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The Philatelic Courier

AND STAMP-COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

Les personnes qui auront reçu plus d'un exemplaire de ce numéro sont priées de les transmettre aux philatelistes de leur connaissance.

The receiver of more than one copy of this number will please give copies to stamp-collectors in his vicinity.

Vol. 1. HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 1882. No. 3.

The Philatelic Courier

AND
STAMP COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL
IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

AT 184 ARGYLE STREET.....HALIFAX, N. S.

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HENRY HECHLER, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR,
184 Argyle Street,
HALIFAX, N. S., CANADA.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL, 1882.

A UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Philatelists are now becoming tolerably well acquainted and are enabled to inter-communicate their thoughts and ideas to a certain extent through the several papers that are published in the interests of their science.

It has, however, been brought to our notice by certain leading philatelists that the advancement of philately would be much assured by the formation of a Universal Association, with which all Philatelic Societies throughout the world shall be affiliated. We presume that we have been approached on the subject because the PHILATELIC COURIER has a larger circulation in different parts of the world than any other similar paper published. We thoroughly approve of the suggestion and gladly give it publicity. The formation of such an association would, in our opinion, be of very great benefit. Bringing the various societies into close correspondence they would be enabled to act simultaneously everywhere. Proposed improvements in the postal systems of various countries would be fully discussed and, if decided to be advisable and beneficial, the several branches everywhere could at the same time bring the matter to the notice of their respective Post-Masters General. Acting thus together the Association would have a very considerable

influence and would be capable of accomplishing much good.

Such an association would be very beneficial also to philatelists generally. It will go a great way towards putting a stop to forgeries and to various other impostures that are from time to time practiced or attempted.

Again in the event of a World's Fair being held in any country such an association would take official charge of the philatelic department and make it a prominent feature of the exhibition. What was so successfully done at Vienna last fall could be carried out on even a much larger scale and be made a regular part of all great exhibitions. Indeed the Association could easily arrange to have annual meetings or congresses first in one and then in another of the great capitals of the world which would be attended by delegates from the different branch societies. At those meetings exhibitions of everything connected with philately and kindred sciences might be held and valuable prizes offered for the best collections shown, the best essays written on certain subjects connected with philately, etc. In this way a more general interest would be awakened in the subject and this would be of large benefit to the rising generation and to students of contemporary history.

Again Philatelists travelling from home would everywhere find friends belonging to societies affiliated with the Universal Association and would not, therefore, feel like strangers when away from the places of their residence. Anyone who has ever travelled will appreciate the advantage that this will be and this alone must largely tend to popularize philately and to increase the numbers of those interested in that and in kindred matters.

RULES OF THE U. P. ASSOCIATION.

Of course a set of rules and by-laws must be prepared and all members should be supplied with copies thereof and with certificates of membership. It would be well to make it a condition of membership that a candidate shall belong to a local branch where he lives, if such a branch exists, which branch shall recommend him to the Universal Society. It would also be advisable to make the certificates of membership good for the year only in which they are issued and renewable from year to year. Printing the rules and certificates will of course involve some labor and expense but this could be easily met by charging an admission fee of say, one dollar and a further annual fee of, say, fifty cents to each member. The rules might be altered from time to time if deemed necessary or advisable by the annual congress of philatelists which we have above suggested.

SUBSCRIBERS

To the PHILATELIC COURIER may receive back numbers except No 1, on application. We will pay 25 cents for any copies of No 1 that our subscribers will return to this office, our supply being exhausted.

SEND POSTAGE.—As our circulation is now so large that it entails a heavy expense in postage, friends abroad ordering extra or specimen numbers will please enclose with their orders a three-cent stamp to pay return postage.

POSTAL PROGRESS.

The history of the postal service is a record of continuous reform. There has been no retrogression. Extreme radical changes excepting the abolishing of the Penny Post in England—have not, at any time, impelled its progress, but it has moved steadily along with the advancement of science and even apace with the wonderful educational strides which mark the present era.

Step by step the provisions of the Post have been brought within the reach of the people, so that to-day its facilities can be, and are, as conveniently availed of by the laboring classes as by the wealthiest in the land.

Not alone in the gradual reductions in postage rates has the postal reform been distinguished. The universality of the system of the treatment and conveyance of the mails is one of the marked features of recent postal improvements. The wide world over no one people enjoy greater advantages in this respect than another. The suggestions of the advanced and most practical thinkers on postal matters, adopted by the Postal Union, are simultaneously utilized by all constitutional governments, and hence the postal machinery, not of one country but of the civilized world in unison, now moves with the regularity of clock work.

Is it necessary to jot down the reforms that have been accomplished during the last half of the present century? It is not certainly called for because postal exactions affect the people so directly that every concession that has been made is, so to speak, as familiar as household words.

