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THE Stamp Reporter,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

Devoted to the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

Vol. 1., No. 4.—New Series.] ST. CATHARINES, ONT., SATURDAY, APR. 22, 1899. [Old Series—Vol. 2., No. 10.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Hamilton Notes.

BY CHAS. S. APPELGATH.

In my notes of the April 8th issue the printer has got the description of our club rooms somewhat tangled up, also crediting us with an "International" committee, which of course should have been "Entertainment" committee. I always held the opinion that my writing was at least legible, but evidently there is room for improvement.

The regular weekly meeting of the Philatelic Section of the Canadian Club was held at the club house last night and was exceptionally well attended. The main feature of the evening was the debate, "Resolved, that it is more desirable to collect unused stamps than used." Many good arguments were put forth, both pro and con, and while the negative side was well represented, it was impossible to annul the strong arguments put forth in favor of the unused stamps, consequently it was not surprising that the judges' verdict sustained the 1050-lution.

As usual, Hamilton will be well represented in the list of aspirants for D. P. A. honors. At last night's meeting three Hamilton candidates were placed in the field, viz: For Vice-President, G. A. Marris; Auction Manager, R. S. Mason; and Trustee, C. S. Applegath.

Mr. Mason being a thorough stamp man will doubtless make a success of the Auction Department, if the members rally round him and give him the support he deserves.

Mr. Ed. A. Marris left to-day for Toronto, to take a well earned vacation prior to his departure for Fort William. Mr. Marris will be on the lakes until the fall, when he intends to return to the city to spend the winter, devoting his entire time to stamps.

Mr. Mason reports business quite brisk, and while the local trade has decreased somewhat, owing to the approaching warm weather, his mail order business is all that can be desired.

It has been announced in several stamp journals that the 5c numeral has been put on sale here. Such is not the case, and we also learn that this stamp has not yet been placed before the public at any office.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Boston Notes.

BY C. C. BAKER, JR.

The three shades of the map stamp, unused, are sold at 15c and the 2c maple leaf is priced at 6c.

The new Queensland issue has been received by the stamp dealers here.

The 1-2 pence is green; 4 pence, yellow; 3 pence, brown and the 2 1-2 pence is brown on blue.

The New England Stamp Company is to hold an auction sale of postage stamps on April 24th and 25th. The stamps will be exhibited at Montreal, Philadelphia, New York, Providence, Portland, Worcester and Boston. None catalogued less than \$2.00 or more than \$350.

It is odd, but some of the dealers haven't "caught on" to the three shades of the Xmas stamps yet.

Malta's new stamps are for sale here. The new values of 4 1-2 and 5 pence; also 10 shillings are of very beautiful designs and will probably make a favorable impression.

The periodical stamps are still on sale at this office at the regular price of \$5 per set. Stamp dealers sell them for \$5.50, well centered and perfectly perforated.

A large lot of remainders of the unused New Brunswick, comprising many thousand sheets of 1, 2, 5, 10, 12 1-2 and 17 cent values, have recently been discovered in the New Brunswick post office. It is reported a number of dealers bought the lot for 30 cents per set. This will probably explain why a dealer can offer a complete set for 50 cents, catalogued \$150.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Ottawa Notes.

BY J. S. DALTON.

The Department is now trying to get rid of the Jubilee stamps they have on hand. The first put on sale here a few days ago was the 5c stamp next followed the 2c, we now get the 1c also. If they only go down one step more it will be a snap for somebody.

We hear many answers to the question. How many 2c purple envelopes envelopes were printed? We receive the answers 2,000, 30,000, 15,000 and a few more, but it's none of those, it's 10,000.

The Government have, up to the present been pretty brisk about issuing stamps, but they are slow enough about printing the 5c, 4c, 7c, numerals. We have been expecting some of these every day but we seem to be no nearer getting them a month ago.

The last of the stack of the 5c Jubilee's was sold on April 13th to the writer. These were on sale about two weeks. The stock of 1c and 2c Jubilee's is not very big. If the Department have any more Jubilees on hand they will, very likely put them on sale.

We think that some correspondent must have been misinformed concerning the 5c numeral, as, by all reports, it has only made its appearance at one office throughout the Dominion.

In looking over a philatelic paper recently the writer saw a catalogue of the Canadian stamps from the Jubilee issue, and noticed that the \$5.00 Jubilee was placed under face value, unused. How is this?

Business is better than ever before and dealers seem to have their work cut out to attend to orders. The stamp business is on the rise and philately is improving every day.

The "Ottawa Junior Philatelic Society" is doing well and have a lot of sheets on circuit. They are doing a good thing as to encourage philately.

Ohio Notes.

BY J. EDWARD SOHN, JR.

The new Cuban stamps have been received by several Cincinnatians from soldier friends in Cuba.

Stamp business is booming in Cincinnati.

The surcharged stamps of Cuba will be plentiful in a few weeks, as the soldier boys will send many to their friends, who collect postage stamps.

Stamp journals have not been very successful in Ohio. All of them have failed, take for instance the Philatella Free Lance or the Buckeye State Philatelist. Several reports have been heard as to the organizing of a company for publishing another stamp journal. It is to be published in the vicinity of Cincinnati. The report is neither affirmed or denied.

The war revenues are becoming plentiful.

