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VOL. 1.

AUGUST, 1897.

NO. 1.



THE STAMP REPORTER.



A Monthly Magazine
published in the interests
of Stamp Collectors.



BRADLEY & OSWALD,

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ONTARIO, CANADA.

The Stamp Reporter

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. 1.

AUGUST, 1897.

No. 1

FOOLED THEM NICELY.

Shark's Attempt to Corner Jubilee Stamps Frustrated.

Ottawa—There is considerable dissatisfaction in many quarters throughout the Dominion with the Post Office Department in regard to the issue of Jubilee stamps, and the public are entitled to know just how the matter stands. It was at once apparent when the Postmaster-General made his announcement in parliament of the number to be issued that there would be a run on the half-cent and six-cent stamps, only seventy-five thousand of the latter and a hundred and fifty thousand of the former being authorized, as against twenty million threes and eight million ones. For a fortnight before June 19, the date set for the placing on sale of the Jubilee stamps, attempts were made in all parts of the Dominion to corner the halves and sixes, because if certain parties could buy up these they would very soon have the control of the market. Postmasters in small places were used by speculators to send requests to Ottawa for several hundred half-cent stamps, and on June 19 telegraphic orders of this sort were received from the postmasters of various small hamlets in remote districts, showing that a

regular plan had been adopted and that some person, with others acting as agents in these various places, was manœuvring to corner the half-cent stamps. As the postmasters, who innocently enough, no doubt, acted for these speculators never handled a half-cent stamp in the course of a year their requisitions were not complied with here, so that little game did not work as its promoters anticipated. In the larger towns and cities there was an enormous demand for the Jubilee stamps during the first hour they were on sale and many postmasters gave four half-cent stamps with one complete set which they afterwards reduced to two, and finally, on noticing the urgency of the purchaser for that particular denomination, reduced to one. This will partly explain the disappearance of a large number of these half-cent stamps. Finally the Postmaster-General decided that the tendency to exhaust the halves and sixes had increased to such a degree that it became necessary to restrict their sale to the purchasers of full sets, and consequently there cannot now be obtained any of the halves or sixes except with the full sets, which cost \$16.21½ each. The run on the sixes, although it did not

start as early as that upon the halves, commenced very soon after and the two were bracketed together.

Now here is where the trouble comes in. Vendors and others had been receiving orders for these halves and sixes from the stamp sharks who were taking steps in every direction and are still doing it, to corner the market for Jubilee stamps. For fifteen hundred dollars every half cent stamp issued could be purchased, and then the sharks who held them would have at their mercy every person in Canada, the United States and England and other countries who desired to possess complete sets for ordinary purposes as souvenirs. The Post Office Department here is flooded with applications from every direction for the halves and sixes, and if these applications were complied with it would shortly become impossible to fill an order for a complete set. Now the department is receiving as many as two hundred orders a day for complete sets of stamps, and these orders are being filled and sent to the various postmasters applying. Similar orders are coming in from various parts of the United States and England, and the orders from England will be vastly increased as soon as it becomes generally known over there that these stamps are on sale.

The fact of the matter is that the department at Ottawa is standing between the public and the stamp shark. The persons who have any reason to feel aggrieved at the refusal to sell halves and sixes apart from the complete sets are those selfish speculators who desire to corner the market and afterwards hold up

the general public throughout the world and compel them to pay exorbitant prices for a half or a six cent stamp necessary to complete a set. If a person either in Canada or in Europe had a set which was complete with the exception of two stamps of the face value of six and a half cents was compelled to pay ten, fifteen or twenty dollars for each of these two, the reputation of the postal department of Canada would suffer greatly, and there is no reason why the department should supply speculators to the exclusion of those who wish complete sets, because it is from the complete sets that the public revenue will be most benefited. At the present moment, therefore, the value of a half cent Jubilee stamp is \$16.21½. A great many persons wish to secure what they call sets up to a dollar, which would give them all except five for less than a dollar and a quarter, or, including the one dollar denomination, for less than two dollars and a quarter. All these requests have to be refused, because there is no such thing as a set stopping at one dollar. All sets include stamps of the value of two, three, four and five dollars.

Fault has been found with the department for issuing only a hundred and fifty thousand half cent stamps and only seventy-five thousand six cent stamps, but it will be found on examining the figures in the last blue book that a hundred and fifty thousand half cent stamps is quite as large a number in proportion to the annual consumption as twenty million three cent stamps. The supply of Jubilee stamps being

based on the calculation for three months or less and the consumption for three cent stamps for the year just closed being about ninety million, it will be seen that one-fourth of that, or a three months' supply, would warrant an issue of threes over twenty million, whereas only twenty million are to be issued. The same is true with respect to the six cent stamp, the annual consumption of which in 1896 was only three hundred and seventy-two thousand.