It may not be amiss, however, to refer to one or two changes for the better that have recently been made as indicating the character of the reforms that are now taking shape. The extension of the classes of mail matter is one of these. A few years ago nothing but letters and newspapers could be forwarded through the post, even within the borders of our own country. Now, a postal card that, originally, had a very circumscribed limit, can be sent to the most distant countries, and samples for trade purposes, and a book post that covers a long list of miscellaneous articles, can be carried everywhere at a rate of postage so trifling that it may be truly said to be next to nothing.

And yet, the limit of postal facilities has not been nearly reached. The spirit of the present day is not satisfied with the progress that has characterized the last decades—splendid as that record is. There are undoubtedly great achievements in store in the post office. Only within the last few days the Canadian government, alive to the desires of the people, has intimated its intention to abolish the tax on newspapers from the office of publication, so that the newspaper which has become so

indispensable in the homes of our people will, henceforth, be conveyed there free of post.

In all probability in a very short time the Parcel Post rate will be considerably reduced and, while now confined to the Dominion, will then be extended to all parts of this continent, to the United Kingdom, and perhaps to other European countries. England is already moving in this matter of the Parcel Post. What a boon will this be! Other improvements—local and general—must follow in rapid succession, for the great Postal Service is bound to adapt itself to the unmistakable genius of the age.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The *Stamp Dealers' Gazette* of Bury St. Edmunds, England, remarks:—"The numbers of new philatelic papers pressed upon us at this season are legion. Collectors should each support two of the oldest and best." We would remind our contemporary that the *oldest* is not necessarily the *best*.

The *Stamp World*, Cincinnati, for March is at hand. It claims to have doubled its circulation with that number. It is a good paper and we rejoice in its success.

The May number of the *St. Louis Philatelist* has been received. This journal is in its tenth year and contains much valuable and interesting information in each issue.

The first number of a new stamp paper—the "*Moniteur des Timbrophiles*" published in Belgium, has been received. It is well gotten up on clear, white paper, 8 pages somewhat smaller than the PHILATELIC COURIER, and contains a large amount of valuable information. We wish it full success.

The March number of the "*Dresdener Illustrirtes Briefmarken-Journal*" is at hand. It is a good paper and has a deservedly large circulation among German-speaking philatelists.

The 1st and 2nd numbers of "*O Brazil Philatelico*", published at Sao Paulo, have been received, they are very creditable in appearance and in contents and will, doubtless, command a good circulation and achieve success. The first number favored us with a flattering notice which we shall try to continue to deserve.

The "*New Jersey Philatelist*" for March was pleased to refer to us most kindly, and to encourage us in our notion of making this paper a monthly. We are deeply obliged to it for its kind wishes, and would gladly make the change if the support received from our Philatelic friends would warrant us in doing so. We do not as yet see our way clear but our ambition is to become a monthly. Our contemporary is one of the best and most valued of our exchanges. We therefore regret that the April number has not as yet reached us. We never receive a number without learning something valuable from it.

TO OUR EXCHANGES.

We shall be much obliged to publishers of other Philatelic journals if they will send us copies of their papers regularly and promptly in exchange for ours. Any notices with which they may be disposed to kindly favor us will be appreciated, acknowledged and, as occasion may offer, reciprocated.

GERMAN REPLY CARDS.

The new bill by which it is proposed to introduce the German system of "reply" post-cards defines a reply post-card as "a post-card of such a character that the person receiving the same through the post may without further payment again transmit the same or a part thereof through the post." The necessity for this Act has arisen from the circumstance that the Post Office authorities are at present limited to one halfpenny as the highest rate for an inland post-card. The bill accordingly provides that "nothing in the Post Office Acts shall be deemed to prevent the issue of a reply post-card, or the fixing of a rate of postage for a reply post-card, not exceeding double the rate charged for an ordinary post-card."

BRISTOL PARCEL POST.

The leading railway companies of the kingdom have just completed a series of returns containing full and valuable information as to the parcel traffic for a period of four days. The returns give the number of parcels carried under the following weights, namely, 7lb., 14lb., 21lb., and 56lb. The return also gives details of the number of insured parcels, containing jewellery and valuable fabrics, together with the method of their conveyance in sealed hampers from one town to another, and the proportion of parcels for rural districts. These returns will furnish important data as to the plant to be provided for by the Post Office authorities in the carrying out of the parcel post scheme. It is anticipated that as soon as the parcel post is well established, the limit will be extended from 7lb. to 14lb. weight.

TO POSTMASTERS.

THE Editor will thank Postmasters for all information they will kindly send, respecting new issues of stamps, cards, and envelopes, or on the subject of changes in important mail routes; and in fact for any news respecting new postal arrangements. Our object is to utilize the large circulation of the COURIER, which goes over the whole world, to make public such changes.

AUX MAITRES DE POSTE.

