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r. -The competitor is to form as many words as possible from the words "Stamp Reporter'.
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4.-Each list must be accompnnied with TWENTY CENTS, to pay for one year's subscription to this paper.
5.-Present subscribers may enter by renewing their subscription for one year.
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Send your list in at once.

## $\Rightarrow$ Collectors Bargain Page. $0<$

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Cat. 35 and 25c. varieties of Canadian postage stamps including Ic. Rose, 5c. Beaver 1859 also 1868 issue. Canadian Jub. r, 2, 3 and 5 c., new issue $1 / 2,1,2,3$, etc., 2 and 5c. Register. 3 rare Newfoundland, New Brunswick, also entire unused Canadian Envelope and Newsband, and Canadian Postcard. Entire ist issue, catalogued at Ioc. This grand bargain, only 5oc. Send at once this offer will not last. Offer made to introduce my new price list.
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AGENTS WANTED.
Large new Price List Free. Address
A. F. WICKS, LONDON, Ont.

# The Stamip Reporter. 

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

## The New U. S. Stamp.

For the commemoration of the holding of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha this year, Postmaster General Gay has decided to issue a series of special postage stamps. The denomination of these stamps will be one-cent five-cent, ten-cent and one-dollar. The issue lends the Exposition the prestige of Government recognition and support.

When these new stamps are issued, the present issue will not be withdrawn as at the time of the Columbian stamps but both stamps will be on sale at once. These stamps will he supplied to every postmaster and a large demand is expected from both collectors and the public in seneral who will prefer them during the Exposition period in place of the regular issue.

The new stamps will be of a marked artistic order, symbolical of the far West. Third Assistant Postmaster General Merritt who who is in charge of the selection of subjects has written to varions artists, asking for suggestions in regard to the designs:

Some designs which would be very suitable for the stamps are those closely comected with the West. As the aim of the Post-
master General is to give the Exposition a series of stamps which will not only be artistic, but also to appeal to the people, one of the stamiss might have on the face a reproduction of a celebrated painting, Fremont Hoisting the Flag on the Rocky Mountain. Another night be the well-known statue of the distingrished Western statesman, United States Senator Thomas H. Benton at St. Louis.

The colors of the new issue will be different from the regnlar. In shape they will be like the Columbian and wiil be twice the size of the regular issue. As was shown by the sale of Columbian stamps, the Government expects to make a nice sum out of these stamps. They calculate that about hali a million collectors will seek for these.

When the Cabot issue appeared some speculators decided to bive up the 1c stamps. When this was done no 1c stamps were left to supply the busimess demand. To bridge over this diffouly, a 30 stamp of the old issute was surcharged 1c. The sur charge was two black bars, one at the top, the other at the bottom and one cent across the face.

FOREIGN STAMP SWINDLE.
This Worker Supplies the Post Mark so Dear to the Hearts of Collectors.

Recently I visited the workshop of a foreign stamp-faker. His rooms, situated in an obscure court in the city, looked like the abode of a waste-paper merchant, from the number of sacks of paper and old envelopes stowed in every corner. After a satisfactory explanation as to my business, I was permitted to enter a small room behind the shop.

The first thing noticeable was the extraordinary number of rubber and brass stamps hung on racks round the wall. These were used for post-marking stamps which had been placed on telegrams. Although these stamps are very good and clear specimens, they are practically valueless to most collectors without a post-mark. This our worthy friend supplies.

I was then shown a parcel containing about 600 sixpenny Gold Coast stamps, which had been used on bills of lading for the stamp duty and cancelled by writing the date in ink across them, as we do receipt stamps. These our dealer had bought for a nominal sum (about four a penny), and which in the course of a day or tvo he hoped to sell -all bearing a post-mark, and in every way identical to the legitimate postage stamps-at 4 d . each showing a handsome profit of 69.7 s .6 d . on the parcel.

His process of converting the fiscal stamps to postal is extremely simple. By means of an acid
used on a fine gold pen he carefully removes the ink marks, then with a hand stamp the postmark, date, etc., are applied, and this, when done neatly, covers any trace of the acid manipulation, and thus the stamp is ready for the unsuspecting buyer. By this means some really valuable stamps, which when used on telegrams would only realize a few pence, are converted into specimens worth several shillings.

