

The Canada Stamp Sheet.

Devoted more particularly to the interests of the Collector of British
North American Postage and Revenue Stamps.

VOL. I, No. 4.

DECEMBER 15th, 1900.

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BY W. G. L. PAXMAN.

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QUEBEC, DECEMBER, 15th, 1900.

THE LEATHER CHAIR.

Before the Stamp Sheet will again greet its readers, the festivities of Christmas shall have held full sway, and the year 1900 with all its changes, joys and sorrows shall have given place to the New Year, 1901.

The year now about completed has been, speaking from a philatelic standpoint, an unusually eventful one.

On the one hand, war has been the means of giving birth, if not to many new stamps, to such a flood of surcharges as to make the hair of the specialist stand on end when he comes to contrast the sum total cost of the same with the slim lining of his much abused pocket book. The average collector, however, laughs at the fun and lets the stamps go.

On the other hand an odd stamp issuing country has been absorbed by a stronger or more lively one, thus making its contributions to philately a thing of the past.

Larger conventions of stamp men have been held during the year than usual, and more important business transacted.

A host of new stamp papers have come to the fore, some of course only to make their initial bow and then disappear forever, but many to stay and with no uncertain sound discuss the questions of the hour.

The various exhibitions which have been held have also done much for our hobby, and the large space which the Press through-

out the world has given to matters directly or indirectly connected with this branch of science, indicates the general interest which is now taken in the collection of stamps.

That the year 1901 will see a wonderful accession to the ranks of the present great army of collectors can not be doubted, and such a state of things will naturally effect prices. Where there are 100 stamps of a given issue and denomination and but a hundred or two collectors, specimens are apt to be little thought of and prices rule low, but should the number of collectors swell to 5000, a different valuation naturally follows.

While wishing every one of our readers a right Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, we would strongly recommend to them the motto "Buy now. Tarry Not."

We wish to direct special attention to our advertisers this month. Mr. Jack Thomson, the revenue stamp specialist, is one of our most popular and best known Quebec men. Unlike Zaccheus of old, he is a man of long stature, standing head and shoulders over most of his friends on the street. His straight dealing and honesty are beyond question, and every reader should send him a trial order and find this fact out for himself.

The Canada Stamp Company has its usual attractive stamp exhibit on our front page. The great success which has followed the publication of the Canadian Stamp Album by this Company speaks well for the book. Orders accompanied by sixty cents should be sent in at once before the edition is exhausted. No more handsome or useful present for the coming holidays could be desired.

In referring to Messrs. Starnaman Bros. (The Philatelic Advocate) F. I. Weaver. (Energy) E. R. Elliott, (International Philatelic Review) S. E. Moisant, (Stamp Exchange) L. D. Brodstone, (Philatelic West & Camera News) we have only to say that these publishers and stamp papers are first class.

Mr. Richard R. Brown, of Keyport, is still open to receive large wholesale consignments of stamps, and from our business experience with him we are confident that sellers as well as buyers will receive most satisfactory treatment.

Space will not allow reference to all the names on our advertising list, but we bespeak liberal patronage all around.

NUTSHELL HINTS FOR COLLECTORS.

BY SMYTH.

It is popularly supposed, in outside circles, that stamp collecting is the most foolish pastime imaginable, an utter waste of time of money. And this sage opinion is "aired" quite seriously by individuals who spend their leisure and intellect on pursuits which on sober consideration they would admit to be far more frivolous and unworthy of attention than the hobby they so uncharitably condemn. But in this, as in other cases, "there are none so blind as those who *won't* see." "Collecting stamps" does not consist in sticking down dirty little bits of paper in a book, any more than "writing a letter" can be accomplished by emptying the contents of an ink-bottle over a clean sheet of paper. One half-dozen of the commonest stamps will start a collection which in a few weeks or months may number some hundreds of varieties, and these may be acquired by almost anyone, the sole qualification necessary being an intelligent interest in the subject. An unlimited supply of cash is *not* essential to success in stamp-collecting, although there are constantly-recurring opportunities for laying out money in stamps in order to see it back with a profit. There are an immense number of varieties at present obtainable for a few cents, which in a short time will probably be worth so many dollars, but to look too much on stamps for the money there is in them, instead of for their own charms, is a fatal error. A collector just starting can generally obtain, say, a hundred different stamps, those in current use in the chief countries of the world, absolutely free of charge, from friends having a foreign correspondence, or for the outlay of twenty-five cents on a "packet" from a reliable dealer. Then an album can be purchased—though even that is not necessary, any blank book will do, of any size—and the stamps carefully mounted therein by gummed hinges, each country having a page to itself. Scientific classification can come later. So much for a commencement.