The following designs are supposed to have been selected for Cuba's regular issue. The 1c, statue of Columbus; 2c, map of Cuba; 3c, statue of La Cuzana; 5c, one of the mail steamers, and the 10c, a Cuban plowing.

Another series will be issued for Porto Rico and the Philippines.

The six cent majanta has made its appearance at the Cincinnati post office.

There are still some five cent Omahas on sale at the Cincinnati post office.

Postage in Old Days.

An almanac in 1814 gives the following as rates of postage prevailing at that time. For every single letter by land, for 40 miles, 8 cents; 90 miles 10 cents; 150 miles, 12 1-2 cents; 300 miles, 17 cents; 500 miles, 20 cents. No allowance to be made for intermediate miles. Every double letter is to pay double the said rates; every triple letter triple. Every packet weighing one ounce, at the rate of four single letters each one ounce. Every ship letter originally received at an office for delivery, 6 cents. Magazines and pamphlets, not over 50 miles, 1 cent per sheet; over 50 miles and not exceeding 100 miles, 1 1-2 cents per sheet; over 100 miles, 2 cents per sheet.

POSTOFFICE.

Warning to Publishers.

The following parties owe us for advertising and pay no attention to bills or letters sent them:

- Geo. W. Hicks, 23 Rose street, Toronto.
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My Reason.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

I love you, old album. The reason? (Well, really, I hardly can say. I love you as brooks love the meadows Or blue birds the beautiful May. I love you as earth loves the sunshine, Or mountain tops love the white snow. I love you because I am helpless, And Nature has planned my love so. I like when the lamps are lighted, To have you close here by my side, To open your faded old covers, Where comfort and pleasure abide. To spread out your pages before me, And see their warm colors again; Their brightness will banish my sorrow As sunlight dispels the cold rain.

And sometimes I think, as I watch you That you have a soul of your own, Mayhap that you've changed into being As life from the marble has grown. Perhaps that you watch for my coming And pulsate with pleasure or pain, As life opens brightly before me, Or all of its struggles are vain.

You know all my troubles and heartaches, And all of my errors and sin; The world sees the outward appearance, But you see the being within; And yet you pass judgment in silence, Old album, your system is best, If men would but heed your example, This world were a haven of rest.

Oft times, when aweary with labor, Your presence has brightened the gloom; My burdens have silent departed And left a strange peace in the room. I love for this, old companion, As over your pages I bend; Our friendship is fragrant and changeless, And shall be right unto the end.

THE POST OFFICE.

New York Notes.

BY B. COHEN.

Beginning with this number I will endeavor each week to inform the readers of the Stamp Reporter of all current stamp topics, and philatelic events which transpire in this city.

The Brooklyn stamp exhibit closed Saturday evening, April 1st, 1899. The exhibit was a success from the start, as almost ten thousand people visited it during the two weeks. There will be a lecture by Mr. Alex. Holland, on April 28th, 1899, entitled "Stamps of Great Britain," illustrated by lantern slides.

Dealers are complaining that business is rushed and there is an enormous demand for packets, especially by boy collectors.

There is also a demand for medium priced stamps. (The Finland stamps are now obsolete, having been superseded by Russian stamps.)

Mail addressed to Williams & Co., S. A., was returned to writer in this city. Cashnough has no doubt skipped and it was a timely escape. Wonder whether he left the parrot behind.

Recent visitors to this city were R. C. Bach, Montreal, E. Marks, Toronto and Dr. Evans, Westtown, N. Y.

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 - Envelopes, 2c purple, entire... ..60c
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From Philatelic Journal of America.

Prince Edward Island Stamps.

A paper read at a meeting of the Philatelic Society and printed in the London Philatelist.

BY J. A. TILLIARD.

I feel that some apology is perhaps due for troubling you with a paper on the stamps of this island, which, I am aware, most collectors regard with little interest. This, no doubt, arises from the fact that the issues are limited in number, that their workmanship is poor, and when the Province became incorporated with the Dominion of Canada there was a large stock of remainders which was disposed of and distributed in such a manner that even at the present day, unused copies of most of the stamps are obtainable at small prices. At the same time, in the case of the philatelic history of most countries, there are generally some points on which further light can be thrown, and as we now claim that the pursuit of our hobby has become a science, it is desirable that all collectors should impart any facts which they may ascertain in regard to the issues of any country, so that the published information on the subject may be as complete as possible. For this reason—although I do not claim to be able to add much to the somewhat limited subject of the stamps of Prince Edward Island—I have thought it well to record a few facts recently brought before my notice, which may tend to dispose of some of the questions remaining to be solved.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, very little information in regard to these stamps appeared in the English or Colonial journals, prior to the publication of the society's work on the stamps of the North American Colonies of Great Britain. One of the principal contributions before that date was the interesting paper by Mr. D. Laing, in the Halifax Philatelist, for September, 1888, reproduced in the society's work, while the most important addition since 1889 has been the more comprehensive article by Mr. A. A. Bartlett in the Stamp News Annual, 1892.

The remarks of each of these writers are directed chiefly to the numerous varieties or errors, if such they can be called, to be found in the stamps under consideration, and to Mr. Bartlett in particular are we indebted for a long list of these varieties, the discovery of which shows an amount of untiring patience and energy which certainly does him great credit, and shows the minute care with which he has studied the subject. Both writers refer to the poorness of design and printing of the stamps of this island, and agreeing entirely with Mr. Bartlett that most of the varieties are due to poor workmanship, one is almost tempted to ask, in reference to the compilation of such a list as he has given us, *oui bono*, were it not that we all know, it is only by the exercise of the greatest accuracy of the observation in minute details that we can

expect to learn many of the material facts as to the stamps we study.