LE REDACTEUR sera bien aise de remercier les maitres de poste que lui feront la bonte de donner de temps a autre les informations les plus recentes sur les nouvelles emissions de timbres, cartes ou enveloppes, et aussi au sujet de tous changements de routes-mailles; enfin sur toutes les nouvelles a propos des reglemens postaux. Notre but est de transmettre a tous les quartiers du monde les informations importantes, lequel nous permet la grande circulation du COURIER, couvrant le monde entier.

NON-ADHERANTS.

The countries and colonies having organized postal services which have not yet adhered to the Postal Union are Bolivia in South America, Costa Rica in Central America, New Zealand and the British colonies in Australia. With these exceptions the territory of the Universal Postal Union may now be said to embrace the civilized world. It includes an area of over 50,000,000 square miles, with a population of about 800,000,000.

COLLECTING LETTERS.

In this matter, concerning which we made a few remarks in our last issue, Canada is far behind other countries as the following from our esteemed correspondent at St. Petersburg, Russia, will illustrate:—"I was much astonished that collecting letters in locked canvass bags and exchanges in letter-boxes is only proposed in Canada. It was always the manner of collecting letters from letter boxes in St. Petersburg and in other places in Russia."

U. S. POSTAL STATISTICS.

The annual report of the Postmaster General of the United States, recently submitted to both houses of Congress, at Washington, D. C., is replete with useful information. We quote some of this as follows:—

The entire revenue of the Post Office Department from July 1st, 1886 to June 30th, 1887 was \$574,838,788.83 and the amount granted from the Treasury to the Department in the same period aggregated \$122,609,817.14—making the total receipts \$697,448,555.47. The total expenditures in the same period aggregated the sum of \$591,276,559.89. The contrast presented and the vast increase of the business in the past forty-five years is shown by the fact that in 1836-7 the income of the Department was \$4,945,686.21 and the expenditure was \$3,288,319.08, while in the year 1880-1 the income was \$40,083,319.48 and expenditure \$39,592,566.22. The surplus for the whole period has therefore apparently been \$106,171,996.08. But deducting the amount of the Treasury grants during the time under consideration, we find the deficit arising from the postal service to have been \$6,437,821.06. In 1880-1 the actual revenue was \$36,785,397.97 which gives a deficit independent of the Treasury grant—\$3,297,921.46—of \$1,807,168.25.

A GALLANT PRINCE.

Prince Alexander of Bulgaria is one of the most gallant of rulers. Not long ago a Parisian who has a mania for collecting postage stamps, and who owns a marvellous album, tried and tried in vain to get a complete series of Bulgarian stamps. She made all kinds of offers, sent out commissions, etc., and at last, impatient of all delay, determined to make a bold attempt to get what she wanted or perish in the attempt. She wrote a letter to Prince Alexander of Bulgaria, explaining matters to him and asking him to come to her assistance. Presently came a graceful letter written in the prince's own hand and enclosing a complete collection of his country's stamps.

POSTAL FACILITIES ON THE AMERICAN RAILROADS.—

The Post Office Department has under consideration the propriety of adopting some means to enable travellers on railroads to mail postal cards and letters. It is suggested that this can be done by placing plain lettered mail boxes in each passenger car, and that postal clerks, or messengers on the train or at the principal stations along the road, make the collections, thereby placing the whole thing in responsible hands and under the control of the department.—*New Jersey Philatelist.*

ADMISSIONS TO THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

The United States of Colombia, having ceded in 1849 to the Panama Railroad Company for a term of 99 years the exclusive right to transport mails across the isthmus of Panama, at certain rates fixed by that company, the government of that country no longer possesses complete sovereignty in postal matters so far as isthmus transportations are concerned. Consequently the United States of Colombia has been admitted to the Union with the reservation that special rates of transit of mails across the isthmus are to be applied in lieu of the Union territorial transit charges fixed by article 4 of the Convention of Paris.

Table showing the countries and colonies which have acceded to the Postal Union since the date of the Postmaster-General's report for 1880, and the dates upon which the said countries and colonies entered, or will enter, the union.

Grenada.....	February 1, 1881
St. Lucia.....	February 1, 1881
Tobago.....	February 1, 1881
Turk's Islands.....	February 1, 1881
Chili, Republic of.....	April 1, 1881
Hayti, Republic of.....	July 1, 1881
Paraguay, Republic of.....	July 1, 1881
Colombia, United States of.....	July 1, 1881
Guatemala, Republic of.....	August 1, 1881
Barbadoes.....	September 1, 1881
St. Vincent.....	September 1, 1881
Hawaiian Islands.....	January 1, 1882
Nicaragua, Republic of.....	May 1, 1882

ILLUMINATED LETTER-BOXES.

It has been suggested, and we highly approve the idea, that the holes or slits in the street letter-boxes be surrounded with a line of luminous paint. This paint costs little more than ordinary paint. It will be a great convenience at night to all—especially strangers—who wish to deposit their letters in the boxes. No matter how dark or how stormy the night, the slit into which the letters are to be put will be as clearly distinguished as at noon of a pleasant day. Exposure to storms will not injure its luminous powers more than is ordinary paint injured. This is a cheap reform that the Post Office authorities would do well to consider.