The Jubilee stamps are not issued to enable speculators and sharks to enrich themselves. Whatever profit is to be made ought to be made by the department for the public. There is an official authority for the statement that there is a sufficient number of half cent stamps and six cent stamps to supply all the legitimate demand in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and foreign countries for complete sets. There is a general impression that all the Jubilee stamps have been issued, but this is wholly erroneous. It is safe to say that probably nearly one-half of the halves and sixes, as well as of the others, are still in the hands of the engraver or the department at Ottawa, and the general public need not, therefore, be afraid that they will be unable to obtain the stamps they require. Every care is being taken for this purpose, and any dissatisfaction will in the end be found to be confined to those speculators who richly merit the name of stamp sharks, who are prepared to go to any lengths for the purpose of exacting tribute from the general public both in Canada and abroad.

What is Gained by Collecting.

One who has never seen a collection of nice, clean stamps, cannot have the least conception of how beautiful such a collection can be. There is nothing more beautiful, or more interesting; nor is there anything which will impart as much valuable information in one evening spent with it, as a good general collection of stamps. You will learn more regarding the history and geography of the different countries, of the world; more about the rulers and prominent men of these countries, from earliest time up to the present time, in one evening spent with your collection, as I have said, than you would learn as a member of a General History class in one month. This is a fact, and for this reason, if for no other, older people should enter the ranks and make collections. There are many other reasons, however, why, if they do start to collecting, they will remain collectors always, and not the least is the fact that nothing gives more pleasure or recreation, than this now world-wide and universal hobby. Nor are the emoluments to be "sneezed at." If one is careful, and exercises good judgment in the selection of his specimens, there is no reason why he should not double the money invested every year, for stamps, the better grades, especially, keep increasing in value and price very rapidly. And they will continue to do so, for the reason that wealthy people are joining the ranks, more and more of them, every year. These people do not care what a stamp costs, if they want it, they will have it.

THE STAMP REPORTER

SUBSCRIPTIONS :

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To Foreign Countries, "..... 35c.

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Payable in advance. Back numbers 5 cents each.

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½ column, 1 insertion..... 1 00
1 column, 1 insertion..... 1 75
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All copies must reach us before the 25th of the month to secure insertion.

Address all communications relative to the above to

G. BRADLEY,
13 Centre Street, St. Catharines, Ont.

With this number we make our first appearance before the public. We hope to receive, by subscriptions and advertisements, the hearty support of the people taking an interest in stamps.

Through the columns of our paper we will try to make known all the latest news regarding the buying or selling of stamps.

Our paper is not one of the largest of its kind, but it must be remembered that everything must have a beginning. If we make a success of it, which no doubt we will, the size, etc., of the paper will be largely increased.

In a few months we expect to offer good sets of stamps as premiums for new subscribers, and also for articles written for our paper.

We will be glad to receive articles for publication from any of our readers. We give every person the privilege to do so. When you are writing, take pains with what you do, and in the end you will profit. By writing to the magazine and securing publication for your articles you will pave the way for your articles being accepted by larger and older papers. After writing one piece and having it published do not become careless in the next, because your article was published does not secure publication for your next.

With regard to any points about stamps you must write to our advertisers, as we do not make that a part of our business. We are in the business of buying and selling stamps, therefore we cannot answer correspondence on them.

When you receive this paper we hope you will show it to your friends and try to obtain for us as many new subscribers which we will be sure not to let pass unnoticed.

We have received one of the Retail Price Lists of the Standard Stamp Co., and would advise intending purchasers to write for one.

The prices have been lowered considerable, especially in the United States Stamps. Some of their packets are very fine for agents to make large profits on.

More than 50,000 stamp albums are sold annually in the United States.

Zanzibar has a new registration stamp. The denomination is 2 annas.

The total value of the Hawaiian stamps burned at Honolulu, recently, was \$100,000.

Congo Free State has some new stamps. They are handsome, and represent Africa scenery, etc.

A pair of 1d. red on half of 6d. green, St. Vincent, sold for \$100 at one of the recent auction sales in New York.

The stamps of Great Britain and her colonies are, as a rule, handsome. This is the reason they are so popular.

A United States collector has a room in his house papered with postage stamps of Honduras. It took 30,000 stamps to cover the walls.

Norway, Sweden and Denmark stamps are now booming. The prices of these stamps, which have laid dormant for years, will now take a journey skyward.