PURCHASES.—Care is always to be exercised in the laying-out of money, and in these wide-awake days most of us are fully aware of that fact. But perhaps this is especially important when the subject of trade is a stamp. In the case of a really

rare stamp, care must be taken to guard against forgery, and if possible, the advice of an expert should be obtained. Many stamps are more valuable in the imperforate state than perforated, the two issues being precisely alike otherwise. In such cases specimens showing a very close margin should not be purchased; they have probably been "clipped"—*i. e.*, the perforations denoting the common variety have been cut off to make the stamp appear imperforate. Old stamps *in pairs*, imperforate between, are always good to buy. Certain countries in South and Central America have put their unused "remainders" on the market in large numbers, the sets being offered for sale at an enormous reduction on the face value. Such issues are usually very pretty to look at, but they are practically worthless, and many dealers of repute refuse to handle them. Any genuine *unused* stamps belonging to issues of British colonies, the United States or European countries, are good to buy, but mint specimens should whenever possible have their "original gum" on the back, and when the original gum is there, it should never be removed, as it greatly enhances the value of such stamps. In sending bids for stamps at auction sales, the *condition* of the specimens offered should be carefully ascertained, and if possible, a buyer at a distance should have a representative in the sale-room, or at least someone to examine and report upon the lots for him beforehand.

ALBUM PREPARATION.—Stamps adhering to a scrap of paper should be floated face upwards on a dish containing clean cold water until the paper comes away. By this means the delicate colours, which be likely to run if water were allowed to cover the face, are preserved in their original brightness. The face of a stamp soiled by handling can generally be cleaned to some extent by gently rubbing with a piece of soft bread. To decipher a watermark on a stamp, which cannot be readily seen by holding up to the light, brush over the back of the stamp with benzine. Some philatelists discourage this practice, however, for various reasons, and it is always safer to moisten with clean water only. The great point in detecting a watermark is to know what to look for.

To mount stamps in an album, transparent gummed hinges should be used.

Lay the stamp on its face with the bottom row of perforations touching the upper side of the space it is to occupy. Then moisten the mount and place it half on the stamp and half on the album page. When dry it can be folded over, and after pressure it will lie flat, in its proper position. The dates of issue of stamps can generally be ascertained by consulting a reliable catalogue.

STAMP EXCHANGES.—There are two general principles on which philatelists undertake the exchanging of stamps. The first, and favourite system, is to price up a sheet of duplicates at "catalogue prices," send them to the collector wishing to trade, and receive his selection in return after he has taken what he may need. In this case the party sending *first* has to take care that his correspondent, if previously unknown to him, is thoroughly reliable. Another method of exchanging between private collectors is to fix a *lowest bargain price* on each of their stamps, without regard to the "catalogue" values. When a dealer exchanges with a collector, taking, say, a hundred stamps all of one kind, he naturally expects to acquire them at *wholesale* price (or less if possible), he sending his approval sheets, or stamps ordered from his price list, at *retail* rates. Exchanging in this way is often of great benefit to philatelists who have travelled, or have by some means acquired a large number of stamps of a particular country or colony.

TACT AND POLITENESS.

"There is a science in doing little things just right," said a downtown business man a few days ago, "and I notice it in my office. I had two office boys there whose main duty it was to bring me notes or cards that were sent in to me, or to fetch things that I wanted to use. One of those boys whenever I send him for a book or anything heavy would walk rapidly by my desk and toss it indefinitely toward me. If it happened to miss me and land on the desk it was all right. If it fell on the floor the boy always managed to fall over it in his eagerness to pick it up. Then if he had a letter or a card to deliver he would come close up to the desk and stand there scanning it over with minute care. This being concluded he would flaunt it airily in my direction and depart.