WEIGHT OF U. S. POSTAL MATTER.

In the year ending June 30th, 1881 there were sent from the United States to foreign countries through the mails the following weights of matter:—

	Letters lbs.	Papers, etc. lbs.
To Europe	285,765,536	1,104,217,706
To other countries and colonies in the Postal Union	23,540,352	175,216,140
To countries not in the Postal Union	868,330	not given
Totals	309,175,218	1,279,433,846

U. S. MONEY ORDERS.

The following table will give an idea of the extent and importance of the Money Order business transacted by the Post Offices in the United States in the year ending June 30th, 1881:—

Country.	Number of Orders Issued.	Amount of Orders Issued.	Fees.	Number of Orders Paid.	Amount of Orders Paid.	Amount of Orders re-paid.
Domestic.....	7,063,932	\$107,072,769.33	\$66,723.75	7,627,710	\$104,219,822.65	\$830,127.72
Canadian.....	40,008	877,756.02	14,051.63	38,373	611,163.69	3,886.04
British.....	245,244	2,008,989.65	54,723.10	21,169	360,736.71	4,662.91
German.....	84,991	1,292,725.83	24,001.60	85,007	825,001.07	6,130.41
Swiss.....	7,521	145,749.94	4,106.90	3,630	109,372.31	485.56
Italian.....	9,385	239,673.95	54,697.90	928	23,548.15	7,031.99
French.....	4,649	73,030.07	1,333.30	2,676	38,380.22	877.14
Total.....	7,953,330	\$109,759,695.72	\$1,072,899.20	7,761,038	\$106,178,092.60	\$2,177,312.67

THE REDUCTION OF LETTER POSTAGE.

from three to two cents will be possible within three years. I believe this reduction could be accomplished without the proportionate diminution of receipts which followed the adoption of three-cent postage in 1851. The people have shown their appreciation of cheap postage. The introduction of the postal card, instead of diminishing the receipts, has on the whole largely increased them. Two cent postage would, I believe, after one or two years' trial produce the same result. It is my deliberate judgment that two-cent postage is feasible in the near future. I would favor it even if the rates of postage on third and fourth class matter had to be increased. The great mass of the people are interested in cheap letter postage. The proportion of those benefited by the unremunerative rates on third and fourth class matter is comparatively small. Moreover the people who are benefited could afford to pay more liberally for the advantages extended to them. The bulk and weight of third and fourth class matter adds so largely to the cost of transporting the mails that all the profit realized from letter postage is thereby absorbed. If these classes of matter contributed proportionately, two-cent postage would at once be assured. It the government is to be a common carrier, ought it to be compelled to lose money thereby? Ought the many who are interested in cheap letter postage be taxed for the benefit of the few who are concerned for low rates on third and fourth class matter?

NEW ISSUES of Adhesives Post Cards and Envelopes.

Argentine Republic.—Our correspondent informs us that the 5 centavos stamp of the type of 1867 has been revived but it is not used at its original face value. It is perforated horizontally across the middle. Each half is used for ½ centavo. The numeral ½ is so encharged in the centre that the perforation divides it and near the lower edge appears the surcharge "Provisorio." A 12 centavo stamp is also announced as soon to appear. Also a news-band of ½c., a post-card of 2c and reply card of 2x2 centavos.

Azores.—The current Portuguese stamps of 25 reis, bistre-brown, is now used in the Azores surcharged with the name of the Colony.

Austria.—Postal cards and reply-cards, brown on buff, for 2 kr and 2x2 kr with Roumanian inscription are now current.

Barbadoes.—A ½ post-card for domestic use only, red-brown, has been issued.

Belgium.—A new card for domestic use, 5c violet, is issued. A new style of cards and reply-cards for each official department are in use.

Bhopa, India.—A new type of ½ anna, black is in circulation.

Brazil.—The new type now in use in the empire is as follows:—

50 reis.....blue
100 "bronze-green
200 "red

Also a very neatly-executed post card for domestic use only, 20 reis, brown and white. A Postal Union card 80 reis orange on white will shortly appear.

Bulgarian.—A new series—values in stotinkas—is now current.

Cabul.—The current series is of a new style. The stamps are circular and of the value of 5 and 10 annas and 1 rupee violet.

Canada.—A new 1 cent post-card will shortly issue. It will be a little larger than those hitherto in use and without marginal border. Design otherwise similar to those now in use. A news band of a new style has issued on pale yellow paper. The stamp is similar in design to the last issue and in a brighter blue than that was, but is more coarsely executed, being apparently a wood engraving. Philatelists will bear in mind that the late news-band was furnished in two shades of paper. A new issue of stamps is in contemplation but details are not as yet divulged. Our readers will have the first information.

