

VOL. I

MARCH & APRIL, 1897

NOS. 11 & 12

THE

ONTARIO PHILATELIST

A Monthly Magazine
published in the interests
of Stamp Collectors

W. A. BEATTY

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

88 KING STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ONT., CANADA

Entered at St. Catharines P. O. as Second-class Mail Matter.

The Ontario Philatelist

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

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ED. BEE'S LETTER

No. 5

To the Editor of the Ontario Philatelist.

DEAR SIR: I had a chance the other day to see one of the finest collections of proofs and essays of the United States stamps that there is in the country, and I am going to tell you about it. I suppose you will publish this letter, and so I will explain a little, as I have no doubt but what there are lots of your readers who do not know what a proof or an essay is. There are two kinds of proofs—die and plate. Die, or hub plates as they are sometimes called, are impressions taken from the die when first engraved, and before the plate has been made. They are distinguished from the ordinary plate proofs by having large margins, much larger than is possible from a plate. Plate proofs are impressions from the plates that the stamps are printed from, hence they have but small margins, simply that which is perforated in the original. Most of the die proofs are printed on India paper, and the others, plate proofs, are

printed on India paper and fine cardboard. Essays are designs for the stamps, supposed to have been submitted to the government and rejected on account of not filling the qualifications in the estimation of the officials to whom submitted. Many of them are as handsome as any of the stamps ever issued by the United States government. Some it is next to impossible to procure; and others, owing no doubt to the plate or die being in existence, can be bought for a mere trifle. A few years ago proofs and essays were seldom seen even in the finest collections; but now, owing to philatelic influence and the persistency of the pages in the house of representatives, who had a pull with the members of Congress, in a measure no doubt increased the interest in them and the money in the pages' pockets as well.

I think the essay specimens are the most beautiful of all philatelic treasures, and I will simply mention a few of those I saw: 1st—Large "3" in centre, "postage" above, "cents" below in lathe work oval, die

proof in red, black, blue, brown and green. 2nd—Franklin to left, "U. S. postage" above, "three cents" below, India proofs in black and red. 3rd—Similar design to No. 1, with addition of "U. S.," Washington to the right in circle, "U. S. postage" above, "three cents" below. 4th—Washington to right in niche, inscriptions same as the Franklin above, die proofs in fine colors. There were a number of others, but these are all I remember sufficiently to describe. I am in hopes of seeing them again, and if I do so will send a fuller and better description. These are very interesting, and I am in hopes I can add a few to my collection before long.

ED. BEE.

Ottawa Notes

By Acadia

At last I am able to inform your readers that Postmaster-General Mulock has now consented to issue a special Jubilee stamp of the value of three cents; the sketch of the approved design has been submitted to the British American Bank Note Co. to be engraved. It will be nearly as large as the American Columbus issue, and will consist of two portraits of the Queen, one as she appeared sixty years ago, and one as she appears now.

One of the officials of the B. A. Bank Note Co. was

telling me the other day that Newfoundland was to issue a new set of stamps on June 14, consisting of the values of $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, 6, 10 and 15 cents, which will also be a commemorative issue. Let all the other British colonies fall into line, and give us something that British subjects will be proud to look at and recall the 60th year of a happy and peaceful reign of our beloved Queen Victoria.

Postmaster-General Mulock is to attend the Postal Congress to be held in Washington (D. C.) in May, when the home officers will try to get a cheaper rate of postage between the different colonies.

Stamps in Ottawa are very scarce just at present, and collectors are paying more attention to Parliamentary matters and learning the laws of the country.

The C. H. Mekeel Stamp Co. of St. Louis (Mo.) recently made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors to Mr. W. C. Beckett, for the sum of \$13,000. C. H. Mekeel, president of the company, will go to Europe, and possibly embark in the stamp business there. Geo. D. will still retain the Exchange Department of the A. P. A., while I. A. will continue the Weekly, and it is to be hoped that there will be a greater improvement in that periodical than formerly.

Review

We have received a very neat want list from E. T. Parker of Bethlehem (Pa.), which in our opinion fills "a long-felt want," as by a glance a collector can see at once what stamp or stamps he is in need of for his collection. It can be obtained from the above address for 10 cents.

The Collectors' address book for Colorado has been sent to us from Mr. O. K. Carstarphen of Denver (Col.), and is in our opinion taken from the pages of Bearsdley's address book, which requires time and patience to get the names in a readable condition. However, it is very neat to those who require names in that style, and it can be obtained from Mr. Carstarphen for 10 cents.

Obituary

We notice with regret the death of Mr. John K. Tiffany of St. Louis, who was for so many years president of the American Philatelic Association, and a student and interesting writer on subjects connected with stamp collecting. Mekeel's Weekly states that he was ill only a few days, undergoing a surgical operation which resulted fatally. His age was fifty-five years.

Mr. Tiffany was a graduate of Harvard College, and a lawyer, although he did not practice his profession to any great extent, giving his time instead

to the care of the large estate left by his father.

His collection of stamps was quite extensive, being very complete up to the time when he ceased to add to it a few years ago.

His interest of late had been in collecting philatelic literature, of which he possessed an almost complete collection.

The articles which Mr. Tiffany has written and the work which he has done, particularly in inciting others to labor in the endeavor to solve stamp problems, has been very great, and he will always be remembered as one of the great pioneers in American philatelic study and research.

The editor of this magazine has a customer who wishes to purchase a well established philatelic paper, either monthly or weekly publication. Address "Customer," care of Editor ONTARIO PHILATELIST.

Owing to sickness, and the late date on which the ballot for official organ of the D. P. A. was held, there was no February issue, and we have issued our March and April number together, which accounts for our non-appearance.

