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## CANADIAN

## Philatelic = Magazine.

VOL. 111.
APRIL, 1896.
No. 2.

## Rare Postage Stamps at Low Prices.

Important to Collectors-Goon Specimens-unless otherwise mentioned.

CANADA PROVINCES.

| 1860 | Nova Scotia. sic green | : 900 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | loc red | 1.8) |
|  | \%e Whr. | :is |
| 1851 | New Bramswick. did yellow, trim |  |
|  |  | 17 100 1010 |
|  | Same trimmed 2 sides . . . . . . . . . . . . . | \%.) |
| - | le red lilac. | 10 |
|  | 170 black.i... | \%1) |
|  | 10c vermilion | (0) |
| 1861 | Prinee Edward Island, 3d bhe | $4(x)$ |
| ${ }^{182} \mathbf{i}$ i | - ld bur | 125 |
|  | Od rose. | 11 |
| $18: 7$ | Newfoumdinud, Gidearlet green.. | 7. |
|  | Newfoumdand, wid scarlct-vermilion | 18 (0) |
|  | CANADA. |  |
| 1851 | 3d red, laid jater | 75 |
| 1859 | 6d violet ......... | $5{ }^{51}$ |
| 1857 | zd pink, nice margins, solled. | 175 |
| 1858 | Sd red. perf, food cons, torn . . . . . . | $\bigcirc$ |
|  | $7{ }^{\text {d }}$ pink, perf | 6 (1) |
| 1859 | 10c violet... | 11 |
|  | 10c red lilac | 45 |
|  | yc. jink... | 75 |
|  | 12'e.green. | 30 |
| 1868 | ${ }^{3} \mathrm{C}, 1 \mathrm{lc}, 2 \mathrm{c}, 3 \mathrm{c}, \mathrm{6c}$, 122c, 15c | 73 |
|  | 3e laid jxper . . . . . . . . . | 8 ( $\chi^{\prime \prime}$ |
|  | sc wink | 4 |
|  | 10 wnk on oris cerer | 17.5 |

UNITED STATES.


## CaNADIAN PHELATBLIC MAGA童INE.

## A TRADE WINNER.

See if you can do without these snaps. It is the busy season now and we want more custom. Everything in stock and much not advertised. Fine stock of Canada revemues at big discounts. On undermentioned guods termas are cosh with order, money cheerfully refunded in case sold. We also buy.


## tre Canadian Philatelic Magazine.

VOL. III.
APRIL, 1846.
No. 2.

## THE STAMPS OF NATAL.

By C. E. Lawion.

1
HAVE experienced great difficulty in gathering information regarding the stamps of Natal, as I found that very few papers had preceded mine and there were few authorities to refer. I bave, nevertheless, done my best to give a detailed description of the prstage stamps from the first to the last issues.

Before describing the various issues 1 wish to point out a few facts in connec. tion with the early postal days of Natal, and the prugress that has been made in the method of dealing with and convey. ing the mails from the first mail service to the present day.

About 1850 , prior to the use of postage stamps the only iwn towns of Natal were Pletermaritzburg and Durban. The population of both being small, there was very little correspondence and on the arrival of a salling vessel from England with the mails, which only took place once in about three or four months, the Postmaster at Durban, whose name was known in early days as "Indigo Wilson," took over the mails and despatched the Mantzburg portion from Durban by native carriers. There were three changes along the road. The first carrier would convey the mails to a stopping place about twenty miles distant, and hand the misil over to a second carrier who would convey them to a second stopping about the same distance off, gnd tratisfer to : 2
third native, who delivered them at their destination; the whole journey being covered within twenty-four hours.

The sailing vessels on leaving would take a return mail with them, occasionally touching at India or Mauritius for trading purposes; consequently, it was often from nine to twelve months before a reply was received from England. See what a great change has taken place with. in the last forty years, for instead of only receiving letters once in every three or four months, a mail is received and despatched regularly every week The letters between Pietermaritzburg and Durban were forwarded by native carriers in the same way as the foreign letters.

This method of conveying marls continued for a number of years, until a person of the name of John Welch started a postcart, since when the mail service has gradually become more regular At first these postcarts I believe ran but once a week, but as the population at both these towns increased, the postcarts ran every day from each town and continued to do so until 1880 , when a railway was constructed.

Since the completion of this railway the postal department has greatly improved and at the present tume three mails are delivered daily at boih Pietermaritzburg and Durban, as well as a mail in every place'at Natal.

