China is the organization of the postal service. With the increase of the population and with the gradual opening up of the coastline of the country, it became imperative to devise some means of facilitating intercourse, and the mercantile firms therefore joined hands and established Postoffices; since that time the system hasgradually developed a certain form of postal service in the busiest districts of China. The Chinese governmentadopted a neutral attitude toward the activity of these "postal firms," but the latter had to pay large sums of money to the authorities. The most important postal agencies are carried on by the inhiabitants of MingHo, and have branches in many towns in the empire. As a rule there are but few places in which no postcffice is to be found, and in the more important centers there are always several. Thus, Shanghai has more than 200, while Hong Kong has thirty Postofflces. It often happens that the various postal agencies compete with one another, and their agents then are compelled to go from house to house in order to secure clients. Nevertheless, there is some degree of combination between these agencies, and they render mutual service in case of need. If a new Postoffice is to be established in the locality, it frequently happens that the various agencies will combine their forces and found a common branch.

Horses or mules are generally used as the means of transport, although in some places a postman conveys the mail bag.

## THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

Where rivers are available, the mails are carried down the stream in small boats. There is no fixed rate of postal dues but the larger agencies fix the payment within certain limits, according to the weight of a letter and its destination, and regular clients are allowed a discount.

The postal fee for a single letter varies from about 3 farthings to $51 / 2$ pence, according to the distance which it has to be conveyed. There are no postage stamps or any other adhesive labels as signs of prepaid payment in China proper, and thus the postage has to be payed either by the sender or the reciever of a letter. It can easily be imagined that under such an organization the postal service in China suffers greatly at the hands of countless bands of robbers. Although the Chinese have not been able to overcome the depredations frequently inflicted by these robbers, they have long ago found out a way to paralyze their actions to a certain degree, and this consists in buying them off. Every band of rubbers has its own defined sphere of action, and the postal agencies of a district come to an agreement with the local robbers, who are paid a fixed sum of money regular not to molest the mails.

Snch an arrangement guarantees perfect safety for the mails, as the robbers are themselves thus pledged to protect them from being molested by other evildoers: In addition to this private system there also exists in China a government post; which is occupied in the dispatch of official correspondence and in conveying officials about the empire. This postal serviee is managed by the Ministry of War,
and costs the Chinese government immense sums of money. Private letters cannot be forwarded by this government post. There is also another postal ser vice in China, for the resident foreigners have introduced their own postal systems.

The introduction of this last mentioned system is due to the early settlers in Shanghai, who thirty years ago opened a postoffice for dispatching letters to the foreigners dwelling on the borders of that place. In 1878 the "Imperial Customs Post" of China was introduced by Sir Rbbert Hart, Inspector General of Customs, for communication between his department and the treaty ports of China

Soon afterwards foreign governments also established postal agencies at their consulates in China for the benefit of their subjects residing in the empire. England, the United States, France, Germany, Japan and Russia have set up their own Postoffices in the great centers of activity.

Thus the postal system of China affords a pleasing variety. Every attempt of recent years to organize the postal service of China on a Europeau method has come signally to grief. There is, in fact, an imperial post, carried out according to European Ideas, but it is confined exclusively to the treaty ports. In the interior of the country the old syetem remains unchanged, and will, no doubt, continue to exist until the present confused postal service shall have been converted into a uniform and properly organized postal service.

## THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

## Pigeon Post Stamps

Of all the many local postage stamps that have been issued for various purposes from time to time none perhaps have attracted such general attention as those issucd in connection with the "Pigeon Post" established between Great. Barrier Island and the mainland of New Zealand.

In an article in the Stamp Collector, Mr. W. Khun deals in an interesting manner with the subject and from his remarks we glean the information given here.

