# Ganadian Philatelist.

L. M. STÆBLER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

1851/2 DUNDAS STREET,

LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

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### IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

Vol., III. No. 12.

LONDON, DECEMBER 1, 1894.

WHOLE NO. 36.

#### STRAY HUMOR.

The Schnectady, N.Y., post office once received a letter bearing this address: Mr. Rev. G. W. Drecs, Servant of God, Learned Man of Scriptures, Preacher Over the Sheep. Bucks and Mother Lambs of the Congregation of the Lord."

#### HOPELESS.

"She will never be a stamp collector," said the chaperon, disconsolately, "never, I discovered yesterday that she hasn't the Columbian set.

"Well you can't expect her to have everything." " No, I know that, but she confessed it.

#### HE BOUGHT NO STAMPS.

Secretary-"There were forty application: for your autograph in this morning's mail, sir.

President - "Enclosed stamps?"

Secretary-" Yes sir."

President-" Well, put them in the safe, and write my autograph on post cards.

#### APPALLING TO THE DRUGGIST.

Enterprising Druggist -" Here's a card, Madam. Each time you buy something I'll punch it. When \$2 are punched you get five soda-water tickets free.'

Madam - "That's a fine idea. I'll take \$2 worth o postage stamps now.

A stranger entered the Newtown, Kan., post office one day last week, and, buying a quantity of postage stamps, asked permission to stamp all letters that the office was holding for postage. His request was granted, and he departed saying that it was a charitable fad he had to go about the country supplying the neglect of thoughtless people.

A matter-of fact postmaster in a small town in Arkansas, recently wrote to the Post Office Department, stating that one of the citizens had recently entered the office armed with a Winchester rifle, and had pointed it at the postmaster in a threatening manner. He closed his telegram with the words: "Send instructions." Col. Whitfield, the first assistant, tersely replied by quoting the words of a well-known refrain; "Johnny, get your gun."

Some women have a mania for dropping things. No matter what they carry around with them they manage to drop it half a dozen times in the cars within as many blocks. They never seem to tire of smiling sweetly and thanking the luckless young man who picks it up.

One of these women was coming out of a drug

store the other day. She had been making a heavy purchase—a pestage stamp. She carried it with her pocketbook, and just as she stepped out of the store she dropped the stamp It was a damp day and the pavement showed it. A nicely dressed young fellow, with daintily gloved hands, was passing and saw the stamp flutter to the pavement. He stepped forward and stooped to pick up the tiny piece of paper.

Did you ever see a man try to pick up anything small and flat with his gloves on? Its one of the most amusing things in the world. This young man tried every way he could think of to get his finger tips under the stamp, but failed dismally. His stooping position begin to get uncomfortable, The blood rushed to his ace, but still he persisted. He could not think of disappointing the expectant

Finally she murmured:

'Would a hair pin help you?" He grasped it eagerly. It helped him out.

With a bow he handed her the stamp. "Thank you very much. Now I won't have to lick it," said she, joyfully.

She put it on a letter she had in her hand. Then she dropped the letter, but he had fled, and another victim took his place.

A story recently published in the In-lependent recalls to a preminent mining man an incident in the early days of Pony, which, by the way, is an old camp. At the time referred to the town had about forty people.

Of course they needed a post office, though no one could be found willing to take the responsibility. There was no money in it, and the office would be a decided nuisance to the postmaster.

However, a saloon keeper, who was more publicspirited than his fellow-citizens, took the office. The office consisted of an old tea-box, in which all the mail was dumped. The citizen would sort over the lot and take what belonged to him.

One day a gentleman came along, and, after glancing at the system, turned to the postmaster. Don't you know that it is illegal to allow people to pick out their own mail like that?

"Well stranger, I don't know as it is any of your business how this office is run," replied the postmaster. "But I am a United States post office inspector." "Well in that case," said the postmaster, "we will finish up this post office in Pony right now.

And he took the tea box and placed it in the middle of the road, and, with a good run, came down and kicked it clear across the gulch.

"There," he said to the officer, "now you go back to Washington and tell the administration that the accounts are closed up, and the postmaster of Pony has resigned."