"The other boy always came and went so that I could hardly hear him. If it was a book, ink stand, or box of letters, he would sit it quietly down at one side of the desk. Letters and cards were always laid—not tossed—right where my eye would fall on them directly. If there was any doubt in his mind about whether he ought to lay a letter on my desk or deliver it to some other person in the office he always did his thinking before he came near me, and did not stand annoyingly at my elbow studying the letter. That boy understood the science of little things. When New Year's came he got \$10. The other boy got fired."

Now, it pays boys and men to be polite; just as polite as though they were trying to follow Lord Chesterfield's advice, or intended to become a member of the "four hundred." One does not have to know all about the rules of etiquette to be a gentleman. That word means something more than is generally understood. Just cut it into two parts and see what it is—gentleman. The fellow that is rough inside is likely to be a good deal more rough outside. If he is ugly at heart he will be equally ugly in action. Just as a fellow who is dishonest at heart is sure to be dishonest the first time he finds an opportunity.

From a business man's point of view it pays to have every boy and every man about the place polite and gentlemanly in word and action. People like to be treated well, and they will take pains to go where their treatment is perfectly satisfactory. When a merchant is known to have polite, obliging and gentlemanly clerks in his employ, when his errand boys are always known to be neat, careful and quiet, he will have advantages in holding his trade which the man who employs rough help will never understand, although he will probably feel it to his sorrow.

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ILLINOIS NOTES.

BY S. E. MOISANT.

Mr. Fred Michaels, who carries a stock of stamps as a side line in his store, had a valuable stock book of stamps stolen from him a few days ago. It seems that while he was waiting on a customer some one who had been in the store for some time walked off with the book and has not been seen since. Mr. M. immediately notified the trade, but it is not likely that the stamps will be offered for sale in Chicago.

Mr. B. L. Drew was in Chicago a couple of weeks ago with the stamps to be offered in his next two auction sales. Many fine stamps were contained in these sales and the Chicago collectors entertained him one night after a meeting of the A. P. A. Branch.

The Chicago Philatelic Society will hold their annual election the last Thursday in December. It looks as though there will be an entire change in the officers. The present officers fill their positions very efficiently, but want to give the other members a chance and show outsiders that there is lots of good stuff in the C. P. S.

The seventh auction sale of the Chicago Philatelic Society was held on Saturday evening, Nov. 17, at Palmer House. Owing to the absence of the auctioneer, who could not be present, Messrs. Wolsieffer, Massoth and Michaels acted alternately in that capacity. Prices realised were about the same as usual and every lot was sold. The next sale will be composed entirely of wholesale lots, and will be held early in December. A sale will be held at least every four weeks thereafter.

Mr. Z. G. Stebbins left for New Orleans, November 15 to spend the winter.

Three new stamp papers are chronicled to appear from the Prairie State with the advent of the new year. Mr. Reginald Green, 204 Dearborn St. announces the Illinois Philatelist to appear on January 1st. Subscription rates 15 c. per year. The Illinois Stamp Co. Prophetstown, Illinois announce that they will issue the first number of the Illinois Monthly on January 1st. Then comes party, who does not give his name, with a new paper to be called the Philatelic Globe, Quincy, Illinois.

The Chicago Junior heretofore published by R. W. Cobbe, Chicago has been sold to

S. E. Moisant, Kankakee, Illinois, who will consolidate it with his paper, the Stamp Exchange, which will appear as a monthly, commencing with the coming January, number.

In less than eight months a prominent Chicago collector has got together a collection of over twelve thousand varieties of Foreign stamps, all in fine condition and a great number unused. Another collector in Chicago, who is an invalid, and who has not spent a single cent on his collection, has gathered together ten thousand varieties.

UNIVERSAL PENNY POSTAGE.

THE DOOM OF POSTAGE STAMPS. NEW-ZEALAND LEADS THE WAY. EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS ON THE SITUATION

IMPERIAL Penn Postage has scarce become *un fait accompli*, before Universal Penny Postage threatens to replace it. Collectors will receive with mixed feelings the announcement just made by the Government of New-Zealand, since, with the reduction in postal rates, the necessity for higher value postage stamps must cease. We shall in fact return *in status quo*, and the post offices of 1940, like those of a hundred years before, will know only 1d. and 2d stamps.