I will now turn back and point out the method by which letters intended for delivery from one place to another were paid for before the use of postagestamps.

The l'ostmaster on receipt of all letters for transmission, to signify that the postage on these had been paid, would stamp the word "PREPAID" in bold letters, within an oblong frame on the envelope, and in no case would a letter be accepted by him unless the full postage was paid. The rate, I believe, was 8d. per $1 / 2 \mathrm{oz}$., whereas now it is Id. per $1 / 20$ oz. throughout Natal.

As time went on it became necessary to use postage stamps, consequently the Natal (iovernment ordered a die, and on the ist of June, 1857, the first issue of postage stamps was circulated at Pietermaritsburg and a supply. sent to Durban, these being the only two towns near the Post Offices. The stamps printed in the former town by Messrs. P. Davis and Sons, and took the form of embossed stamps on coloured paper, resembling blotting paper. The design is: "Natal" above, underneath which is a "Crown" with " $V$ " and " $R$ " on either side of it, value below, a border enclosing the design.

Of the first issue there were four values, 3d. embossed on rose paper, 6d. on green, 9 d . on dark blue, and rs. on buff.

Among the 3 d value there are a variety of shades, due 1 beliepe to exposure, or to having been immersed in water, there having been used in the printing but one shade of paper.

Of the four values, the gd blue is by far the rarest, and it is well-nigh impossibie to get a complete set.
The following year-1858-it became necessary for a lower value stamp to be used, and the id was issued, similiar in design to the other values but a much smaller stamp, with :fancy framework. This stamp was printed on three different colored papers-blue, pink and buff, the first named being the rarest. At same time the id fiscal printed from the same die as the id of the postal issue, was used for postal purposes. It is perforated and
yellow face on white wove paper.
These embossed stamps were in use for about three years. A large number have been reprinted by the Government, who are still in possession of the dies. The last reprinting took place in 1892 , and these reprints are very deceptive, having been printed on similar paper to the original. The previous reprints are more easily detected, being very clear specimens and the paper, although of the same shades, rather thicker and slightly glazed.

In 1860 design was entirely changed to "Queen's Head." From this issue until the present time, all the stamps have been printed in England.

The design is: "Inscription above, value in words below, "Queen's Head" slightly to the right in the centre. The values issued in this year were id carmine aud 3d blue, both imperforate, wimk star, the latter being a great rarity.

In the same year they were perforated.
In 1862 the id in both carmine affl rose, 3 d blue and the 6 d gray perforated, but unwmk, were issued.

In 1864 the color of the 6 d was altered from gray to lilac, and the id carmine and 6d lilac with wmk Crown and CC; perf $12 \frac{1}{2}$, also appeared.

The same year a higher value was issued-the is green, This was perf 14 and wmk Crown and CC. The design differs. from the lower values, being "Queen's statute Head" to left in an oval, the.inscription above and value below in semi-circles.

In 1869 the $1 d, 3 d$ and 60 and is of the previons issue were all surcharsed with the word." Postage" in ialic across the rentre of the stamp, the Government: finding this surcharge necessary 10 distinguish the accounts of the postal from the revenue departments." The length bf" the surcharge is 12 mm , the wink remainis ing Crown and CC. The is of this issue is very rare. There are also two other issues of this surcharge, the length in one
case 13 mm and in the other 14 mm .
In the same year the 1864 issues were again. surcharged "Postage," first in Roman letters with full stop after the surcharge, and then in tall capitals. In both cases the surcharge measures 12 mm . The is green with the later surcharge is even rarer than with the earlier surcharge. Towards the end of the year the id carmine, 3 d blue and 6 d lilac were surcharged " Postage" on both sides of the stamp, reading on the left side upwares and on the right side downwards. The id and 6d were both surcharged in black. while the 3d, which for this issue only is ultramarine instead of blue, was surcharged in red.

In 1870 the is green of 1867 was surcharged " Postage" in a semi-circle, just below the head, in three colors-green, red and black. In 1873 the fiscal is lilac which is of the same design as the is green of 1866, was surcharged "Postage" in black, without full stop, vertically up the centre of the stamp, reading upwards. This stamp was also used postally without the surcharge.

In 1874 the Id rose of 1859 was surcharged " Postage" in Roman letters on either side of the stamp, similar to 1869 issue.