Written for The Canadian Philatelist.

#### HOW TO DETECT COUNTERFEITS.

BY WILLIAM B. HALE,

THE early eighties-eighteen eightieswhen the counterfeits came thick and fast, as rain will fall, and would cling to one "like sea weed 'round a clam," a Philatelist found it necessary to keep his eyes open else he would have them palmed off on him, whether he would or no.

At this period, nearly every beginner had a lot of the S. Allen Taylor supply of counterfeit pence issues of the British Colonies, with a sprinkling of Hamburg locals and Confederates. Even the duplicates that the youngsters would offer for trade were of this class of trash. I remember that as a dealer, I was offered many collections, which were Written for The Canadian Philatelist. for sale, and nearly every one would contain counterfeits and in purchasing these collections, my first thought would be to pick out those which I mounted in my album of counterfeits, which I use continually for reference and comparison.

Now there are several general rules for detecting counterfeits, which are easy to remember and are worth hundreds of dollars to any collector who does promiscuous trading, or buys up old col-

lections.

The essentials of paper, color and perforation are important, and equally as much so as the engraving, for many counterfeits are heavily cancelled so that as a result the imperfections in the design are not readily apparent, and we have to fall back on the others to enable us to detect the frand

The counterfeits of Vancouver's Island and the early British Guiana's, should have the small perforation, but in most of the counterfeits they have large perforation and imperfectly done at that, and frequently half-torn, showing that the machine must have been dull. This same large perforation appears on all the Taylor and Paris counterfeits.

The paper in a genuine stamp is, as a rule, thin, tough and not glazed, but in the counterfeits the paper is usually so thick that you cannot help but notice it, and further it is usually well calendered, which is to say, smooth, with a glazed surface; yellowish tint may also be frequently noticed, and on its face, the paper has a cheap appearance, which is suggestive of something crooked.

The colors of counterfeits are often an indication by which they may be detected. Take red for instance: I never find a light red, vermilion scarlet or cochineal the usual shade in the counterfeits being a dull brick red. The yellows and oranges appear to be a greenish yellow, the blacks, blue; while the greens appear thick and lumpy and do not give a clear impression. In the counterfeits I find the I rown colors to be imitated the best of all.

In engraving, the lettering is nine times out of ten imperfect in the imitation, and I have observed that some of the letters will appear shorter than others, or wider, or perhaps imperfect. Even in the short words, "pence" and "cents" it is seldom that you will find that the counterfeiter has been successful in making all the letters perfectly.

very few have genuine specimens of the rare stamps for purposes of comparison, and it is for such these few elementary rules are penned.

Look well, then, that the paper is not too thick or smooth, that the perforation is not too large or roughly made, that the color is not different in shade from that indicated in the catalogue, and finally, be sure that the engraving has not the defects referred to above.

I have been shown some remarkably clever counterfeits of the U. S. Columbian issue, which were made in Germany by photographic process.
These stamps all have the word "facsimile" printed over the face, and they are sold as such.

The rules I have mentioned will not always answer, but as a rule they serve the purpose for which they are intended.

#### HOW COLLECTORS BECOME DEALERS.

BY GEO, B. KLEBES.

HILATELY creates a very business like taste among its followers so much so, that we find the majority of Philatelists business men. It is peculiar and amusing