Cape of Good Hope.—Our attentive correspondent at Capetown has sent us specimens of the new id wrapper now in use there. The stamp is oval, color brown, and is very plain in design.

Cape Verde Islands.—The colors of the current series are 10 reis, green, 40 reis, yellow; 50 reis, blue.

Dominican Republic.—The following envelopes have been issued and are now in use. 5c, blue; 10c, carmine; 15c, yellow; 20c, bistre-brown; 30c, magenta; 40c, brown; 45c violet; 60c, emerald. Also 2c, orange and 3c, black, newspaper wrappers.

Dutch India.—A set of unpaid-letter stamps of the same type as those in use in

Holland have been issued. They are of the values of 2½, 5, 20, 40 and 75cents.

Ecuador.—The stamps now current are of a new design. Their values are in centavos instead of in reals heretofore.

Egypt.—The color of the 10 paras stamp has been changed from its recent blue to the original gray.

France.—The new 30x300 reply card, rose on buff, is in circulation.

Great Britain.—A reply card is promised shortly.

Honduras.—A stamp of a new kind bearing the inscription "Postal Union," 2 centavos, orange, has been issued.

Hong Kong.—One dollar "Stamp Duty" now used for postage.

India.—A stamp of a new design—value one anna and 6 pires—has been issued. Also a 3 annas, orange.

Italy.—The new postal-union cards are out. The card is of the same design as the last but it is of emerald-green and the impression is brown. Halves to centesimi and 10x10c.

Jamaica. 1½d and 3d revenue stamps are used for postage.

Macao.—A new series will shortly be issued.

New Caledonia.—A surcharge of 25c on 35c is in circulation.

Norway.—The following reply cards have been issued:

5x6 ore.....blue on buff
10x10 "(Postal Union)....rose on white
Also a single card 5 ore blue on buff.

Paraguay.—The following new postal cards are in use:—2 centavos, lilac, and three centavos, blue, and replies 4x4 brown.

Persia.—A neatly-executed stamp of the new type black and chamois with orange border—50 centimes, is in use.

Peru.—The entire new series—1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos and 1 sole—make a fine appearance. They are all, however, surcharged with the Chilian coat of arms. The 5 and 50 cents and the 1 sole have in addition the surcharge enclosed in a horse-shoe-shaped impression the words "Union Postal Universal" and under that "Peru" across the stamp. The entire set of envelopes—2, 5, 10, 20, and 50—bear, besides the Peruvian stamp and at its left the Chilian coat of arms, impression in vermilion, and beneath it the legend "Caja Fiscal de Lima." Also on the lower left hand corner a circle enclosing the words "Lima" in the upper and "Principal" in the lower half. The date is stamped across the centre of the circle. The impression is in black.

Philippine Islands.—A stamp of the new value of 12 4-8 centride peso has appeared. The following new provisionals have also appeared:—2c yellow surcharge on 200 m deep green; 1 v black on 10 cuartos brown; 22 carmine on 2 reals blue. The color of the current 2 4-8 c de pesos is to be changed to blue.

Portuguese India.—The new series was issued in January and are, as far as we are informed, as follows:—1½ reis, black, 4½ do, brown, 6 do green, 1 tanga, rose, 2 do, blue, 4 do, lilac, 8 do, orange. The latest provisionals are 1 tanga, black surcharge on the 10c reis lilac and 2 tanga black surcharge on 300 reis brown.

Portugal.—A stamp, 25 reis red-brown of a new type for postal and telegraph service has been issued.

Queensland.—High and low value of Fiscal Stamps are now used for postage.

Russia.—Samples of the following new values are now in use:—1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 15, 35 and 70 kopecks. The new envelopes are of the values of 7 kopecks and are stamped in blue. It is announced that after January 1st proximo stamps of a large size for telegraph and postal service will be introduced. The values will be 3½ and 7 roubles. Also envelopes of 40k., postal cards 3k., and bands for printed matter, 1k., orange and 2k green.

Servia.—A new series of unpaid-letter stamps has issued.

South Australia.—The 1 penny (green) stamp is surcharged with the words "Half Penny" and a line is drawn through the original denomination "one penny."

Straits Settlement.—On the 15th, of January the new 5 and 10 cent stamps were issued.

Switzerland.—The long-promised new series of stamps for this country have been issued and make a very creditable appearance. They are of two types. The first are of the values of 2, 3, 5, 10, 12 and 15 centimes. They bear the word "Helvetia" forming the arc of a circle and the Geneva cross in the upper and the denomination in the lower half. The others are of the values of 20, 25, 40 and 50 centimes and 1 franc. The centre is an oval occupied by a figure of Helvetia bearing in her right hand a lance and supporting with her left a shield on which is emblazoned the Geneva cross. Over her head is the word "Helvetia" and the encircling oval is occupied by 27 stars. The denomination of the stamp is noted below the feet of the Goddess.