The principal point of importance for which I can claim novelty is that the stamps of Prince Edward Island were surface printed and not lithographed as has generally been supposed. In the society's work on the subject, the stamps of the issues printed in England are all described as lithographed, and, although a query as to the exact process is added in that work, it is a common thing to see in philatelic publications reference to the "poorly lithographed stamp of Prince Edward Island," and other similar descriptions. The mistake hitherto made in this respect is doubtless owing to the inferior appearance of the stamps, which one transatlantic journal characterizes as probably "the rough production of some native artist," and "a disgrace to any country," but a more careful examination of the stamps themselves would probably have resulted in the error as to their mode of production being avoided. I have recently had an opportunity of looking over a large number of specimens of the "remainders," and in many of them I could plainly see—although I admit my examination was made *ex post facto*, and in the light of the knowledge I had then obtained—the marks which indicate the difference between stamps which are lithographed and those printed from raised plates. In confirmation of this I may add that I substituted the specimens to a practical printer who had no difficulty in satisfying himself, without much hesitation, that they were not lithographs.

Some months ago, Mr. A. W. Tuer, a gentleman man well known in the city in connection with the Leadenhall press, but who is not a stamp collector, was introduced to me with the view of obtaining information as to some of house assays, which had come into his possession. (It appears that, being a student and collector of all objects pertaining to the art of printing, he had attended the auction sale of the effects of the successors in business of Mr. Charles Whiting, of Beaufort House, Strand—sold on the winding up of the business—and he had there acquired the essays referred to. He told me that, among other items purchased by him, there were some dies and electrotypes of stamps, which he had kindly offered for my inspection. These proved to be the original dies, and the electro type plates, of some of the stamps of Prince Edward Island. They consisted of the complete dies of the 1d, 2d, 3d and 9d and of the 1c, 3c, 4c and 6c stamps. With them were found an engraving on wood of the head employed for the cents issue, and a reproduction on copper of the same, and also a metal plate of the head used for the pence stamps. In addition to these there was an engraving on brass of a stamp, finished with the exception of the inscription, in form similar to the 3d stamps, although the details of the background are not the same. As this head also varies in several small particulars, I should imagine this was probably prepared before the stamp as issued was finally decided upon, and was not adopted.

The electro type plates were those of the 2d, 4d, 3c and 12c, and, in the case of the 3c, there were parts of impressions in red and in black pasted on the back of the wooden block. The 2d plate measures 6x8 1-4 inches and consists of sixty stamps in six horizontal rows of ten, the 4d plate measuring 6x4 1-2 inches, and having thirty stamps in six horizontal rows of five. The 3c plates measures 10x4 5-16 inches, and contains ten vertical rows of five stamps, while that of the 12c measures 5x8 3-4 inches, and has five horizontal rows of ten.

In addition to the reasons given above, I think the fact that the electro types had evidently been used, conclusively sets at rest the question as to the nature of the process employed for the production of the stamps of island. From the description given it will be seen that, in the case of the pence issue, the whole sheet of stamps consisted of but one impression from the plate, while, in the case of the cents issue, where the sheet consists of one hundred labels, the stamps were printed either from two plates clamped together or by twice printing from the same plate.

It will be observed that the description of the arrangement of the stamps on sheets as published by the society, and verified by Mr. Bartlett from examination of entire sheets, is correct. The latter, in noting the curious error of Mr. Lang in reference to the sheets of the 2d stamps, is, I think, unnecessary severe in imputing blame to the London society for giving "to the world under the sanctions of their authority any such erroneous statement" as that the sheets of this value consisted of one hundred stamps. The critic can hardly have failed to observe that the society in their description have given the correct information as to the sheets, the paper of Mr. Lang being only afterwards inserted in its entirety, as containing valuable information in regard to the varieties noted by him.

A question naturally arises as to how it was that the dies and electrotypes remained in the possession of the printer and in reply to an enquiry I have made in this respect I am informed, on the authority of the successor of Mr. Whiting, that the latter never charged for engraving plates, which accordingly remained his property.

In the hopes of obtaining information as to the date of issue, I caused some enquiries to be made on the subject. Unfortunately I found that most of the books of the business had already been destroyed, and those remaining were in course of destruction. I was unable to obtain personal access to an yof the papers, but the person who was supervising their destruction was kind enough to look for such particulars as the remaining books could afford. The ledgers of the business prior to 1872 had gone, but a search was made through those for 1872 and 1873 with the result that the only which could be found bearing upon the subject was one dated 4th, 1872.

(To be continued.)

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GEO. BRADLEY, Editor and Publisher,
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Ourselves.

We must caution our advertisers against their putting too many words in their copy. A certain space will only take a certain amount of type, and it is useless to attempt to crowd more into it. If small advertisers would confine their copy to no more than fifty words to an inch their ad. would then be set up in proper shape.

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Did you ever try a column?

If you receive a sample copy of this magazine, please consider it an invitation to subscribe. Unless you do you will not see us again as only one sample is sent to one person.