to see how soon this power, as it may be called, is imparted from Philately to the youth or student. I have often made it my business to watch a collector fourteen years old, and see his business talent gradually developing, for it is not acquired in an electric style, but slowly and surely. Give the boy a book and a hundred stamps, and he will begin collecting as naturally as the chicken raised by means of the incubator, will pick up grains of corn a few minutes after it has been born. There is nothing forced or unnatural about it, he takes to it at once, without so much as waiting to be versed in the ins and outs. No duck takes to the water more naturally than does this schoolboy attach himself to a stamp album, 100 stamps, a trading book and a pot of gum arabic. Give him these and you will see a happy youth, perfectly content to let his arithmetic go, not troubling himself to read even those high literary productions, known as "Dime Novels," giving the history of the brilliant "Dick, the Indian Killer." or the "Terror of the Western Plains." He will go out to school and commence the business of trading. Presently he finds he has reached the high standard of being the owner of 100 different stamps. To a young stamp collector, this moment in his collecting career, corresponds to the moments when a young man reaches his majority. He gradually secures by exchanging the common stamps held by his schoolmates and he then begins to feel a sense of his power and importance, which is delightful to him. One day, showing his duplicates, or "snappers." as they are called in Boston, he finds another would be Philatelist, craving a certain stamp, while he has none our potentate has already. Presently our boy is struck with a bright idea; he offers to sell it to his school mate. This transaction having been accomplished, I may well say the turning point has been reached. He goes the turning point has been reached. He goes home with that five or ten cents feeling that he has Very often the profile, the figure, or the border began life in earnest—he is making his own money. will look all right, but when compared with the On the morrow he takes more of his duplicates, original, they will be found sadly deficient, but as and begins selling them, still unconscious of his

future. He does not yet feel himself to be a dealer, but presently this idea strikes him, and buying a five cent packet, he sells them singly. With this he invests in a 25c. one, and repeats the performance a few times. Now with this capital. he buys a few dollars worth of stamps wholesale, and gives orders to have some paper print his advertisement. How beautiful it looks to him to see his name coupled with an imaginary "Co.". He has at last reached the sublime point—he is a stamp dealer. Now, I will ask how many boys are there who do this very thing? Thousands! Consequently we have thousands of dealers, each controlling a select trade. This is good, it teaches them much from a business point of vie v, but I am sorry to say, it affects the real trade in the same manner as if cen small stores, all doing the same business, should settle on one block, each would affect the trade of the other nine to a considerable degree; however, true as this may be, I, for one, advocate that the large dealers be generous, and sacrifice some little trade to the cause of Philately, for there is probably nothing so good for a young boy, as to get an inkling of business habits by means of Philately, and nothing that can lay claim to being a stronger point in the many advantages than Philately offers her followers, than this business taste young collectors acquire during the period of their infatuation with it.

#### AT A TURKISH POST-OFFICE WINDOW.

HEY do not rush things in Constantinople as they do in American cities. The Turks love ceremony, and have peculiar notions as to what constitutes politeness. We walk to the stamp window and ask for a stamp of the denomination we require. The clerk shoves it out, we put down the money and depart. The entire transaction has not occupied a minute, and hardly a dozen words spoken

But in Istamboul a different scene would be en-acted. Let us stand in the post office corridor a few minutes and watch the proceedings.

An elderly Turk, with a gorgeous turban, approaches the window. After a series of very low and obsequious salaams, he lays his right hand upon his heart and begins :

'May this gracious morn prove a most happy one for thee, sir.' The official returns the salutation, and adds: 'What commandest thou?'

'Would'st thou vouchsafe thy servant several stamps with which to send letters to America? As thou mayest know, my son, Abdullah Effendi, the glass merchant of Ak Seral, is abiding at this moment at Chicago, where he is visiting the Grand Bazaar, ud his family are desirous of communicating with him. Though I myself know not how to write, yet is the son of my brother, the pipebowl manufacturer, skilled in that art, and he hath promised to oblige us in this matter.

'Very well, O worthy sir; but how many stamps dost thou desire?

'Ah, my precious jewel, how many thinkest thou I should take? One will hardly suffice, as he does not intend to return until the bazaar is closed.

Therefore, I pray thee, give me two.'
'Excellent, excellent! Here they are. May I request the sum of four plasters in payment?

'What sayest thou, my gentle lamb? Three piasters I always paid—never more. This was but a year ago, when Abdullah was at Paris: even

'You are quite right, Effendi, but the prices

have changed. They cost more to day.'
'In very sooth, O apple of mine eyo?' Then the charge hath been increased? With this the Turk produces an intricately knotted purse and draws

forth a bundle of paper money.

'Nay, nay, my adorable gem,' protests the official;
we accept no paper, thou must pay in silver.'

What, thou refusest paper! and wherefore? Is it not good money! Doth not the Sultan guarantee its payment? Well, since thou declinest it, I will pay thee in copper.'