Uruguay.—It is announced that stamps conforming to the Postal Union rates will be shortly issued. Their values will be 5, 10 and 20 centavos.

Venezuela.—"Escuelas."—A new 5 bolivares, blue, is in use.

Wurtemberg.—A new stamp, value 1 mark has been added to the series of service stamps.

We invite all Correspondents to send us ON APPEARANCE, provisional issues or new issues to the amount of One Dollar or Five Francs in lowest values, for which we will remit promptly on receipt.

H. HECHLER,

184 Argyle Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

FREE NEWSPAPERS.

The House Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads of the U.S. agree to report unfavorably on the bill providing that newspapers and periodicals be sent post free to members of the life-saving service, favorably on the bill to fix the compensation of postmasters of the fourth class, and favorably on the bill providing the rate of postage on second-class mail matter at letter-carrier offices be 2 cents per pound.

PUBLISHERS OF PHILATELIC ALBUMS.

Long experience and much consideration of the matter has led us to the conclusion that publishers of philatelic albums, especially the larger and more valuable and costly ones do not take the proper method to meet the natural desires of their customers. A collector of stamps who has paid a considerable sum for an album that is at the time complete and who has expended a large amount of money in buying stamps to fill it—to say nothing of the patience, skill and labor involved—often discovers that the list of the stamps of his album was not as complete as he thought it was, and he always finds that there have been new emissions in different countries and that old styles have been retired and become obsolete. Under these circumstances he applies to the album publishers and is advised to buy a newer, revised edition in volumes. The most enthusiastic collector feels that this is not what he desires. He does not wish to throw away the book on which he has expended so much pleasant labor. Then the work of removing the stamps that have been pasted into one book, from the old into the new album, that will itself soon be obsolete, is not certain to be a complete success and will not recommend itself to any sensible person. In fact there can be no doubt that this difficulty is one important reason why many persons who have begun the study of the Philatelic Art and the gathering of collections have given it up in disgust. Thus not only publishers of albums but dealers in stamps lose customers who might have been retained or attracted if a proper regard to their convenience was shown.

It is very well to endeavor to induce a new customer to purchase the newest and fullest edition of an album but, after that, publishers should put themselves in a position to supply their customers from time to time with supplements to the albums that they have already sold them. We are convinced that they will, in the long run, find this course more profitable than that they now follow.

In publishing albums as in every other business there is so much competition that those who most truly consult the tastes and desires of their patrons will reap the amplest reward. We commend this idea to the consideration of Publishers of Philatelic Albums.

FREE POSTAL DELIVERY.—Letters, papers, etc., are delivered to their addresses in 109 cities in the United States.

USE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

A correspondent of the *Public Ledger*, Philadelphia, attributes the first use and issue of Postage stamps to John Lorimer Graham, postmaster in New York in 1842. These stamps were, he says, about the size of the stamp now in use, bore the head of Washington and were of the value of three cents. The postmasters of St. Louis, Baltimore, Alexandria, Va., New Haven, Providence, R. I., and Brattleboro, Vt., followed about in the order named in 1845 and 1846. According, however, to the recollection of an old employe of the New York post-office, stamps were brought into use first by Postmaster Morris in 1847 or 1848. He issued stamps of his own at five and ten cents apiece, those being the then current rates of postage; but the postmasters throughout the

country refused to recognize them. In 1851 an act of Congress was passed which led to the introduction of the rates and stamps now in use.

BRASS-LOCK REGISTRY EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

The "brass-lock registry exchange system," established two years since and explained in my report of last year, has proven completely successful, and is rapidly being put in operation on all important lines of star service in the country. It corresponds to the through-pouch system on the railroads, to which it is an adjunct, and is governed by somewhat similar regulations. Not only does it greatly add to the security of registered matter, but it greatly facilitates its transmission and saves much labor in re-handling. Prior to the establishment of the system registered matter was rebilled and recorded at each intermediate post-office on the line in order to fasten the responsibility in case of loss. It not unfrequently happened that the registered mail was so large that it could not be handled in time for the first outgoing mail, and was permitted to lie over to be sent on a subsequent day. On one important star route a post-office inspector reported constant detentions of registered matter, varying from ten to fifteen days, when the scheduled time for the trip was only fifteen hours. The delay in rehandling registered matter at intermediate offices was frequently pleaded by contractors in extenuation of failure to make schedule time, and as a reason for the remittance of fines imposed for such failure.

EXPRESS MONEY ORDERS.

One effect of the adoption by the express companies of the money order system of transmitting small sums will inevitably be to greatly diminish the revenue hitherto derived by the government from the corresponding branch of its postal service. Money may now be sent by express order more cheaply than by any facility offered by the postal service, while the security to the sender is equally absolute, and the promptitude in transmission certainly no less. Add to this the fact that express agents are as a rule more accessible than postmasters or their clerks—the former's tenure of place depending more directly on their ability and disposition to please the public—and you have a combination of influences tending to divert this class of business from the government to the express companies that cannot fail to make themselves felt. It is plain to see that the revenue the government has been reaping from this source, and which has gone a considerable way towards making the postal service self-sustaining, will show a sudden and serious falling off from the causes mentioned, but we suppose that all Uncle Sam can do is to grin and bear it.—*Prarie Farmer*.