New Zealand's Universal Penny Postage scheme is to come into force on January 1st next, after which date the postage of a ½-oz. letter from that Colony to any part of the world, whether foreign or colonial territory, will be the modest penny. The *Daily News* has the following to say on the matter.—

“New Zealand is about to go even further than Imperial Penny Postage. On the first of January she will inaugurate a system of Universal Penny Postage. A penny will after that date carry a New Zealand letter to the remotest regions of this globe to which postal arrangements penetrate. She asks for no similar treatment in return, and calmly anticipates a loss of £80,000 on the first year's postage under the new conditions. This deficiency,

however, the New Zealand Government believes will disappear with the gradual stimulus to correspondence resulting from the diminished rate. The new departure is important, not only in itself, but in the example it affords to the Australian Commonwealth and the rest of the world. The lead of New Zealand will almost compel the Commonwealth to consider the question of an inter-colonial, an Imperial, and perhaps even a Universal Penny Postage. No wonder New Zealand is much pleased with her own plucky experiment. It is no joke facing a loss of £80,000 even for one year, and some faith is required to look forward to an ultimate success. So pleased, indeed, in this enterprising Colony that it has commissioned Sir Edward Poynter to design the new stamp, and it is to be richly symbolical of the blessings of cheap postage which New Zealand is endeavouring to diffuse throughout the world. Philatelists will look forward with pleasure to the first universal penny stamp, and everybody will watch with interest the results of the New Zealand experiment. That it should cost 2½d. to send a letter to Calais, and only a penny to India is, we may be sure, an anomaly which is not likely to survive very long."

THE NEXT STEP.

After Universal Penny Postage has established itself, no doubt the limits of weight will be gradually extended, as in Great Britain to-day, till but few letters require more than a 1d. stamp.

With improved methods of conveyance, it is not impossible that another forty years may see uniform and universal rates for letters of 1d. (up to 1lb.) for circulars and newspaper of ½d. (up to 1lb.) and for parcels of 3d. (up to 10lbs.) Such rates may seem absurdly insufficient at the present day but not more so than uniform penny postage throughout the United Kingdom would have done 100 years ago.

At the present day, new issues are multiplying at a tremendous rate, but this will not continue much longer. Federation and Penny Postage may be expected to leave their mark.

If we allow our imagination to carry us to the year. A. D. 2000, we may even look back upon the issue of postage stamps as merely an episode in the history of modern civilization!

Taken from the New-York Press.

This is the busy season among the postage stamp collectors and dealers, when many auction sales of collections are held in the fine home of the Collectors' Club, No. 351 Fourth avenue. Henry C. Merry, the auctioneer, has a monopoly of this business. All kinds of people gather at these auctions, and it is not uncommon to see a well-known business man bidding against some schoolboy to secure a coveted lot of stamps, usually to the disappointment of the latter. One school-boy, William Hildebrand, 15 years old, who lives in Fifth street, Brooklyn, has a collection which many gray-haired collectors might envy.

F. W. Hunter, the well-known Tammany man who tried to persuade the Board of Aldermen recently to change the name of Nassau street to Philatelic alley, sold his collection at auction recently for \$28,000 and has taken instead to collecting ceramics and old pottery. Another noted collector who sold his collection lately is Albert R. Gallatin.

Louis Strauss of New York is credited with having the most complete collection of United States revenue stamps in the world. They are worth a small fortune. Gilbert Jones of New-York has a fine general collection. Ernest R. Ackerman, Theodore P. De Vinne, William Thorn, William A. Smith, Jr., P. F. Brunner, H. J. Duveen, F. de Cappept, Clement H. Eagle, Benno Loewy, John C. Miner and many other prominent New York men have collections which are in beautifully bound volumes, kept in safes and heavily insured. General W. T. Sherman collected stamps, and left a fine collection.

Besides the Collectors' Club there are several societies with headquarters in this city, including the National Philatelic Society, the American Philatelic Association, the Staten Island Philatelic Society and the Brooklyn Philatelic Club.

It is estimated that over \$1,000,000 worth of old postage and revenue stamps are sold in this city alone every year, and the trade is increasing in jumps and bounds.

As a rule the bidding at an auction sale of postage stamps is much more spirited than that on the Real Estate Exchange, and occasionally some rare stamp brings a price sufficient to buy a house and lot.