Our dealer then showed me with pride two of the penny black English stamps, one of which had a Maltese cross in each corner; and the other V. R. in the top coners, the former being worth to-day 1 d . and the other 65 ; yet he assured me they were both the same stamp, and before he had removed the top crosses with chemicals and etched the V. R. in their place were worth only 1d. each. The transformation had been so cleverly done that in spite of a pqwerful hand glass I was unable to detect any alteration.

He then showed me an old Australian stamp catalogued by the dealers when a perfect specimen at $£ 20$. This appeared in excellent preservation, and after c. carcful examination I pronounced it perfect. He then wetted it, when a fine line was observed rumning across its face. This, he explainea, was caused by its being joined, or pieced together from two damaged stamps cut into pieces to fit. The joins were so accurate as to be unoticeable until wetted.-Tit Bits.

Read the Standard Stamp Co's. Ad. on page 8.

## Varieties of Perforation.

Written for the Stamp Reporter.
The following is an abbreviated list of the methods that have been used for separating postage stamps.

1. Machine peforations, made by punching round holes out with a machine, and measured by the number of holes in space of two centimeters (see Great Britain, France, etc.)
2. Square perforations, like the machine but square holes instead of round.
3. Pin perforations, in which the holes are merely pricked in the paper and not, punched out, as in some of the older Antigua, Grenada, Natal, New Zealand, etc.
4. Rouletting, done by passing a roulet wheel over the paper which makes a succession of cuts as in the Prussian, Chili, Brazil, etc.
5. Serpentine perforation, is caused by cutting a wavy line into the paper so that the little projections on the edge of one stamp fit into the hollows of the other. When separated the stamps look as though they had been machine peforated but are without the holes when joined together.
6. In the Perce-en-arc, the perforations are similar to the serpentine but differ in the shape of the curve. They form a series of small curves concave on one edge and convex on the other.
7. In the Pere-en-points the edges form a series of regular triangular points.
8. Imperforate, that is, not perforated.
9. Susse, a term used when referring to certain French stamps of 1853-62 perforated unofficially by Susse Bros. of Paris in 1861. The perforations are large numbering but two to seven centimetres.
10. Compound perforation is when the perforation at the side of the stamp is of a different size than the top and bottom and viceversa.
11. Double, a stamp perporated with two rows of holes on one side. (See some U. S, stamps.)
12. Irregular, stamps perforated with dififerent sized holes.
13. Part Perforate, stamps not perforated on all sides.

## News in Brief.

A collector in Denver has his bathroom papered with stamps.

The division of China will likely bring forth some new stamps.

A Revenue Stamp Exhibition. will likely be held at the Collection Club in New York in the near future.

There is at present on the market a fluid soap which will remove dirt and grease from stamps, without removing the cancellation. It would be a very good thing to have about.

Teacher:-"For what is the province of Cashmere noted?"

Bright Youth:-"For its stamps being awful hard to get."

Wicks has some great bargains for you. See second page of cover.

## THE STAMP REPORTER.

Geo. Bradiny $\qquad$ Editor.
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## BRADLEY \& OSIVAID,

St. Catharines, Ont.

## Editorial.

In the December number of the "Philatelic Advocate" we noticed an article in the editorial column taken from the Wesley Era which explained how the controversy between the Halifax Philatelic Magazine and the Advocate was stopped by no less personage than the Hon. Wm. Mulock, Postmaster General. We think, Mr. Starnaman that this is too much of a boast on your part. Your paper, surely, is not so good that even the Postmaster Gencral has fallen in love with it. It is likely it would need a little stitching and better printing before that took place.

The editor would be pleased to receive for publication letters of interest to collectors from our readers.

Nebraska Notes.
Mr. S. W. Hacker of Auburn, Neb., was married recently. Mr.. Hacker is the honorary-president of the Nebraska Philatelic Society. We extend to him our congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. B. C. Smith is business manager of a stamp company recently organized in Beaver City, under the head of the Nebraska Stamp Co. We hope the company will succeed in every respect.

The Kid, Beaver City, has been given the office of official organ to the Nebraska Philatelic Society. Mr. Shephard, publish-er- of the Omaha Philatelic, resigned about three months ago.

The Nebraska collectors have secured room in the Nebraska building at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition to exhibit stamps.