In the same year an alteration in the lype of the stamps took place, the new lype being "Queen's Statute Head" to left with "Natal Postage" above and value below. There were three values of this new type issued-Id rose, 3d blue and $6 d$ violet, which were all womk Crown and CC and perf 14.

Towards the end of 1874 a 55 stamp was issued, red-violet, wmk and perf as the other values of this issue.

In 1875 the id carmine of 1859 was again brought into use, with the word " Postage" surcharged across the stamp, the type surcharge being similar to the type of 1869 down the sides.

This surcharye, however, is smaller.
In 1876 the fiscal id yellow and 6 d rose Queen's Head issues were surcharged
" Postage in black, as the supply of these two values of the 1874 issue ran short. These were also used postally without the surcharge.

In the same year the id carmine, 6 d lilac and is green issues of 1867, were again brought into use surcharged with "Postage" in Roman letters, in black as in 1869, but this issue has a full stop after the surcharge the length of the surcharge being 14 mm .

In 1877 when the use of $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ stamps became necessary the id rose of 1871 was surcharged "Haif" and " $1 / 2$ " in black, one above the other.

There are two sizes of figures.
Through using the id for the provisional $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ the postal department ran short of Id stamps, and while waiting for another supply the fiscal id was surcharged in black "Postage" across the top, the original value cancelled by three bars, the outside lines being thin while the centre one was very thick. I have seen a variety of this issue in which the last row of the sheet is unsurcharged.

The fiscal 6 d violet was also surcharged in a similar way to the fiscal id yellow, but being "One Penny" instead of " Half-penny."

In 1878 another value was issued, the 4 d brown, wmk Crown and CC, and perf 14 , at the same time another issue of the $5 s$ red-violet took place with the perfs guaging 15 by $151 / 2 \mathrm{~mm}$, while later on in the same year the former was perf $121 / 2$ instead of 14 mm .

In 1879 the fiscal 6 d rose was surcharged " Postage, One Penny" in black similar to the 6d fiscal of 1877.

In 1880 the new $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ stamps were circulated, the type being " Queen's Statute Head" to left, with "Natal Postage" above and "One Half penny" below. They were wmk Crown and CC, perf 14.

Since 1884 all the lower values have been perf 14 and wmk Crown and CA, and in the same year a new issue of the following values with the alteration in the wmk, took place, namely:-1/2d gern,
among which were a few $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ blue, id lose, 3 d blue, $4 d$ brown, and $6 d$ mauve. The designs on each being as previously issued.

In 1885 the $1 / 2 d$ green ran short and Id rose was provisionally surcharged "One-Half-penny" in black in two lines and the original value cancelled by a single bar.

In the same year the rate for colonial postage was reduced to 2 d , and prior to receiving a supply of $2 d$ stamps, the 3d, which for this provisional issue was pearl grey, was surcharged "TWO PENCE" with a bar below. There are two lengths of bars, some being longer and others shorter than the surcharge.

In 1887 a supply of $2 d$ stamps came to hand the color being olive green. These stamps are in issue at the present time.

The next year-1888-the color of the is was changed to orange and surcharged "Postage" in red in a semi-circle under the head. There is a sniall variety of the surcharge in which the $P$ of Postage is broken and very much resembles an F In 1891, on Natal joining the Postal Union, the rate for foreign postage was reduced from $4 d$. to $2 \frac{1}{2} d$ per half oz, and while waiting for a supply of the new value the $4 d$ brown was surcharged "TWO PENCE HALFPENNY" in black in two lines. These provisionals were only in issue a few months.

In the surcharge a few errors occur, "TWOPENCE HALFPENN" without the "Y," "TWOPENGE" with inverted surcharges, and I have also seen a strip of three stamps with the top and botom stamp only surcharged once while the centre one has a double surcharge.

Towards the end of 1891 the regular issue came to hand, being "Queen's Head" in centre to left, inscription round and value in figures, $21 / 2$ below, color blue on white paper, watermark Crown and $C$ A, perf 14 .

In 1895 the supply of $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ stamps ran short and to meet the demand the Government made use of the remainders of
the 6d mauve fiscals and surcharged them in red "Postage" at the top and "Hals Penny" below, the original value being cancelled by a bar. A few varieties also occur in this type, such as broken types, the most important being broken $H$ resembling an $F$ and reading "Falf Penny" and broken $Y$ resembling $V$. These two varieties have been erroneously chronicled in many journals as errors.