It will surprise a great many people to learn that the United States ever issued



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counterfeit stamps, yet stamps which are fac-similes of the 5 and 10-cent stamps of 1847 are catalogued as "Government counterfeits," though really reprints. Just before the Spanish-American war it was found that spurious stamps of Hayti were being sold even in the postoffices of that little republic, and a new issue immediately was put in use. Meanwhile many of these counterfeits had been used legitimately upon letters and these letters now command a higher price than those bearing the original stamp.

There always has been so much danger from counterfeit stamps of the various republics of Central and South America that new sets of stamps are issued each year now, the old stamps immediately becoming valueless for postage upon the advent of the new set.

Among the experts at detecting counterfeits and with a comprehensive knowledge of stamps are J. N. Luff, Percy G. Doane and George Tuttle, all of them members of the Collectors' Club.

This is what the "Christian Herald" has to say about perfect men.

There never was but one perfect pair, and they slipped down the banks of Paradise together. We occasionally find a man who says he never sins. We know he lies when he says it. We have had financial dealings with two or three perfect men, and they cheated us. Do not, therefore, look for an immaculate husband, for you will not find him. While you are thinking he is perfect he will some day, while in a great hurry to meet an engagement, find a shirt button off, and your delusion concerning him will break, or he will find that one of the children has been sharpening slate pencils with his razor. Let me tell women that there are no perfect men. We have been much among men and understand the whole tribe. On a clear morning, when they are well dressed, and the road is clean, they look admirably; but none of them enjoy having a passing vehicle splash mud on their newly blackened boots. None of them look placid when some one treads on their sore corns. If you want to find out that no man is perfect, just marry him. But I think that the two sexes, laying all sentimentalism aside, are about equal. If you secure for life the companionship of some one about

as good as yourself, you are to be congratulated. Better have the two blades of a scissors as near as possible alike. Get married, but with your eyes wide open. Remember the old proverb: "You have tied a knot with your tongue you cannot undo with your teeth."

CANADA STAMP EXCHANGE.

For the sale of stamps belonging to subscribers. Advertising rates 5c. per line which can only include 1 stamp or set. Not packets or lots.

Rules: Stamps can be seen at the office 592 John St. Quebec, but are not sent on approval. Cash must accompany all orders, but money will be returned for any that may prove unsatisfactory, if returned immediately on receipt. As a rule only the special stamp advertised is for sale, therefore immediate application is necessary to prevent disappointment.

The stamps have been rated as to condition by the manager, not by the owner.

Sheet No.	Price
1- Canada 1859 17c blue used.....	\$ 70
12 Cabot Newfoundland set of 8, mint	2.75
22 8c blue Canada Registration, mint	1.50
23 25 Canada Jubilee, 1c. mint.....	.50
23 25 " " 2c. "	1.00
23 25 " " 3c. "	1.00
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15 10c violet30

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Mr. Fussyman's Trip for U. S. A. Revenue Stamps.

(Continued).

The clerk looked at him blankly and shoved the dime back, pushing with it a printed blank slip.

"What's that?" said Mr. Fussyman. "I don't want that. I want five two-cent check stamps."

"Fill it out," said the clerk.

Mr. Fussyman took the blank and went to a desk. Then he examined the blank. After he thought he had mastered it he wrote in the description and number of the stamps he wanted, and pushed it at the clerk again with his dime.

"Foot it up again and sign it," said the clerk, shoving it back.

Mr. Fussyman was in a hurry, and was getting riled by this time, but he took the blank and studied it again. He wrote in the footing of ten cents, and signed his name and address. Then he took it to the clerk at the window again.

"Don't want a reference, do you?" he asked, sarcastically, pushing in his dime again.

"Take it to the cashier," said the clerk.

Mr. Fussyman was in no humor to indulge in more light repartee, and when he looked at the line of people in front of the cashier's window, which was ever growing larger, he was inclined to give up his stamp hunting. He joined the line, and in course of 15 minutes he got to the window.

"Five twos!" he said, as he shoved the money and blank at the man within.

That clerk took the blank and dime, dropped the money into a till, stamped something on the blank with a rubber stamp and handed it back.

"Other window for the stamps," he said.

By this time there was a line formed in front of the documentary stamp window. Mr. Fussyman joined that line at the tail, of course, and waited. The line did not move forward as fast as the other, for those ahead of him were evidently making larger purchases. Some went away with packages of stamps that weighed many pounds each.