' Nay, Effendi; we take no copper either; thou must give me silver.

'Silver? By my beard, I have it not. I pray thee take this copper, and thou shalt have some additional.

'I cannot do it, Effendi. By Allah, I cannot. It is forbidden.

Well, then, thou shalt have silver. Here it is, the latest mintage. 'Accept my overflowing thanks, my exquisite

turtle dove. 'Allah be with thee and increase thy shadow mightly! Farewell!

Farewell, Effendi; may thy beard grow to an exceeding great length.

#### CLIPPINGS.

It is reported that somebody has discovered that pigeons have been used as mail-carriers for about seven nundred years.

The "spy" gallery, which runs across the sorting room of the New York postoffice, is to be taken down. It was not a success. The detectives never obtained enough evidence while using it to apprehend a single dishonest employe.

Mr. Greene Gage (of Plum Creek, stopping letter

carrier)—Hev ye got any letters fer me? Carrier—But I don't know you, sir! Mr. Greene Gage—Spose not; I only come to taown yesterday. But look through your bag; I ain't got time to go to the post-office to-day!

The Columb an stamps are really steel engravings, and form the third special issue of stamps in the country. The first of these was a 15-cent stamp representing the landing of Columbus, which was issued in 1869, and the second commemorated the 1876 centennial by a souvenir envelope, with a shield shaped 3-cent stamp in the corner, having at the top the figures 1776 and at the bottom 1876.

An extra large demand for postage stamps has been noticed by the post-office officials. This may be due partly to the fact that a Boston man is advertising: "I will engage a lawyer of good address and capacity, 25 to 40, as secretary; salary \$100 per month. Address with references" et

The official interpreter at the post-office is required to know French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian. But his salary is on y \$600 a year, So you see English pays best after all.

## The Canadian Philatelist :

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

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L. M. STAEBLER, - EDITOR AND PRELISHER.

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#### THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST,

1851 DUNDAS STREET,

LONDON.

CANADA

Vol. 3.

LONDON, ONT.

No. 36.



Dr.J.S. McAllister, of Columbus, Neb, is called by his collecting friends: "The man with the four million s'amps."

Mr N. E. Carter, we hear, the well-known dealer of Delevan, Wis., will shortly go to San Francisco, Cal.

The philatelists of Whitby, Ont., have just organized a philatelic society, which we trust will have a long and prosperous existence.

We are contemplating some important changes in the publication of this journal, of which due notice will be given in our next issue.

L' Union Postale, published in Paris, by Victor Robert, has reached its 31st number. It is one of the best philatelic papers published in France. The Niger Coast Protectorate has been attracting considerable attention by the number of varieties, (apparently speculative) that it is issuing.

Mr. James A. Anderzen, of Smithfield, Neb, Manager of the Nebraska Stamp Co., will shortly remove to one of the Southern States.

It is said that Mr. Stanley Gibbous, the founder of the largest firm of stamp dealers in England, will shortly visit the U. S.

The Colonial Government recently broke a corner in St. Helena stamps, by issuing a large quantity of the cornered variety.

Mr. Gilbert Harrison, the renowned English advance collector, died last month. His collection of U,  $\dot{S}$  stamps was one of the finest in the world.

In the advertisement of Mr. A. F. Wicks, on the last page of the cover, the figure "\$1" should be omitted in the second line of Packet No. 20.

Zambesi is another new Portuguese Colony which has just come to the front with a set of 13 stamps of the current colonial type. More will follow.

The forged 25 piastre stamps of Turkey, are perforated 10, while the genuine are perforated 13½. This will serve to detect an otherwise dangerous counterfeit.

What next! The Stamp News reports that 6,390,483, obsolete Peruvian stamps, embracing 46 varieties, have been sarcharged with the portrait of the President.

We have received the second number of *The Indian Postage Stamp News*, a new paper which hails from Bombay, India. The paper presents a creditable appearance.

The number in the bracket on the wrapper, indicates the number with which your subscription expires. Renew promptly, otherwise we cannot continue the paper

Hankow has issued new 2c. and 30c. stamps, which are of attractive design, although, philatelically, Chinese locals are not what would be termed especially desirable or attractive.