It has leaked out that the price paid for the Nova Scotia remainders which caused such a stir-up in philatelic circles not long since was \$18,000.

The color of the 10-centimes Brussels Exposition stamp has been changed to lilac. It was thought this color would bring out the design better.

A one-shilling scarlet-vermilion stamp of Newfoundland sold at a recent auction sale in Boston for \$170. Times are hard, true, but

even so, good stamps will bring good prices.

Uruguay has a stamp with inverted center. It is the 25 centavos value.

Funchal, Madeira, has a new series of stamps consisting of fourteen values of the adhesive, two envelopes and six postal cards,

In the upper corners of the first issues of Egypt are the letters "P. E." These are the initials of "Piastra Egiziana," which means Egyptian Piastres.

In an inside square, on the stamps of Bergedorf are the letters, "L. H. P. A." These stand for "Lubeck-Hamburger Post-Amt," which means, Lubeck-Hamburg Post-Office.

You will notice in the upper portion of the first stamps of Greece, the abbreviation "Ell Gramm," meaning Ellnikon Grammatosemon," "Greek for Postage."

New York City has a company which insures stamp collections against destruction by fire. Many collectors have their collections insured, and a majority of the dealers have their stocks insured.

The first stamp ever surcharged, and used for postage in that condition is the 2c. carmine of the 1885 issue of Cuba. This stamp was surcharged "Y 1-4," and was intended for use in the city of Havana.

In a lot of common revenue stamps, which a young Chicago collector bought for a few cents, recently, was a 1-cent black and green proprietary with inverted medallion. This stamp catalogues at \$12.

There are two dies of the current 5c. envelope of Ceylon.

The Columbian set complete is now being sold at \$20. A year ago it brought \$27 to \$28. It pays to wait, sometimes.

The Gambia 4d. brown, CC watermark, perforated, unused, is the popular stamp in England at the present time.

Three years ago the market price of the Justice Department stamp was \$4. Now it is \$60. When the price was \$4 many collectors hesitated to buy, deeming it too high.

There is perhaps no other country in the world where the people are so generally interested in stamp collecting as in the Hawaiian Islands. Nearly every one there collects stamps.

The fact that 1,200 stamps sold at an auction for the sum of \$11,000, in New York recently, does not indicate any falling off in the value of rare stamps. This is an average of nearly \$10 per stamp.

A bureau for collecting debts and ascertaining the reliability of collectors has recently been established in England. We have had one in this country for some time, located at Detroit, Michigan.

A Western Collector possesses a block of eight 12-cent, 1885 issue, United States, unused. This stamp catalogues at \$25, so the collector in question has something valuable, and of which he may well feel proud.

A collector, who got an opportunity to look over 10,000 letters, written between 1846 and 1860, found only one stamp of any value

—a 5-cent Franklin. That's the way it goes: sometimes you strike it, and sometimes you don't.

If it is reported that the colors of the 50-centimes, 1 franc and 2-franc stamps of Belgium are to be changed.

China entered the Postal Union February 2nd, and issued a set of stamps on that day—provisional, made by surcharging the series already in use. It consists of eight values. The local post-offices closed February 2nd.

The stamps of the Scandinavian countries, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, are having a boom in Europe. The boom is extending to this country, and prices are rising. Next year's catalogue will see these stamps away up yonder.

A 20-cent St. Louis Postmasters' Provisional, badly cut—small portions being missing—brought \$300 in an auction sale in New York recently. A 10-cent, do., brought \$131, and a 5-cent, \$175. Good stamps will always find buyers at good prices.

The 1 lire stamp of Modena has the initial "A" as a watermark. This is the initial of the manufacturer of the paper, his name being Amici. Some of the stamps of this country bear the letters "B. G.," which means "Bollo Gazette"—newspaper stamps.

Occasionally a Department stamp is found bearing as a cancellation mark a mule kicking up its hind legs. This does not increase the value of the specimen, but it gives the stamp such an odd look that one would naturally wish to preserve it, as a curiosity.

There is an error of surcharge on some of the 1889 issue stamps of Costa Rica. The word "Guanacaste" is misspelled, "Guagacaste."

If you get hold of the 2-shilling or 5-shilling stamps of Jamaica, with the CC watermark, keep them, as these stamps are now printed on paper with CA watermark.

The number in the lower left corner of the postcards of France indicates the week and year of issue. The first figure is the last figure of the year, and the next two figures tell which week in the year.

The watermark "CC" on stamps of Great Britain and colonies, stands for "Crown Colonies," and the watermark "CA" stands for "Crown Agents."