When answering advertisements seen in the Stamp Reporter, our readers will confer a favor on us and on the advertisers by stating where they saw them. It will cost you little time, but will benefit us very much.

Believing that the majority of our readers are collecting, chiefly, the stamps of British North America, we are publishing every week one or more articles on these stamps. Even if they are mostly reprinted from other journals, we hope that they will accomplish their object, i. e. be the means of enlightening our readers on points about these stamps, which before may have been doubtful.

Notes of Interest.

Philatelists will be interested to learn that the great Tapling collection of postage stamps in the British Museum is now nearly all arranged in systematic order, and will soon be available for purposes of comparison and study. Mr. E. D. Macon, who has been engaged in the work for the past four years, has carefully annotated every issue with the name of the printer and designer, and the date of issue. The collection is preserved in a very strong iron chest in one of the rooms of the National Library, but when its arrangement is finished it is probable that some device may be adopted so that those who wish to consult it can do so without having access to the stamps.

The French papers report that a modification of the postage stamps of France has been decided upon. The proposition is that the stamps shall be in three types—First low values (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 centimes), for circulars, newspapers, etc., second, medium values (10, 15, 20, 25 centimes), for ordinary letters, etc., third, high values (30, 40, 50, 75 centimes, and 1 franc), for registered letters, heavy parcels, etc. The object aimed at is the possibility of confining the printing of all the stamps of five colors—red, blue, green, brown and purple.

Porto Rico has a new set of stamps They are the current United States issues, surcharged "Porto Rico." The denominations and quantities are as follows:

1,000,000 1 cent green.
2,000,000 2 cent red.
500,000 5 cent blue.
500,000 10 cent brown.

No issues are announced as yet for Hawaii and the Philippines.

Our current postcards appear on two varieties of paper, one on a smooth and cream color card, the other on a course wove card of a much darker tint.

The United States Periodical Stamps are twelve in number, the denominations are \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$2, 50c., 25c., 10c., 5c., 2c. and 1c. The stamps are extremely beautiful, and many sets will be framed and treated as pictures by persons who are not stamp collectors. The low price of \$5 per set brought them within the reach of every earnest collector, and will undoubtedly tend to bring about a revival of interest in collecting. Dealers are already asking \$7.50 per set. The Government issued 50,000 sets.

Russia has issued a letter sheet, 7k blue on white with a pelican and young in upper left corner. The net receipts are for the benefit of the the Foundling Hospitals founded by Empress Marie, wife of Paul I.

If the new collector is given a correct view of stamp collecting, as it should be, his days in philately will be full of delight.

It is well enough for the collector to hear all the philatelic advice that he can, but he should act only upon that which his judgment and position commend.

In listing the unuseful seebecks the collector is in no danger whatever of being deceived. If he wishes to purchase a pretty picture he can do so, and he knows just what he is getting, and no one is deceived. On the other hand, should he purchase a postally-used specimen, how is he going to know that it is a postally-used specimen, and not a forged cancellation? The only way to be sure of a seebeck is on the original cover, showing both forwarding and receiving postmarks.

The T. Eaton & Co., departmental store, of Toronto, and in fact the largest store in Canada, save all the stamps received in their mail. They recently disposed of a four months' accumulation to a Toronto dealer for \$400.

When placing high value stamps in packages or envelopes, keep them away from the edges.

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9 Gardner Street, Salem, Mass.

News in Brief.

It is reported on good authority that there will be a 8c surcharge for Porto Rico. Also that there will be either a set of postage stamps issued especially for Porto Rico or the postage dues of the United States will be surcharged for this island.

Mr. Crockatt, the young Englishman, who was arrested at Los Angeles for using the United States mails for fraudulent purposes has been sentenced to two years in the county jail.

It is reported that 10,000 Special Delivery Stamps surcharged for Cuba were shipped the other day. The surcharge is in red letters and shows up to good advantage.

There is no thought at present of issuing any distinctive issues for the Philippines or Hawaii.

Malta joined the Imperial penny postage movement the 1st of April.

It is rumored that Canada is to have an entire new set of stamps.

The 5-8c private proprietary revenue stamp of the Piso Co. has appeared.

Trade Notes.

Our readers will notice several new advertisers in our columns this week. We hope they will receive a hearty welcome from all those wanting desirable stamps. Look over the prices and see if there is anything you require.

A new stamp concern in this city is the Royal Stamp Co., whose ad is to be found on page 25. The manager, Mr. James F. Irwin, is well known to the stamp fraternity and will be pleased to receive orders from all old cus-

When wanting to sell your collection give the Standard Co. a chance. they are always ready to buy.

A SNAP!

Canada's First Surcharge,
2c. black on red envelope,
unused, 10 CENTS.

Postage Extra.

E. KER,
Box 474, St. Catharines, Ont.

SPECIAL!

An unused U. S. stamp cataloguing at 10 cents with every order for my packet of stamps cataloguing at 30 cents. The stamps are all different and in good condition. Price 10 cents silver. Post extra.

HERBERT F. BUTLER,
NEWTON CENTRE, MASS.

Do You
Want to Sell,
—OR—
Do You
Want to Buy

ANY STAMPS?
Then send me your offers!