RARITIES.

Dealers desiring varieties at special prices in quantities will please write for our private list.

Special attention is invited to my assortment of Provincial stamps, viz., Newfoundland, P. E. Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

HENRY HECHLER,
Importing Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps.
184 Argyle Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

EXCHANGE OF MONEY ORDERS WITH CANADA.

The number of Canadian international money orders issued in the United States was 40,008, amounting to \$827,756.92, of which amount \$3,326.94 were repaid to the remitters; and the number paid in the United States was 38,375, amounting to \$611,163.69. The fees received for the orders issued in the United States amounted to \$14,058.65. A comparison of this business with that of the preceding year exhibits an increase of \$316,140.34, or nearly 62 per cent, in the issues; of \$188,434.02, or nearly 45 per cent, in the payments, and of \$2,485.45, or nearly 21½ per cent, in fees.

DEAD LETTERS.

By careful reckoning based upon an actual count made in every post office in the United States during the first week in December, 1880, it has been ascertained that the whole number of letters mailed in this country in the last fiscal year was 1,045,107,348. The number reaching the Dead-Letter Office during the same period was 3,323,621 or one in every 315. The total number of letters, and of packages that were of sufficient value to be recorded and filed, received during the year ended June 30, 1881, was 3,674,205, an increase of 351,623 over the number received during the preceding year. For convenience of treatment they were classified as follows: Unclaimed domestic letters, 2,791,050; held for postage, 279,244; misdirected, 242,556 (not including 31,184 foreign letters with imperfect or erroneous addresses); without any superscription whatever, (the majority of them bearing stamps to pay postage,) 9,479; letters addressed to foreign countries, and containing articles (coin, jewelry, &c.) which are forbidden to be sent in the international mails, 1292; letters of foreign origin, 284,127 (of which 31,184 were sent to the Dead-Letter Office on account of erroneous or imperfect addresses); foreign parcels (unopened), 13,866; and domestic packages, 52,591.

Of the letters and packages opened, 13,617 were found to contain money amounting to \$10,587.80; 22,012 containing drafts, money orders, checks, notes, &c., the aggregate face value of which was \$1,399,062.51; 37,978 contained receipts, paid notes, and canceled obligations of all sorts; 33,731 contained photographs; 61,556 contained small remittances of postage-stamps; and in 75,213 there were found valuable articles of third and fourth class matter in endless variety. The amount of money separated from dead letters for which no claimant could be found was \$6,584.40, which was deposited in the Treasury. The amount of postage collected upon short-paid matter forwarded to destination, and upon unclaimed packages of third and fourth class matter returned to owners, was \$3,109.34. The records of the department show that 8,388,918 registered letters and packages were mailed in this country during the year. Of this number only 2,614 reached the Dead-Letter Office; and of these 2,31 were finally delivered to the owners, the balance being placed on file awaiting identification by the parties interested.

NEW REGISTERED LOCK.

A long-felt want has at last been supplied in securing a suitable lock for through pouches. This lock is under contract and will be put in use about the first of January next. It is fitted with a combination of numbers, the order of which is changed by turning the key. The pouch will be billed at the dispatch office under a given number corresponding with the lock, and received for under this number from point to point until it reaches the office of destination. Improper interference will be readily detected by a disagreement between the number on the lock and that on the bill, and the responsibility readily located. It frequently happens that through pouches are compelled to lie over in transit at intermediate through-pouch offices; and in case of such temporary detention it becomes necessary, with the use of the present ordinary lock, to require the postmaster to open the pouch, check off, certify, and record its contents. This imposes a vast deal of clerical labor which will be saved by the use of the new lock, avoiding as it does the necessity of opening pouches between terminal offices. In the mode of construction the new lock is much superior in all respects to the old one.

THROUGH-POUCH EXCHANGES WITH CANADA.

In June last, after some preliminary negotiations, formal arrangements were entered into with the Post-Office Department of Canada for direct exchanges of through registered pouches between Buffalo, N. Y., and the principal post offices in the province of Ontario. The arrangement is now in successful operation, and negotiations are very nearly concluded for through exchanges with the eastern portion of the Dominion of Canada.

A NEW USE FOR STAMPS.

A German paper says that bales of used stamps are now sent to China where there is an active demand for them for a novel use. The Celestials paste them on strips of linen which are used in the same way that we use room paper, and bring a high price. The demand is growing, as this new "room paper" is fashionable, especially among the higher and wealthier classes of society. A room papered with old postage stamps is regarded as extremely "light-toned"—in fact æsthetic.