Philately in India is making rapid progress. There are now three philatelic papers published in the country. Auction sales of stamps are held there, and dealers are springing up all over the country.

It is said that Mr. Chas. L. Borg, a popular Chicago collector has no hands having lost them in a railroad accident. In placing his stamps in his album, he uses a carpenter's chisel, manipulating it with his teeth!

Mr. E. J. Hatch, of Centre Montville, Me., warns collectors and dealers against Graham Frank, of New York City, to whom he sent approval sheets on June 7th, 1894, and from whom he can obtain no reply.

After the covers of this issue were printed, we received a letter from the Michigan Stamp Co., stating that their stock and trade had been sold to Messrs W. J. Lawrence & Co. of the same city. When answering this advertisement, please note the new firm name.

Mr. E. B. Jones, of Ruthven, Iowa, is preparing a comprehensive check-list for collectors of philatelic literature, which promises to be of great value to those engaged in forming a library. The price of the book is, we believe, 30 cents. The low price should place it within the reach of all.

Beginning with our next issue all subscriptions must begin with the first number of the year, as we wish to have all subscriptions expire with the end of the year. Those whose subscriptions expire during the middle of the year may forward, prorata, a sufficient amount to continue till the end of the year.

We have to thank Mr. Wm. C. Stone for informing us that the article in our August number, by Capt. Mildmay, entitled "Our Philatelic Society's Meeting," is taken almost verbatim from W. L. Alden's "Adventures of Jimmey Brown." The article in question we purchased from Mr. Kenneth Dunbar, under the impression that it was original. The story had been adapted so as to be suitable for a philatelic paper, by changing a few words. We fear that other similar articles by Mr. Dunbar were adapted in a similar manner. We regret very much that these articles should have appeared, and on this account we owe an apology to our readers.

We wish to rectify a matter that appeared in the columns of our August issue. On the strength will agree with of a letter from Mr. J. A. Caron, Rimouski, Que., District Attorney.

we published Mr. Maurice Belin, 52 Rue de la Madeline, Brussels, Belgium, as a fraud. We have received a letter from Mr. Belin, stating that he had never received any communication whatever from Mr. Caron. We have written Mr. Caron for an explanation but up to date of publication, have not hea d from him. On enquiry, we find that Mr. Belin occupies a prominent position in Belgian Philat-lic circles, and we regret that the item in question was inserted and we take this opportunity of undoing any injury the note may have caused him.

We have at last been compelled to abandon the publication of our handbooks Nos. 5 and 6, after having made every possible effort to publish the books. After the Canadian P. O. Department refused to allow us to publish the books in Canada, we made arrangements to have the same published and mailed from England, but we have recently had it brought to our notice, that even though we had the books published in England, we would not be allowed to sell and mail the same, either here or in the United States. Consequently on this ruling our loss is nearly \$1,000. All subscriptions will be refunded in order of receipt, by registered mail. We are very sorry to have to disappoint our patrons in this, but assure them that we have done all in our power in the matter. The cuts and text of the book were long since completed. We have had considerable difficulty with the Canadian P. O. Department during the last year, in regard to the Canadian Philatelic Weekly, handbooks 5 and 6, and this journal. We have been forbidden to use illustrations of any stamps whatever in our publications in future. During the past month the dealers in the United States have had some trouble in regard to the same matter. All the albums, etc., of the leading dealers and publishers, with illustrations of stamps in them were seized by agents of the Secret Service Department. matter was submitted to the Solicitor General of the Treasury, who rendered a decision favorable to dealers, however, advising the seizure of all cuts and plates, from which the books were printed; permission being given to sell the stock of catalogues and albums remaining on hand. Both the Scott and Mekeel Co. refused to allow the seizure of their cuts, as in the opinion of the U. S. prosecuting attorney for St. Louis, there was no law by which they could seize plates of stamps, unless evidence was forthcoming that they had been used for counterfeiting purposes. We understand that this opinion has been forwarded to the Attorney General at Washington, and it is believed that he will agree with the decision rendered by the

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	Canada, 1893, 8 and 20C		15
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			20
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l			10
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