W. S. Mason,
Stamp Broker,
HAMILTON, CANADA.

YOU GET
ONE PREMIUM
POR YOUR 25 CENTS:
A Year's Subscription to
THE HERALD EXCHANGE.
12-16 pages each month, *without special extras.*
Address **M. TAUSIG, MGR.,**
9 East 108th St., New York, N. Y.

Going Up!

Yes, the prices of the maple leaf and numeral issue are liable to take a big jump any day.

Look through the list and see if your album contains all mentioned.

*1-2c maple leaf... ..	.03
1-2c numeral... ..	.01
1, 2, 3 and 5c maple leaf... ..	.03
1, 2, 3 and 6c numeral... ..	.03
5c maple leaf... ..	.02
6c maple leaf... ..	.05
8c... ..	.03
10c... ..	.08
6c numeral... ..	.03
*10c numeral... ..	.12
*2c Xinas... ..	.04
2c Xinas... ..	.02

Printer's Error—In last week the offer 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10c maple leaf, 10c; should have read 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8c maple leaf—10c.

E. KER,
Box 474, St. Catharines, Ont.

Premium No. 8.

To everyone sending a 50 cent Money Order for a year's subscription to this paper we will give

An Unused Copy of Canada's First Surcharge, 2c. black on 3c: red Envelope.

Number is limited.
Send at once.

GEO. BRADLEY, Publisher,
St. Catharines, Ont., Can

Some Tasmanian Items.

BY AMY L. SWIFT.

In Tasmania, as in other British Colonies, the postal and telegraph departments are run in connection with each other under the direct care of the Postmaster-General, who is as responsible for the one as for the other. Telegraph instruments are placed in the various post offices, and the official in charge must understand and attend to them in addition to the other business of the position, something that our own postmasters are not expected to do. A very large number of telegrams go through the department every year, and the Postmaster-General, who has recently been looking into the matter, has discovered that a much larger proportion are sent under the free or "franking" privilege than seems possible. Over \$20,000 worth of free telegrams go through the Hobart Telegraph Office annually, all of which is just so much loss to the government, and when to this amount is added the lost postage on the large number of letters that are also permitted to pass free, it can easily be seen that the amount lost each year must be very large. The trouble is that a great many who were entitled to the franking privilege have "ridden a free horse to death," as the saying is, using it in transmitting private messages of a length they never would have done had they been obliged to pay for them, and to such an extent that the loss has now gone beyond permissible bounds. The franking privilege was meant to be used in behalf of the public good, and not for the self interest of those to whom it was accorded, so now the Postmaster-General is planning to take steps towards lessening the abuse, and as a result we, who collect colonial locals, will soon have another of the clan to gather into the fold. A "cechik stamp," it is to be called, and most appropriately so since its purpose is to keep a check on the amount of free telegraph and mail matter sent by each public body or official. Hitherto, any envelope could be used for such matter, the sender merely endorsing his name on the cover, but hereafter envelopes with this check stamp impressed upon it will be supplied to those entitled to use them, and should the number from any other source become excessive the Postmaster-General will politely request to be informed how it happens. In this manner it is hoped to keep tally of the free matter sent, and thus reduce it in volume.

One of the postal laws of this country says that no married woman shall be eligible for office, but the Postmaster-General has lately learned, to his intense amusement, that through the quick wit of a woman at least one pair of cooing lavers have succeeded in setting that law at complete defiance. It seems that the young post mistress of a country office decided awhile ago to make a local acquaintance supremely happy by marrying him, but she didn't want to give up her position and yet was perfectly aware that according to the rule she could not keep it if she married. She was a bright lassie, how-

ever, so after due cogitation she sat her down and penned a grave business like letter to the Deputy-Postmaster-General suggesting that the management of her office might with advantage to the department, be offered by public tender. The official fell into the trap so carefully spread for his guileless feet, and accepted the suggestion, offering the position accordingly. In due time the successful tenderer, my lady's own beloved, was announced, whereupon my lady resigned her charge, married her successor and then promptly returned to her former duties. Who says that Cupid is too blind to see beyond the present moment?

One of my Tasmanian correspondents told me a few months ago about an odd letter from an odder American which was received last year by the postmaster of Hobart, and given by him to the public press as something entirely too good to keep to himself. Here is the letter, copied from the copy sent me, which by the way was devoid of signature; thanks to the good nature of the receiver. It came from Atlantic City, New Jersey, and bore date of October, 1897.

"Postmaster Hobart, P. O., Island of Tasmania. Dear Sir:—Enclosed please find my business card and testimonials would you please inform me who is the ruler of the Island of Tasmania, his name and address, colored or white, do the natives rule New Zealand, if so would you give me the address of the New Zealand native kings or any in Australia please send me a copy of Hobart and Launceston newspapers in return I will send you amount of expense for postage and newspapers and anything I can do for you in America shall be pleased to be at your service Australian newspapers would be a novelty here thanking you for attention."

Of course this wonderful epistle aroused considerable hilarity in Hobart and people have been wondering if that was a fair sample of "Yankee notions of Tasmania." I think myself that it must have been the effort of small boy who was on the hunt for good addresses from which he could beg stamps but there is no knowing. If he could only be lifted over to Tasmania just long enough to see that the cities and towns of the island are in no way inferior to those of the United States, and the people thereof as highly educated as any of our people (not taking that Jerseyite as a sample) I think he would be too astounded to ever write a letter again.—Herald Exchange.

Falkland Islands.

BY C. F. ROBINSON.