TRANSVAAL STAMPS.

Our attentive correspondent in Natal, South Africa writes as follows:—"I notice by Philatelic publications in the United States that the Dutch Government (in the Transvaal) has issued a set of stamps since the place was handed back to it—the values, colors and sizes being given. Now as I made special enquiry about this the other day when writing to enquire after the 3d stamps, I am in a position to deny this statement, the Postmaster having written and told me that they have no new stamps yet, but are still using the British government stamps bearing the Queen's head. * * * I fancy the person or persons who have been so quick to supply the Philatelic world in general with this information have got out of their reckoning and have got hold of the old Dutch fiscals which answer the given description in a very accurate manner—hence I believe the mistake."

HENRY

Wholesale & Retail

TOBACCONIST.



HECHLER,

Importing Dealer in

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS.

DIRECT IMPORTER OF

English, French & German

FANCY GOODS,

AND SMOKERS' REQUISITES.

STAMPS

BOUGHT, SOLD, EXCHANGED

RARITIES A SPECIALTY.

CATALOGUES sent on application, with price, Ten Cents, post paid. Low value Stamps accepted in payment.

184 Argyle Street,

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Land Grant of 25,000,000 acres from the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

See the Company's advertisement which is transmitted with this issue of the PHILATELIC COURIER.

The Company offers lands in the Fertile Belt of Manitoba and the North-West Territory, for sale, on certain conditions as to cultivation, at the price of \$2.50 (10s. stg.) per acre, one-sixth payable in cash, and the balance in five annual installments, with interest at 6 per cent., a rebate of fifty per cent., for actual cultivation being made as hereinafter described.

The ordinary conditions of sale are:—

1. That all improvements placed upon land purchased shall remain thereon until final payment for the land has been made.
 2. That all taxes, and assessments lawfully imposed upon the land or improvements shall be paid by the purchaser.
 3. The Company reserves from selection at the above price, all mineral, coal, or wood-lands, stone, slate, and marble quarries, lands with water power thereon, and tracts for town sites and railway purposes; and, as regards lands having some standing wood, but not hereby excluded from selection, the purchaser will only be permitted to cut a sufficient quantity for fuel, fencing, and for the erection of buildings on his land until he shall have received the final conveyance thereof.
 4. The mineral and coal lands and quarries, and the lands controlling water power, will be disposed of on very liberal terms to persons giving satisfactory evidence of their intention to utilise them.
 5. The purchaser will be required, within four years from the date of the contract for the purchase of the land, to bring under cultivation, and sow, reap, and crop on one-half of the said land, except when otherwise expressly agreed and declared in the contract by reason of any special obstacle to such cultivation. Dairy farming, or mixed grain and dairy farming, to an extent to be agreed upon, will be accepted as the equivalent of cultivation, entitling the settler to the rebate.
 6. A credit of \$1.25 (5s. stg.) per acre will be allowed for all land so cultivated during four years.
 7. A reservation of 100 ft. in width for right of way, or other railroad purposes, will be made in all cases.
 8. If the purchaser of a section, or part of a section, being a "bona fide" settler, resident upon the land purchased, or upon an adjoining section, fails to carry out in their entirety the conditions of his contract with respect to cultivation and cropping, within the specified time, the Company reserves the right, in their option, to diminish the quantity to be conveyed to him under his contract, to such an extent that he shall not be entitled to demand a conveyance of more than double the quantity cultivated and cropped, the quantity which he may so demand not to exceed one-half of the quantity mentioned in his contract, and, if not exceeding 100 acres, to be taken in the quarter section, in which the greater part of such cultivation and cropping has been done; or, if in excess of 100 acres, then such excess to be taken from an adjoining quarter section; and as to the portion of the land contracted for, which the Company shall decide not to convey to such purchaser, his claim to the same shall be forfeited, and such portion shall not be conveyed to him by the Company; and thereupon the price shall be adjusted as if the contract of sale had ordinarily been made for the portion actually conveyed to the purchaser.
- The object of the foregoing clause is to prevent the Company's land from falling into the hands of speculators to the disadvantage of the actual settler; but as respects "bona fide" settlers, the purpose and aim of the Company is to afford them every possible consideration and facility.
9. Special contracts will be made for tracts exceeding one section, for settlement purposes or for cattle raising.
 10. Liberal rates for settlers and their effects will be granted by the Company over its railway.
 11. The land grant bonds of the Company will be received at 10 per cent. premium on the par value with accrued interest, in payment for lands thus, reducing the price of the land to the purchaser.

For further information, apply at the office of the Company, Bartholemew Place, London, England; to John H. McTavish, Land Commissioner, Winnipeg, Manitoba, or to the Secretary of the Company, at Montreal, Canada.

GEORGE STEPHEN, *President.*

CHARLES DRINKWATER, *Secretary.*

Canada Pacific Railway Co., Montreal, Canada.