When the first Canadian stamps came out, parties living in country towns were not accustomed to the use of stamps, and on one was written: "Paid if the blamed thing sticks."

THE - ONTARIO - PHILATELIST

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The color of the G. N. W. Telegraph Stamps for 1896 is vermillion, and the 1897 is dull blue.

If the publishers of the Philatelic Advocate were to get a good proof reader and print it on better paper it would improve the paper to a great extent.

Members of the D. P. A. who would like to continue taking this magazine we will give a give a year's subscription for 15 cts. for this month only, when the offer will be withdrawn. Send D. P. A. number please.

By a special offer from the publishers of the Philatelic Californian we can now offer the two magazines together for only 35 cts. Take advantage of this great offer.

The editor and Mr. Widdicombe were in Toronto on the 16th, and called upon all principal dealers and collectors there. Mention must be made of the kindness of W.R. Adams and C. Bailey, who did everything they could to make our visit pleasant.

From the last number of the Halifax Philatelic Magazine we clip the following article from their editorial, and cannot but admire the independent spirit of Brother Muirhead. The article in question is as follows: "To endeavor to change the official organship was outside the power of the amalgamation meeting. Among other papers, the Halifax Philatelic Magazine was nominated, but the publishers beg leave to state that they are not competitors in the present case. We are not participating in the dirty piece of work to filch the organship from Mr. Beatty's ONTARIO PHILATELIST and give it to a Toronto paper. At the next annual convention we may accept a nomination as official organ, but will not stoop to trickery and illegal means to gain our ends. In the language of to-day 'we don't have to.'"

Post office dummies! The postmaster of New York finding that deaf mutes could be used for certain work, there are now three in the postoffice engaged in stamping, and one in sorting. "When we get two noisy men," says the assistant superintendent, "we put a 'dummy' between them and so secure quiet."

THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST is no longer the official organ of the D. P. A., the members deciding in favor of the Philatelic Canadian. The sorrowful wail of the Philatelic Advocate was really amusing, and was enjoyable reading for ye editor. Why is it that you did not express your views before, as we would gladly have given you a chance to earn a few cents. Again, they accuse us of not placing their name on the list of papers nominated; the report of Secretary Adams was not very good, and he forgot to place the name on the ticket. Again, they blame us for not publishing the report of the President, Exchange Superintendent and Librarian. They were never received by us, and it would not be to our advantage to make up a report of our own.

Many dealers in the United States are under the impression that there is a tax on all stamps coming into Canada. Such is not the case, as the law has been obsolete for the past two years.

Judicious Advertising

Judicious scruples in advertising seem to be entirely lacking among certain classes of dealers in postage stamps. Some dealers place their advertising without any regard to medium or circulation. For a stamp paper to claim five thousand circulation is enough to induce some dealers, who ought to be "on their pins," to rush in their advertisements. But why not discriminate? Why not look before you leap? Why do you not consider the good qualities and the bad before placing your advertising? It costs cold cash to advertise. There are dealers who grumble and growl if they do not get a "pile" of answers to their one-inch notice. Perhaps the advertisement was wrong? perhaps it was the wrong kind of an advertisement in the wrong medium? Doubtless it was both, if it did not pay. "A crowded car doesn't insure a pleasant ride," neither does a stamp journal filled with dealers' advertisements pay so well as if the same had only half so many. Ten to one your advertisement in such a medium would not pay you, unless you offered some unusual bargain.

It pays a dealer much more to place a well written, correctly worded, "catchy" advertisement in a medium which is not overflowed with competitors' advertising. And the advertisement must be suited to the readers of the journal. You can readily see

the advantages of a magazine which is not full of advertisements. In fine, you do not have many competitors, and you are consequently more apt to catch the buyer.

But see that you tell nothing but the naked truth, and lots of it; and then, if you have stamps for which there is a demand at your selling price, your advertisement, if properly displayed, will pay you as well as those of the mysterious (?) dealer.

KERAS.

P. S.—And his pay!

The 12½-cent black Nova Scotia is very similar in coloring and general appearance to the 12-pence Canada, and is worth more in a used condition. It was for many years called the Queen of Stamps by old-time collectors, and is still equal to any engraving that has yet been produced, and, like the 8½c. and 10c. of the same series, it bears the portrait of Queen Victoria as she may have looked 35 years ago, and when examined under a strong glass one is amazed not only at the marvellous precision of every date and line, but Her Britannic Majesty seems to gaze serenely out with a startling similarity to life in the light of the calm and placid eyes. These stamps are beautiful, and illustrate the highest type of art in engraving, and form a set that will soon be out of the reach of the average collector.—*Weekly Philatelic Era*.

Ourselves

With this number we close our first volume, and beg to thank all those who have favored us with subscriptions and advertising patronage. A large number of our subscriptions expire with this number, and we ask all those to favor us with a renewal at as early a date as possible, as we intend to improve the appearance of THE ONTARIO PHILATELIST to a great extent, and we ask the co-operation of our retiring subscribers.

Many more such "floods" upon the stamp market would undoubtedly seriously effect it. Such a find is liable to occur any time in United States revenues. There are many, many rare revenues which still remain to be unearthed by philatelists.

The neatest address book that we have yet received is the Stamp Collector's Handbook and Directory of Ontario, compiled by Mr. R. G. Widdicombe of St. Catharines, Ont. It consists of 16 pages and cover, giving a list of some 200 collectors and dealers residing in the province; also a list of all stamp papers and officers of the Dominion Philatelic Association. It is a very useful book, and should be in every philatelic library and in the hands of those who desire reliable correspondents in Ontario. The price is placed at the low rate of 10c. per copy, and can be obtained from the above address.

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