The Falkland Islands are a group of islands in the South Atlantic, belonging to Great Britain, and lying about 250 miles east of the nearest point in the mainland in South America, between the parallels of 51 degrees and 52 degrees 45 minutes and 61 degrees 46 minutes west. The islands are about two hundred in number, but only two are of considerable size, the largest of these, East Falkland, is 95 miles in extreme length, with an aver-

age width of 40 miles, and the smaller, West Falkland, is 8¹/₂ miles long and about 25 miles wide.

The area of East Falkland is about 3000 square miles, and that of West Falkland 2000. Most of the others are mere islets, the largest being only 10 miles long by 8 miles wide.

The two principal islands are separated by Falkland Sound, a narrow strait from 18 to 2 1-2 miles in width, running nearly due north and south. The coast line of both islands is deeply indented and many of the bays and inlets form secure and protected harbors. The northern sections of East Falkland is hilly, and is crossed by a rugged range, running east and west, and rising in some places to a height of nearly 2000 feet. The remainder of the island consists chiefly of low, undulating ground, a mixture of pasture and morass, with many shallow fresh water tarns and smaller streams running in all the valleys.

It has been controlled by the English since 1771, who have their government offices at the principal town, Port Stanley.

The first stamps to appear were issued in 1878, and consisted of a 1-2, 4 and 6 penny and a 1s. They are not catalogued very high, compared with the 12 pence, black, Canada; the prices ranging all the way from 1 to 7 1-2 dollars. The next issue did not appear until 1884, with only two denominations, the 1 and 4 penny. Again in 1886 the same denominations made their bow to the public; this time on paper watermarked "crown" and "C. A." sideways. In 1891 appears to have arisen a demand for two new values, the 1-2 and 2 1-2 penny. They were issued in green and blue respectfully; while the 1 penny was changed to brown.

In the same year appeared their only surcharge, and let us hope it will be their last. (The 1 penny claret was overprinted with the 1-2 penny denomination, in the upper left and lower right hand corners.) This surcharge may be found in many positions; the most common being inverted and sideways, while a few received a double surcharge. In 1892, the 2 and 9 penny stamps were thrown on the market, while the other denominations appeared in new colors.

PREMIUM NO. 7.

Send a 50 cent Money Order for a year's subscription and get a copy of HALL'S REVENUE CATALOGUE FREE.

Geo. Bradley,

PUBLISHER,

St. Catharines,

Ont.

The Two-Cent Canada Envelope Purple.

BY F. W. WURTELE.

As this envelope has been denominated "fraud" and the cry of a "swindle" has been raised in regard to its issue, a few words of explanation on the matter will be of interest to the philatelist. It has also been stated that this envelope was printed in error, that it has been recalled by the Postoffice Department, and that it has been speculated in by Postoffice officials. All such assertions are incorrect.

The envelope was issued for a perfectly legitimate reason; it was placed on sale in the usual manner at the postoffices where it could be legitimately sold, and its sale, while it lasted, was absolutely unrestricted. As a matter of fact, purple was the only legitimated color in which he could have been printed for the purposes for which it was issued.

To understand the position clearly, it is necessary to explain the objects, past and present, of a two-cent envelope in Canada. The rate for postage on letters, for local delivery in the place where they are mailed, in the majority of Canadian towns is one cent, while the larger cities, where there is a delivery by carrier, this local rate, technically known as "The drop letter rate," is two cents. Hence, a two-cent envelope was only intended for use for drop letters, in the larger Canadian cities, and it was only supplied to postmasters in those places, unless specially asked for by postmasters in those towns where the envelope could only be used by the addition of an adhesive stamp, as long as a domestic rate for letters beyond the limits of the town remained at three cents.

Towards the end of December, 1898, the supply of the old 2-cent green envelope was practically exhausted at the Department at Ottawa, and in order to be prepared for any demand, from city postmasters, for more envelopes of this rate, a small supply was printed in the then proper color of the two-cent stamp, that is, purple. Although it had not then been given out to the public it had been decided by the government that commencing January 1st the postal rate to all parts of Canada and the United States should be reduced from three to two cents. According to the regulations of the Universal Postal Union, the stamp representing the domestic rate of postage must be printed in red, and knowing that, according to this arrangement, in a very short time the two-cent would have to appear in the latter color, the authorities decided to print only the small quantity that might be required for drop letters in purple.

The most of this limited stock was sent to the postoffices where the two-cent rate was in force, with instructions to sell them only after the stock of the two-cent green was exhausted. The same rule was in force in regard to the one cent envelope in green. A supply of the latter was lying in the Montreal postoffice for a month or two

and could not be had until the old one-cent blue was sold out. It must be borne in mind that stamped envelopes have a very limited sale in Canada, as very few business houses use them, and they are mostly sold one at a time to those persons who write their letters in the postoffice and come to the stamp wicket asking for an envelope. In fact, where stamp envelopes are employed by anyone else, it is because some one connected with the business house that uses them is interested in philately. Outsiders, that is the majority of the public, do not now that such things as stamped envelopes are in existence.