On account of the small quantity surcharged and the unprecedented demand, the supply was soon exhausted. A few days later a second surcharge "HALF" on Id rose was issued, which was in circulation for a few weeks before the regular supply came to hand.

On the 16 th of warch $1 / 2 d$ stamps were unobtainable, and in order to meet the demand the government issued a proclamation authorizing postmasters to frank cnvelopes "Halfpenmy Paid," to denote the prepayment of postage. It is estimated that throughout Natal about 3,000 envelopes were franked in this manner.
The above article recently appeared in the South African Philatelist.

## COUNTERFEITS OF CANADA. NOVA SCOTIA.

THE two counterfeits of this Province in pence issues are looked upon as very dangerous forgeries. In the case of the id, the apex of the diamond-shaped centre should be nearer the $O$ than the $V$ of "Nova." In the fake it is at an exactly equal distance from either. In the original the Queen's eyebrows are very faintly visible; in the forgery they are distinctly marked. No other defects are noticed in this part of the stamp, while the beautiful engraving around diamond is skilfully copied. The words "One Penny" are slightly too far apart, and both the N's in the later wordare precisely similar, which is incorrest, as the latter one should be slightly more massive than the first. In other respects the forgery
is a very clever imitation ' of' a hạndsome stamp.

In the case of the $6 d$ the paper is of a coarser texture than that of the genuine stamps, and has a rough feel to it when your finger is passing over it ; it is, moreover, of a peculiar shade of blue, entirely different from any, we have seen in the genuine.

The color is a dark yellow-green, about half way between the light yellow-green of the early issues and the deep bluishgreen of the late issue ; this color also is not matched by any genuine specimens yet seen.

The design is very faithfully imitated, although the stamp is lithographed, while the genuine are engrayed. This gives a coarser appearance to the whole stamp.

It is so good an imitation that the aid of a glass is required, and, even with that aid, a very close examination in order to accurately note, the differences. The easiest test is that of a comparison of the figures " 6 " which appear four times on the stamp. This can be determined by the naked eye, as in the imitation the figures are.of a different shape and are less heavy than in the genuine. The eight points of the four stars enclosing the heraldic flowers are more irregularly shaped and differ entirely in all minute details. The shading at the upper part of the inside of the crown also differs. In genuine this shading is somewhat broken at the top, while in the forgery it is very regular. The stem of the rose at the top of the stamp in the, genuine comes well down in the lower point of the star and inclines a triflet to the right. In forgery, it ends about half way down the point and inclines to the left.

The white curved line surrounding the central design has a line of collor following it on, the outside and inside the genuine. The forgery presents no such line's the outsidej fand on the inside it is very faint. The difference in thistline ind in the four
figures are the best tests discovered, as they are visible to the naked eye.
J. B. Simpson.

## LONDON CITY CLUB.

The ninth meeting of the season was held at Keenan's Hotel, when a very instructive lecture was given by' Mr. Wall on the Tintometer and'Spectrum Analysis followed by an interesting and descriptive magic lantern display of forgeries and varieties of English and Colonial Stamps by the Vice-President, Mr. H. Hilkes.
At the next meeting a discussion will be held on "English Stamps Used Abroad," under the following headings (a) Under what conditions were these stamps issued by the General Post Office in London to the various foreign countries, towns, etc.? (b) Is there any difference, from a philatelic point of view, between an English stamp used and postmarked at Malta, and one used and poṣtmarked Manchester ?

## NOTELETS.

A. new 2 shilling stamp was issued for Victoria, color yellow-green, bit owing to the similarity between it and the gd in color, it was withdrawn and now appears in dark green. The rd card' of this colony has been surcharged 2 d .

There are many forged Japanese on the market just now, both new and used.

The Greekstamps that were'printed in Paris can be recognized by the shading on the cheek. It is much lighter than on the ordinary issues.

The, 6d Sierra'Leone is now printéd in red violet instead of violet brown.
. 1 Barbadoes' 5 shilling stamp are now all - sold, änd no more will be re-issued.

As soon as the present $i, 2$ and 5 shillin'g of Jamaica are used, up, a new issue is to appear on CA paper. Revenue issues are now receivable for postage, and has brought out many $3 \mathrm{~d}, 3$ 3/2d and 10 sh. stàmps that were scarce.

- CANADIAN -


## Philatelic Magazine.

iWM. R. ADAMS, - - Editor. Office:

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## Advertising Rates

One inch, per month. 50 cents. Half Column, \$1:30; Page, \$5.00.
All advertisements in advance. $10 \%$ - on yearly contracts allowed.