## Special Postage Rates.

Mr. Mulock, Postmaster General, announced some time ago that it was his aim to reduce the postage rates. Lately he gave out that the rate, after Jan. 1st, 1898, to Great Britain would be three cents in place of five. However, when he communicated with the British Parliament they told him that by the Treaty of the Universal Postage Union he could not change the rate of postage without first obtaining the consent of all the nations named in the Treaty.

Dhar, a native Indian State, which has a population of 170,000 and an area of 1775 square miles, has issued a set of stamps.

## Forgeries.

Written for the Stamp Reporter.
Thanks to the concerted influence of all honest dealers, forgeries have practically become things of the past, yet there is still an immense deal of rubbish in the market, with which the young and inexperienced collector is deceived. Cenerally speaking, all colonial stamps of any value have been forged. (It is seldom, if ever, that stamps of no great value are forged.) In most cases. however, the imitations are very poor lithographs of the original fine engravings. Every collector should learn to tell a lithographed stamp from an engraved one, he will then be able to test four out of five forgeries that come in his way.

Another important point is the study of postmarks. Beware of obliteration, consisting of paralell bars, generally placed in one corner only; also of small black dots, as these, owing to their facility of execution, are favorites with the forges. All very light postmarks are suspicisos-especially faint ares bearing no letters. Collectors should try and find out what postmarks genuine stamps of a certain issue have.

## The Mulready Envelope.

Written for the Stamp Reporter.
The Mulready envelope was designed by W. Mulready, R. A., for Sir Rowland Hill, for postage

Buy your Yerfumes and, Gifts from WALKER THE DRUGGIST.

We deliver our goods to all parts of the city; a trial solicited. Mrs. Clarke's bakery, cor. Court and St. Paul Sts.
purposes, in April 1840. It represented "Brittannia" sending messengers to all parts' of the world with news. Before its issue to the public it was regarded very favorably by the Royal Academicians, to whom it was|first presented when assembled in council. The public howner received it with great disfavor, and it was mercilessly ridiculed by the papers, in conseynence of which it had to be withdrawn. The rejection was so complete as to necessitate the destruction of nearly all the vast number prepared for issue. A machine had to be constructed for the purpose, the attempt to do the work by fire in close stoves (fear of robbery forbade the use of open ones), having failed. There were two valnes, 1d. black and 2d. blue. Mulready was born in Emines, County Clarc, England, about 1786, and died July 7th, 1863; made R. A. February 1816.

The Homeworker for January arrived. The principle article is the 5th chapter of the story, "A Romance of Philately." We cannot tell much about this story because we did not see the first three chapters. The "Press Review" is very lengthy this month. Under this heading we notice a mistake in the name of a paper, but taken altogether the paper is very good.

[^0]As a Blood Maker, try Dr. Mack's Pills, 35c. a box. Warker the Druggist.

Did you read our prize contest on the front cover?

## PRESS REVIEW.

All magazines desiring to the roviewed mader this colman must sond inn copits to the publisher. and one to Wm. A. Nichoison, St. Catharines, Oht.

The Omaha Philatelist arrived as usual with its grood notes and articles.

The Evergreen Philatelist arrived with its usual good notes and articles.
$\qquad$
The January number of the Herald Exchange has all its usual letters and notes which makes it interesting reading.

The International Stamp is one of our latest exchanges. This month we received the November andDecember numbers. It is notbad but lacks reading matter.

We reviewed the Holiday number of the International Philatelist. It is indeed well worthy of mention. The articles are good, the principle being "Reprints" by "Rozeas."

We have received the "Plilatelic Bulletin" for December. 'The publishers have went to the cxperise of laving cuts made for the cover and first page, but they are amply repaid by the beauty added to their paper.

The Eastern Philatelist is a large journal well filled with good articles. The November number contains an article on "German Cancellation," "How to improve a collection of postage stamps," and Part II of Mr. Franklin Smith's trip abroad.

STAMP COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY.

Stamp publications and dealers will plase send sample copies and price-lists io the addresses below.
F. Healey, St. Catharines, Ont.
C. Williamson, St. Catharines, Ont.