The Great Barrier Island is situated about 65 miles north east of Auckland, N. Z., and at present has a population of some 700 souls. Once a week a small steamer travels between Auckland and the Island carrying the mails and general cargo, and as the steamer only waits long enough to land the goods it is by no means an easy matter to reply to correspondence by the same boat. A.s, besides, there is no cable communication between the Island and the mainland it will be admitted that the ordinary means of intercourse are not all that can be desired- It, therefore, a few years ago behoved the inhabitants to devise some means of send$i_{n g}$ messages more regularly when necessity arose, and as a result of several experiments the Pigeon Post originated. It appears that the initial idea of the Pigeon Post was due to the fact that when the s. s. Wairarapa was wrecked on the great Barrier, news of the disaster was sent to Auckland by pigeons and it was thought that if the birds could be taught to fly the distance regularly it would prove of benefit to the inhabitants. Mr. Walter Fricker,
of Auckland, made many experiments and at the end of 1897 as the result of his labours the Great Barrier Pigeon Post service became an accomplished fact.

Not much difficulty was encountered in training the birds to fly from the Island to the mainland but almost insurnountable obstacles presented themselves in training them from Auckland to the Island. This was due to the fact that the Island was lowlying and often envelojed in haze, but after such ardous labour the difflculties were overcome and now several birds travel the journey daily.

The pigeons are, of course, carried over by the weekly steamers, and each bird can carry five messages at a time. Messages have to be swritten on small slips of very thin paper, and these are securely attached to the pigeon's leg and protected by a waterproof legging from wet in case the bird should encounter bad weather.

So much fur the initial history of this interesting local post, and now for a short account of the stamps themselves. It was not until November, 1898-twelve months after the inauguration of the post-that it ${ }^{\text {. }}$ was thought necessary to issue stamps, and then a printing was made owing to the large increase in the number of messages. The stamps were of the value of s sh, which amount it cost to send a message by means of the Pigeon Post.

The first issue is of crude design, and was roughly typographed. The centrepiece shows a pigeon holding a letter in its beak. In a scoll above are the words "Great Barrier Island," and below in an oriamental frame is "Special Post."

On either side is placed the value

## the canadian philatelic magazine

"One Shilling," The stamps were printed in blue, on white wove paper and perf. 13.

Shortly afterwards a second issue of more pretentious design was brought out.

This was lithographed and was printed in blue-green ink on toned wove paper, and roughly perforated $12 \frac{1}{2}$. The inscriptions were not altered but a broad fancy border was added and scroll work placed around the wording.

The Postal Authorities of New Zealand objected to the words "Special Post" and these were overprinted with the word "Pigeongram" thus making a third issue.

Soon a fourth issue appeared but with the word "Pigeongram" incorporated in the design instead of "Special Post."
The stamps are affixed to the thin slips of paper bearing the message and are obliterated with a circular mark in which "Great Barrier. The Original Pigeon gram service" and the date are arranged in five lines.

Being a private enterprise the question has more than once been raised as to be the legality of this Pigeon Post seeing that the Government has the sole monopoly of carrying letters and issuing stamps.
However, as far as can be ascertained, the Pigeongram service is still an active agency.

The first issue of the Pigeon Post stamps has been extensively forged in both the United States and Canada, so the collectors interested in locals would do well to be careful when buying these stamps.

Quite recently a rival Pigeon, Post has startedand two stamps of triangular shape
of the values 6 d and ish have been issued in connection with it. The former is printed in blue and the latter in carmine and both are lithographed or white wove paper perf. in $1 / 2$. The 6d iabel repays postage from the Island to the mainland; the ish one from Auckland to the island.

The reason of the difference in the rates is that the main!and is very much easier for the birds to And than the island.

From all accounts the rival post was established merely for the sake of the profit to be derived from the sale of stamps. $\because$

## Collectors.

Coin collectors pursue their hobby with much greater zeal than is evinced by philatests. The hot wave which is now covering our country from north to south has put a decided quietus to stamp buying in the city, and has seriously cut-down the mail trade of stamp dealers, whereas the coin trade is but slightly affected.

Coin auctions are held every month in the year, while very few stamp amateurs would care to see their albums offered at .auction during July or August, and yetstamps command higher prices than coins, and their are fifty philatelsts to one numismatist, and coins are more easily injured in hot weather than stamps. There must be some reason. What is it?

The hot weather will soon pass away and when the mercury begins to go down watch the prices of stamps go up. In all our forty year's experience in the stamp business we have never seen the foundation laid for so many good collections.