I had been trying for a long time to obtain at the Montreal postoffice some of the one-cent green envelope for my correspondents, but I was always met with the answer "We can't sell you any until the blues are cleared out." One evening, on again inquiring for one-cent green, the obliging young lady, who is in charge here, informed me that only 100 or so of the blues remained and, if I would buy them out, I could have my long sought one-cent green on the following morning. She also told me that she had only about the same quantity of the two-cent green, and if I would buy them she would get me the new issue of the two-cent also. This was the first I had heard that a new two-cent was contemplated, so I bought up all that remained of the old 1c and 2c envelopes, and sure enough, the next day obtained a supply of the 1-cent and 2-cent purple. I could have then secured about 1,000 2c purple, which was the entire stock sent to the Montreal postoffice, but not anticipating the change of color I purchased only what I thought was enough for ordinary wants. In the meantime the postal rate for the whole of Canada had been reduced from three to two cents, necessitating a much larger supply than formerly, of two-cent envelopes, and also necessitating that they should be printed in red; these were issued within a day or two of the two-cent purple, thus originating the report that the latter had been recalled or withdrawn. There was absolutely no restriction as to its sale, no error and no recall. That those who were fortunate enough to purchase them during the few days they were current should be dubbed frauds or speculators are unjust. In nearly every case they were bought in the ordinary course of business without any knowledge that the color was to be changed to red. That the envelope will be a rarity I have no doubt, for I am officially informed by the department that no more are to be issued in purple, and I doubt whether they could be legally issued in that color, seeing that the agreement with the Universal Postal Union is now in force. According to the usual mode of computing the value of a stamp in proportion to the quantity in existence this envelope should be worth at least \$5 or \$6, and those collectors who purchase them at what I consider the low price they are now being offered at, that is, from \$1 to \$1.50, will

have no reason to regret their investment in its efuture.

It is unjust to accuse officials of the postoffice department, who are courteous and obliging gentlemen, of using their official knowledge of the interior workings of the department to speculate for their personal gain. They are sworn to guard the secrets of their office and can give no secret information to officials of other departments or to the public, except by the violation of their oath of office, and at the risk of instant dismissal. It is natural that at Ottawa, where the stamps are first issued, the news of the limited extent of this issue should be first known, consequently it is to be expected that the public there, be they officials or others, should be able to first buy up the stock in the local postoffice, but this is not in any way illegitimate, and can furnish no reason for calling the issue "a gigantic swindle."—Weeklie's Weekly stamp news.

Canada Surcharged.

2c on 3c envelopes, unused, fine, 12c post paid.
Same, not surcharged, unused, fine, 16c post paid.

• • • • •
CANADA.

1868 1-2c black...	10
1c red brown...	10
12 1-2c blue, (scarce)...	14
1869 1c yellow...	15
1859 1c pink...	04
1892 50c blue...	22
1875 2c and 5c register...	03
8c blue, unused, fine...	1 45
1877-96 1c envelope with 2c jubilee on it...	03
1895 2c green env. 4c leaf stamp on it...	03
1898 5c and 8c 4 leaf, used...	05
1-2c 4 leaf, unused gum...	02

NEWBRUNSWICK.

1, 2, 5, 10, 12 -12 and 17c unused, complete set...	50
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NEWFOUNDLAND.

1880 1c, 3c and 5c...	12
1887 1-2c, 1c, 2c, 3c and 5c...	01
1890-95 1-2c, 3c and 6c...	10
1898 1c carnine, (scarce), used...	05
3c jubilee, used...	02

NOVA SCOTIA.

5c blue, only...	15
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UNITED STATES.

1890 3c, 6c, 8c, only...	04
1890 6c brown...	02
(Wagon 98, 2 var. for...)	01
3 varieties special delivery, cat. 25c...	10
1895 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 8c and 15c for	05
1898 5c blue...	02
Special packet of 100 assorted U. S. Columbus and 95 val. Omaha, 4 maple leafs and figure Xmas well assorted for...	20
We have B. N. A. postage 7 percent. postage extra on orders under .50c or otherwise stated.	

This is a trial ad. in the Stamp Reporter. All stamps are in the best of condition.

ROYAL STAMP CO.,

Box 433, St. Catharines, Ont.
Manager—Jas. F. Irwin. Member D.P.A., 36.

Press Review.

PAPERS RECEIVED.

Canadian Philatelic Review, March 25th.

Filatelic Facts and Fallacies, March Herald Exchange, April.
Le Philatelliste Francais, March.
Philatelic Advocate, April.
Revue Philatelique, March.
Revista De La Sociedad.
Filatelica Argentina.

The Canadian Philatelic Review has a usual a much larger amount of advertising matter than reading. Bro. Weaver hopes, no doubt, that by taking on a very large number of advertisers he may be able to obtain enough money to pay the printer's bill.

Although rather late, Filatelic Facts and Fallacies has several newsy items, Karl Ludwig explains the speculative value of the recent newspaper stamps in a page and a half article, bringing out clearly that all those who purchased these stamps for speculation, will no doubt find themselves out of pocket when they desire to dispose of them. The remainder of the reading matter is an article "Plating English Stamps."

The Herald Exchange for April has sixteen well filled pages. The reading matter is devoted chiefly to the Philatelic Exhibition of the Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute and "Exposure of Frauds." B. A. Cottlow has some readable "Chicago Notes" and "U. S. Notes." Miss A. L. Swift has an article "Things not Universally Known," which is up to the usual standard. "Pertinent paragraphs," by Henry A. Chapman, are interesting. Of all stamp magazines the Herald Exchange seems to be the most lucky in securing advertisers.