As a result of the burning of the Hawaiian stamps, and of the Chinese government taking charge of the postal service of the Chinese Empire, and prohibiting the further issuance of local stamps, the Hawaiian stamps and Chinese locals are experiencing something of a boom.

For Stamp Collectors.

The stamp auction season will open early this year, and will, as usual, afford good opportunities for buying and selling rare stamps. Amateurs desirous of buying anywhere from ten to a hundred dollars will find it to their advantage to get their names on the auctioneers' books.

The latest counterfeit for collectors to be on the lookout for is an excellent imitation of a five-

cent, figure in fancy border, Hawaii. These are known as the Missionary stamps, and are very valuable. The plan adopted in selling is to state that 'they found them on some old papers, and while they believe them to be very valuable, they do not know how much they are worth.' An offer of fifty or a hundred dollars by the victim is accepted, to his great joy, which is quickly turned to sorrow when he finds out how badly he has been victimized by his own stupidity.

The great conundrum in the stamp world is, 'What has become of the Jubilee half-cent stamps of Canada?' One hundred and fifty thousand were printed, twenty-five thousand were saved for complete sets, leaving a hundred and twenty-five thousand to be sold singly. So far the largest number known to have been sold to any one person is ten. I have been at considerable trouble and expense to discover the whereabouts of the remainder. I have written to a hundred postmasters of large towns, and every one has informed me that none were issued to their office except in sets. Their letters bear every evidence of truth and I fully believe them. Small numbers, a few thousand stamps, were issued to Montreal, Quebec, St. John, and other large cities. This would leave fully a hundred thousand unaccounted for. Who has them? They may have been secured without notoriety, but they cannot be sold the same way.—'Harper's Round Table.'

Please mention THE STAMP REPORTER when answering ads.

To Advertisers.

After September issue we intend to raise our advertising rates. The present are very low, and were made especially for the first two issues. If you intend to advertise, send in your copy at once and save money.

We will offer, to our readers, advertising space for new subscribers.

For a club of five new subscribers we will give 1 inch space; for a club of ten new subscribers we will give 2 inches space; for a club of fifteen new subscribers we will give $\frac{1}{2}$ a column space; for a club of twenty-five subscribers we will give 1 column space; for a club of forty new subscribers we will give 1 page space.

All advertisements are of one month standing.

Any person sending us the largest number of new subscribers before October 1st, we give a packet containing 1,000 finely assorted Stamps. This packet we will make up especially for this purpose. Let us know when you send us in new subscribers if you wish to enter the competition so that we may make record of the number of subscriptions you send us. Next month we will publish what prizes we will give to those who send in nearly the same number as the first person.

Any firm wishing to secure agents in this place would do well to write to us for information.

Any person wishing to purchase rare Canadian or U. S. Stamps will do well to write to Wm. R. Adams for his price list. We have received one and would recommend it to intending purchasers.

WANTED—Canadian Revenue Stamps and Postage Stamps of Norway and Sweden. Send full description and list, and also price wanted by lots of from 25 to 100. Address, W. A. NICHOLSON, St. Catharines, Ont.

PACKETS—Send 6c. and get one of my Packets containing 100 Mixed Stamps (post paid). Address, Box 98, St. Catharines, Ont.

BILL STAMPS—I have several hundred Canadian Bill Stamps which I will sell cheap, either in small lots or the whole in bulk. Make me an offer. Address, J. H. HOREY, Box 70, Merriton, Ont.

Canadian Jubilee Issue.

Complete 17 Varieties Unused— $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to \$5, for \$13.00 money order. Jubilee Plate Numbers—Pairs (1c.) No. 5, 30c.; No. 6, 25c.; No. 15, 30c.; No. 16, 30c.; (2c.) No. 7, 50c.; No. 8, 40c.; (3c.) No. 3, 30c.; No. 13, 40c.; No. 23, 25c. Post free. GEO. E. DAVENPORT, 70 Melbourne Avenue, Toronto, Ont.

CANADA JUBILEE.

Canada Jubilee, 17 varieties	\$17 25
Newfoundland Jubilee, 14 varieties	4 00
15 Canada Revenues	10
Adams' Canada Revenue Catalogue	10
Newfoundland 6p lake	60
Newfoundland, 5 varieties, old	7
Newfoundland, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 3, 5, old, unused	15
U. S. Postage, 15 varieties	5
Canada, including Rev., 23 varieties	15
New Brunswick, 3 varieties	13
South African, 6 varieties	10
50 different Stamps	10
100 different Stamps	20

I buy all kinds of Stamps. Want Canada Jubilee $\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 cent, and other values.

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