## Canada Specials

## NOWNOH

100,000 really Grand Assortment of Maple and Figure 1, 2 and 3 c , the best values being most abundant. 45 cents a 1000, $\$ 4$ for IoM.

5 c Maple, $\$ 5.50$ a 1000.
2 c Imperial Maps, $\$ 3.80$ a 1000 , all shades.
Green Law Revenue Stamps. Many dealers are buying these, and during the past few weeks I have sold over $40 ; 000$. Price $\$ 4$ a Iooe. Not many more left.

7000 Bill Stamps, 1st, 2nd and 3rd issues, magnificent assortment and a fine stock for any dealer for approval trade. Price for the entire lot $\$ 42$.

Adams' 1901 Canada Revenue Catalogue, just issued, 50 c a dozen, better than ever, 3rd edition. Retails at IOc.

Every dealer should handle my Stamp Mounts, in metallic covers, imported from France, retails at ioc a case. 2 doz in a box, $\$ 1.75$ gross postfree, big profit.
it Jubilee, 81.60 per I2. 6c Jubiiee, ss per 12.

Large 85 Supreme Court, 1 stissue, 86 per 12.
25 c and 50 c Electric Light, $\$ 1$ per 50 .
Gas Inspection, fine osst, 82 per 50.


How to Remit-Bills, M. O. or in unused Canada or US stamps.

## FINE SETS CHEAP

| 4 Foochow | 10 | 8 Canada Bill | 05 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 40 Japan | 90 | 4 "green law |  |
| 7 Columbus | 13 | 2 fras | 0 |
| 8 Honduras, ' ${ }^{6}$ | 25 | 2 New Brunswick | 05 |
|  | 15 | 14 Holland | 10 |
| Congo | 10 | 10 Brazil | 30 |
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| 90 British Colonies | 15 | 3 Porto Rico | 05 |
|  | 80 | 10 old Spain | 10 |
| 6 Gardinia | 05 |  | 25 |
| 6 Wurtomburg | 06 | 4 Labuan Jubileo | 35 |
| 10 Argentine | 15 | 3 I3arbactos | 10 |
| 2 Japaa War | 10 | $4{ }^{3} \quad{ }^{\prime \prime}$ | 80 |
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| 90 | 50 | 5 Canada | 10 |
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| 5 Foreign | 15 | Grenada | 15 |
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20 Honduras

80

33 Nicaragua
98 Salvador.
2 Liberia, Triangular shape. .

4 Soudan Camel Post. . . . . . . . .
4. Soudan Camel Post.16
50 diff. Foreign, Fine ..... \$5
100 " ..... 10
200 46 ..... 35
300 ..... 60
500 ..... 1.25
1000 ..... 350
2000 " " ..... 00
1000 Mixed Canada, No. 1 ..... 45
1000 No. 2 ..... 100
1000 " 1859 to 1899 ..... 200
1000 mixed Foreign Stamps ..... 30
25 Canada, all dilferent ..... 20
83 ..... 200
1000 English stamp hinges in box ..... 25
American hinges 10c, 3000 ..... 25
French hinges, in rolls ..... 10
Coin Catalogue ..... 10
Canada Stamp Catalog, Ketcheson. ..... 25
Canada Revenue Catalog. Adams'. ..... 10
Coats of Arms of the World, color ..... 40
Portraits of Rulers of the Worid ..... 50
Stainp Albums, not illustrated, from England, 81.50 and ..... 225
British Flags, 50 in envelope ..... 10
United States Revenues, unused, face value \$1, very special ..... 30
Post Card Albums, 40,65c and ..... 20
Patriotic stickers, 100 in package ..... 10
80ME CHOICE PACKETS
19 Isles of the Sea, 20 var ..... 80
20 Queen Victoria, 25 colonial ..... 15
1717 entire postcards, many lands ..... 60
1310 ..... 25
Asia and Africa, 100 different ..... 150
British Colonies, 100 " ..... 150
" 50 ..... 75
West Indios ..... 85
Mauitoba Law Stamps, worth 84.1 ..... 00
1 Jubilee stamps only ..... 80
3 ..... 50
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- ..... 100 ..... 100
4 " " ..... 200
850New Issues, just out, 10 тarRomit by money order or reglistered letter.

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