The April Advocate arrived rather late, but probably it is "better late than never." It was evidently printed in a hurry or the proof reader was sick. The notes and contents in general are about the same as usual.

EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Free to subscribers. Limit 35 words including address. To non-subscribers 1c. a word each insertion. Notices must be written on a separate piece of paper, no display allowed.

Canadian Collectors.—I would like to exchange stamps with all Canadian collectors and will give value for value on all kinds of Canadian stamps. Address, Chas. F. Frey, Box 34, Ottawa, Ohio, U. S. A.

U. S. and Cuban plate numbers to exchange for Canadian plate numbers. Send list. M. Rodermond, West Haverstraw, N. Y.

For 50 Numerals will send 25 old U. S. Revenues. For every 10 maps will send a rare revenue cat, 5c, 25 diff. foreign 3c, 2c Omaha's for maps. D. E. Finsthwait, Sta. D. Pittsburg, Pa.

SUBSCRIBERS

are wanted for this paper at once. Consider the list of premiums and see what you can get for your HALF DOLLAR.

1. Special Delivey stamp unused.
1. 10c. Numeral issue unused.
3. 4 2c Xmas stamp in black unused.
4. Scatts supplement to 58th.
5. 2c. envelope suchanged.
6. 15 var. Canadian stamps.
7. Hall's revenue catalogue.
8. 1-2c black used 1868 issue.
9. 3000 1x1 hinges.
10. The Bay State Philatelist: (one year)
11. The New York Philatelist (one year)
12. The Perofrator (one year)
13. The Herald Exchange (one year)
14. The advocate (one year)
15. The Virginia Philatelist (one year)
16. The Philatelic West.
17. Ontario Directory.
17. Virginia Directory.
18. 3 pence Beaver stamp used.
19. 1-2 inch advertising in thi spaper.
20. Evergreen State Philatelist, one year.
21. Lone Star State Philatelist, one year.
22. New South Wales Jubilee complete 3 var.
23. 150 foreign all different.
24. 30 United States all different.
25. U. S. 1c to 10c Columbia.
26. U. S. 1c to 10c Omaha.
27. British North Borneo 1887-92 1-2c. to 10c, used, 9 var.
28. 100 Finely mixed stamps of Spain.
29. 100 Finely mixed stamps of Switzerland.
30. 100 Finely mixed stamps of Russia.
31. Montreal Philatelist, one year.
32. 4 var. Soudan Camel Trooper unused.
33. U. S. 1898 \$3.00 Revenue.
34. Newfoundland 1898 issue 4 var. unused.
35. 25 var. U. S. Revenue.
36. 25 var. unused Brit. Colonials fine.
37. 6 var. Argentine Republic.
38. 10 var. Denmark.
39. 12 var. Johoa.
40. 7 var. Luxemburg.
41. 15 var. Peru used.
42. A perforation gauge.
43. Imperial map, 3 shades.
44. Maple Leaf issue 1-2c to 8c.
45. Numeral issue 1-2c to 10c.
46. 20 var. U. S. envelopes cut square.
47. 25 var. unused French Colonies.
48. 5 var. Aryouan, 1c to 10c. '92.
49. 15 var. Canada revenues.
50. 10 var. Costa Rica.
51. 3 var. New Brunswick.
52. 12 var. Warttemberg
53. 12 var. Victoria.
54. 7 var. Straits Settlements.
55. 6 var. South Australia.
56. 12 var. Servia.
57. 18 var. Mexico.
58. 6 var. Mauritius.
59. 9 var. Egypt.
60. 4 var. Fiji.
61. 12 var. Finland.
62. 4 var. Gold Coast.
63. 12 var. Great Britain.
64. 12 var Greece.
65. 4 var Grenada.
66. 8 var. Guatemala.
67. 6 var. Hawaii.
68. 4 var. Hayti.
69. 10 var. Honduras.
70. 7 var. Hong Kong.
71. 6 var. Italy early imperf.
72. 9 var. Jamaica.
73. 15 var. Japan.
74. 4 var. Sabunn.
75. 4 var. Siberia.
76. 5 var. Natal.
77. 3 var. Congo.
78. 4 var. Corea.
79. 20 var. Netherlands.
80. 4 var. China.
81. 11 var. Chile.
82. 7 var. Ceylon.
83. 7 var. Cape of Good Hope.
84. 5 var. British Guiana.
85. 15 var. Bulgaria.
86. 6 var. Barbadas.
87. 18 var. Belgium.
88. 10 var. Brazil.
89. 4 var. Bermuda.
90. 5 var. Newfoundland.
91. 10 var. New South Wales.
92. 10 New Zealand.
93. 4 var. North Borneo.
94. 5 var. Orange Free State.
95. 6 var. Persia.
96. 7 var. Philippine Island.
97. 16 var Russia.
98. 3 var. Sarawak.
99. 17 var. Roumania.
100. 6 var. Prussia.

Any one of the above choice premiums will be sent to any one sending 50 cents for a year's subscription to this paper and a 2c stamp for return postage.

This is an extraordinary list and will only appear once. Send at once so that you will secure a premium. This is a bono fide offer made for the purpose of securing a large number of new subscribers within the next three weeks.

GEO. BRADLEY,

PUBLISHER,

Box 94,

St. Catharines, Ont.