1: Read (care R. O. Read), St. Catharines, Ont.
H. S ith, Box 992, St. Catharines, Ont.
H. :cwson, Lock Box 28, St. Catharines, Ont
Joe F. Beard, Muscatine, Iowa.
C. Crumpton, I44: King St., Toronto.
H. E. Deats, Flemington, N. J.
R. G. Widdicomb, St: Catharines, Ont.
B. Kergin, St. Catharints, Ont.

The Philatelic Literatnre is a new paper (to us) devoted to Philatelic Literature collecting. It is a very good one of its kinds and is published by Kirby \& Benton, of Tounton, Mass.

The Stamp Edition of the Kid, Beaver City, Neb., arrived the latter part of last month. With this number the paper begins as a stamp journal: It is the official organ of the Nebraska Philatelic Society.

The Advocate appeared this month with a neat cut on th. cover. It is a great improvement to the paper. The articles are all very good The "Inside history of the Advocate" made some startling revelations?

The January number of the Perforator has been receired. Mr. Chapman, we cannot help help congratulating you on the improvements of this last number of you paper. Your aim to be the best magazine in the $U$. S., will soon, if not already, be obtained.

## Local Items.

Stamp trade continues grood, according to the reports of our dealers.

Hamilton was chosen by a vote of 17 to 14 as the convention seat of the D. P. A. for 1898.

The new issue continues to arrive but slowly, the latest being the three-cent stamp. This is a pink in color.

Some collectors are laying in a stock of the old issue. The 1-2, 6,8 and 10 cent seem the most likely to become valuable.

Stamp collectors here must be getting anxious over the prices of Jubilee stamps, according to the number of questions asked.

Mr. R. G. Widdicombe has bought out the interest of the Ontario Philatelist, and expects to start publishing it about the 1st of March. He is at present getting out a price list of packets, etc.

The Postmaster-General has removed the restriction forbidding business men to print advertisements on the front of post cards. He thinks this will do much to advertise the country, and also to increase the postal revenue. The cards will be issued in sheets, where so desired, for the convenience of printing.

Walker's Lung Bafsam will cure your cough. Price 25 c .

Try our Homemade Bread. One trial will convince you that it is the best. Bakery cor. Court and St. Paul St.

## American Notes. <br> BY SMAMIPS.

The S.S. S. S. has put its ban on the Canadian Jubilee stamps.

Mr. Dodge seems to be trying to get control of philatelic magazines in the United States.

Messrs. Bradley\& Oswald must mean business for their Stamp Reporter is improving wonderfully.

I notice that the western Philatelists are talking secession! Wait a little. and don't be headstrong.

The 90 c orange, 1890 issue, is stili on sale at the Boston post office, and it is claimed by good authority that enough are on hand to last a year or more.

Unused orange special delivery stamps and almost any value of Columbians under 15 c . can be purchased at most of the small post offices in the south-eastern part of the United States.

It is said that the U. S. Post Office department will issue a set of stamps to commemmorate the trans-Mississippi Exposition. It seems to me that the S. S. S..S. should put its ban on these, as well as on the Canadian Jubilee stamps, at the reign of Queen Victoria is certainly more important than an exposition of a few weeks or months' duration.

A fine way to increase your collection with less than the usual cost is the following:-Say 10 collectors each wish a set of unused Nicaragua, 1869 issue. This set sells at 25 c at retail, but at wholysale about $\$ 1.50$ per 10. Det these 10 collectors each put in 15 c . and order the 10 sets in tee name of one of the collectors. By doing this each collector saves 40 per cent.

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| 700 | do | dc | 10 C |
| Soc | do | do | oSc |
| Ioc | Canada Law s | surcharged | FF....OIC |
| 200 | do | do | .02c |
| 300 | do | do | . . 022 c |
| 40 C | do | do | CF....18c |
| 50 c | do | do | FF....03C |
| 600 | do | do | ... 07c |
| \$1.00 | - do | do | . . ose |
| 30 C | do | do | CF....04C |
|  | Canada | A Register |  |

2c Red............................................
sc Green ................................... .o2c
Postage Stamp Snaps.
2c Rose, Hawaii ris82.................... ore
ic Green Hawaii iS83. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . or 3c Newfoundland.... .....................02c 50: Netherland (man's head)..........02c For every nurchase of 50 c . or over we will send this paper free for one year.
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