Owing to the absence from town of ""Jep" we are tunable to present our - readers with the continuation of his articlè. Next month we hope to present ve portrait of Captain E. F. Wurtele, of , Quebec.

Still growing is the D.P.A., and were each member to pursuade another to join next month, the membership would be climbing to the half century mork. Why not join? Ask your friends.

Recently the President of the American Bank Note Co.stated that they had done no work in the stamp line for the Government since 1836.

The Montreal Stamp Collector's Club announce ,their first auction sale on the 23 red inst.

In recent issues of the Weekly Era and. Bay State Philatelist appeared short notices in regard to advertising results. We belleve there is not as much buying done now from ads as formerly-take, even a year ago or less. People prefer to buy on approval or personally from a dealer more than formerly. Those dealers, who advertise either what they have not or send poor specimens, are injuuing their own business interests as well as lowering the value öf philatelic àdvertising. An adv nowadays does more to'show what is in stock and thus gain more customers.

As to the results from ads they are most fickle; were we fully expect good returns none come, and again it is the reverse. We once had an ad running in a small paper (now dead) in the United States and the way results were realized on that expenditure of 1.50 per month for a $\frac{1}{4}$ page was amazing while prominent publications realized nil. The best way to advertise is to do it continuous-ly-and it is bound to pay in the long run.

From present signs Canada will not lack for stamp journals. Last month we chronicled the Ontario Philatelist, and this month we have to annonnce the arrival of the All Round Stamp Advertiser from St. Hyacinthe, Que. The Canadian Philatelist from London also dropped in, and it is reported that "two other journals will shortly appear from the latter: city. 1

Our heading "Canada's Only Stamp Paper" is now withdrawn, and we trust that our field will always boast of more than one paper.

The coming political contest throughout the Dominion may prove of great interest to philatelists, as, should the Liberals win, it is altogether likely some new issues in stamps will be seen. In many quartersit is thoughtachange round in the colors will occur. Let us at leasthope to see the lower values in new shades.

In a recent letter from Mr. A. M. Muirhead, of Halifax, he proposes that the convention of the D.P.A. should be held in that city. A Summer Carnival is to be held there at which it is expected the Flying Squadron, on which are 40000 sailors, will be in attendance. Low rates will prevail on all the railroads, and ends the letter by stating - We Halifax, cranks cam promise you a good time."
The elections for the stamp societies on the other side are again on the go, and it is evident. no office will lack for running aspirants.

## THE DOMINION PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

President-E. J. Phillips, Toronto.
Vice-President-C. C. Morency, Quebec Vice-President (United States)-C. W. Kissinger, Reading, Pa.
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## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

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114. Harley Graves, Box 600, Silver Creek, N. Y.
115. Elwood B. Carter, 2111 E 5th St., Dayton, Ohio.
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- Mrs J. H. McIllree, Regina, N.W.T. Refs-Wm. R. Adams and Thomas Mitchell.

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Albert Schultze, 346 Mohawk St.,

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Official Organ-Canadian Philatelic Magazine, Toronto.

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L. M. Stæbler, London, Ont. RefsA. F. Wicks and Wm. R. Adams.
A. H. Spencer, Elast Clarendon, Vt. Refs-A. F. Wicks and Irving E. Patterson.

Above applicants will be admitted to full membership May 15th, provided no objections are fyled with the Secretary previous to that date. New members will please remit dues (25c), to me. Next month many charter members
will be dropped from the Society's roll. if dues are not paid.

Irving E. Pattrison, Sec-Treas.

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

> Halifax, N.S., April, '96.

To the members of the D.P.A.
Gentlemen - Aithouph the Library has (nominally) been in existence for some time, it is but a name. I would remind you that a Library ranst first be made before it can be enjoyed. I consider that the D.P.A. should have at least 2000 papers-it now possesses but $2 \overrightarrow{7}$-and to that end I would respectfully solicit contributions. I would like to have control of a library of which we can be proud, and will pledge $m y$ best endeavors in that direction if the members will accord me their cooperation. Any parcels of papers (br mail, prepaid) addressed to me marked "D.P.A. Library," will be thankfully, received. filed, receipt acknowledged in the official journal. When Library assumes fitting proportions, I have no douot I will be able to secure an appropriation from the trustees for the purpose of binding volumes and otherwise adding to the usefulness of the Library.
Thankin you in anticipation of future favors, I remain,

Yours respectfully,
Alex. Mi. ITulrhend,
Librarian.
For the removal sf dirt (oily or gummy substances) on postage stamps, common ether will be found to be most excellent. Collectors who are holders of stamps of the above.class will:dowell to try this method of removing dixt, as many stamps which appear at first sight to be poor, can-be rery materially improved by this simpleitmeament of soaking in ether for about fifteen minutes. Then ia id application of a bush the remorifl of the dirt is in easy .matter.