(To be continued.)

QUERY AND REPLY COLUMN.

H. P. Ottawa.—Specimens of the Canada Jubilee, and Maple Leaf series on laid or ribbed paper have not as yet been listed, but it is possible, indeed probable, that some exist. Now that these issues are becoming fashionable to collect, and therefore more sought for, we may expect to hear of differences in paper, perforation, etc.

C. B. Carlton.—United States stamps on ribbed paper have been known for a long time; but many collectors believe the ribbing to be incidental to the course of making the stamps—that is, the paper was not ribbed paper when first put to press.

F. C. Brandon.—The only Album that we know of intended exclusively for Canadian postage stamps is the one advertised by the Canada Stamp Company, Quebec, at sixty cents.

S. R. Coverdale.—The Belgian stamps, with or without the Sunday label, are very common, as millions are used every month. The Belgian government receives a great revenue from the post-office. Nearly one-half the postal receipts is profit. In the United States the government loses some millions of dollars every year in running the post office.

M. H. Wauwig.—The placing of letters in the upper corners of English stamps began in 1858, and was discontinued in 1887. The £5., 1882, was printed in sheets A A to G. P.

R. R. Acadie.—Great care should be taken in soaking or cleaning grilled stamps. In many instances the grilling is so faint that prolonged soaking and pressure when damp entirely obliterate the grill, and make a scarce stamp a very common one.

Alice, F. New Haven.—The 5-cent Nova Scotia on blue paper alluded to is blue probably on the face side of the paper only; when the plate is not perfectly polished, the surface of the stamp receives to some extent a colored impression.

G. I. Oakland.—When stamps are printed in two colors, the centre has been known to be printed upside down. It is then called inverted.

NET PRICE LIST OF REVENUES.—Continued.

Canada Stamp Company, 592 John St., Quebec, Canada.

Weights and Measures.			Used	Canada Supreme Court, 1876.			Used
76	5c	Black	5	120	10c	Blue	20
77	10c	"	5	121	20c	"	80
78	15c	"	5	122	25c	"	20
79	20c	"	5	123	50c	"	70
80	30c	"	5	124	1.00	"	60
81	50c	"	5	125	5.00	"	2.00
82	1.00	"	5	1898			
83	1.50	"	10	126	10c		
84	2.00	"	10	127	20c		
85	1c	1887	12	128	25c		
86	2c	"	12	129	50c		
Red number across top.				130	1.00		
87	5c	Black	17	131	5.00		
88	10c	"	12	British Columbia Law, 1879.			
89	15c	"	12	132	10c	Blue	15
90	20c	"	10	133	30c	"	25
91	30c	"	35	134	50c	"	15
Blue number across centre.				135	1.00	"	70
92	1c	Black	10	136	10c	Black (1889)	10
93	2c	"	10	137	30c	Red	15
94	5c	"	3	138	50c	Brown	15
95	10c	"	3	MANITOBA LAW, 1877.			
96	15c	"	3	C. F. Black, surcharge			
97	20c	"	2	139	10c	Green	7
98	30c	"	2	140	20c	"	10
99	50c	"	2	141	25c	"	7
100	1.00	"	8	142	50c	"	7
101	1.50	"	10	143	1.00	"	12
102	2.00	"	6	144	2.00	"	60
103	Red, no value		1.00	L. S. Blue surcharge			
Electric Light Inspection, 1895.				145	10c	Green	15
104	25c	Red and blue	40	146	20c	"	15
105	50c	"	40	147	25c	"	2.00
106	1.00	"	40	148	50c	"	6
107	2.00	"	90	149	1.00	"	70
108	3.00	"	90	150	2.00	"	1.25
109	5.00	"	1.80	1886			
110	10.00	"	4.00	C. F. Black and J. F. Red, surcharge			
Gas Inspection, 1876.				151	10c	Green	40
111	5c	Blue	40	152	20c	"	12
112	25c	"	2	153	25c	"	12
113	50c	"	2	154	50c	"	30
114	1.00	"	2	155	1.00	"	2.00
115	1.50	"	10	156	2.00	"	2.30
116	2.00	"	10				
117	3.00	"	12				
118	4.00	"	20				
119	10.00	"	1.00				

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