## D. P. A.

Second Auction Sale.
Lut No. $\because$ No. in Lot

|  | U.S., 1872, 12c. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2. | 3c red brown Due |  |
| 3. | 30c Due, 1879 issue |  |
| 4. | Treasury 2, 3. 6, 15, 90 |  |
| 5. | Sheet U.S. rev, cat \$1.86. |  |
| ${ }^{\text {i }}$, | Canada, 1868, 15 c unused |  |
| 7. |  | 50 |
| 8. | 5 c beave | 0 |
| 9. | 3d laid |  |
| 10. | .. 2nd issue Bill, as | 0 |
| 11. | - .. L.C. Laws, asst | 15 |
| 12. | .. L.C. reg lîc, shades | 7 |
| 13. | Gas 25c, 50c, $32 \ldots$. | 3 |
| 14. | Gas asst. | 0 |
| 15. | Gas, 25c, $50 \mathrm{c}, \mathrm{\$ 1}, \$ 2$. | 4 |
| 16. | Gas, pair \$4 |  |
|  | Nova Scotia, $8 \frac{1}{2} c$, torm, bat neatly mended. |  |
|  | Nova Scotia. 1851 3d used. | 1 |
| 19. | P. F. I. 1c orange used |  |
| 20. | 3c rose used | 1 |
| 21. | Another. | 1 |
| 2. | Hawaii, 1882, 12c black | 1 |
| 23. | Argentine Rep asst | 100 |
| 24. | Fine asst stamps | 500 |
| ¢5. | Canada $\overline{\text { c }}$ reg.. | 100 |

Stamps all perfect unless otherwise mentioned. Bids to be in by May 22. Lots for 3rd sale should be in by May 20. Bids to be addressed

Irving E. Patterson, Guelph; Ont.

Undoubtedly the rarest stamp now is the 10 c Baltimore, white paper. A copy of this stamp was found not long ago by a party while looking over a batch of old correspondence in a lawyer's office, on the hunt for desirable stamps. A conservative estimate places the value of this great rarity at $\$ 5,000$.

The designs of the two new stamps which Japsn is issuing to commemorate the recent war with China, have been approved by the Emperor. One will bear the portrait of the late Marshall, Prince Arisugawa Taruhito, and the other the late Lieutenant-General Prince Kitashirakawa, commander of the Imperial Guards.

A farthing stamp will be issued in Brarhados for newspaper use.

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## TORONTO NOTES.

Mr. A. H. O'Brien, a member of the Toronto Philatelic Club, was recently appointed assistant Law Clerk at Ottawa.

By an order of the Government, so it is said, all the red Weights and Measures stamps were ordered to be destroyed, as owing so their having no value on them, they were seldom used by the various inspectors in performing their duties. Should the above prove true, these stamps will ga.n their old level they now sell at from $\$ 2$ to $\$ 6$ each), as less than two years ago they readily sold at $\$ 14$ each.

The junior members of the Y.M.C.A. of this city recently listened to a stamp lecture from Mr. Wilson Wilby of the Weston Stamp Co. It is proposed to have a series of lectures, which is sure to benefit the young members.

The new Electric Inspection stamps will largely doaway with the Gas Inspection series.

Mr. Ketcheson, of Belleville, visited the dealers sometime ago, combining business with pleasure.

It is current report that the present 15 c slate will either be dropped or change its color.

Mr. W. Kelsey Hall, of Peterboro, was on one of his trips to the city with some fine stock during week of 27 th.

A firm in London, Ont., state they will issue a Canada revenue catalogue soon. A dealer in Toronto may also issue one at no distant date.

A change badly needed in auction reports is the grading of stamps in their condition. This is necessary as many collectors place great value on auction sales as the market valautor of stamps. A recent report had a $30 c$ Justice bring Sio, and many Canada stamps fetch prices that must make dealers "ache" at such sacrifices, while collectors here and elsewhese in Canada would eagerly buy. However, grade the specimens, and then one can judge for themselves.

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