

THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

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(Continued from last week.)

THE STAMPS OF BULGARIA.

demanding that it should accept their protection. Upon the refusal to accede to this demand, a long war followed, which left Bulgaria in such a weak condition that it fell easily into the hands of the Turks when they made their appearance in Europe.

From 1392 until 1879 it was a province of the Turkish empire, and during that time retrograded lamentably. The "unspeakable" Turk distinguished his rule here, as elsewhere, by mal administration and oppression of the worst kind.

As was the case with Roumania, Bulgaria owed its deliverance from the Turks to Russia. Emperor Alexander II came to the rescue of the Christians of Turkey and tributary states in their struggle for liberty, and the Russia-Turkish War of 1877 resulted. As this ended disastrously for Turkey, the demands of Russia for reforms in the Balkan states were granted to a large extent.

By the treaty of Berlin, Bulgaria was made a tributary principality of the sultan with a Christian government, a national militia and the right to make its own laws. A prince was to be elected by the people and confirmed by the porte with the consent of the powers. That portion of Bulgaria south of the Balkans was to have a Christian governor appointed by the sultan, to serve for a term of ten years, this appointment to be confirmed by the powers.

Alexander of Battenburg, brother of the late Prince Henry of Battenburg, was elected prince in April, 1879, and duly confirmed. Things did not run smoothly in the new state, however. Ministerial crises and internal dissensions of all sorts embarrassed the government. The inhabitants of South Bulgaria, that part under the Turkish governor, were constantly clamoring for union with the principality. The efforts of the national party to bring this about and the repeated interference of Russia in the affairs of the country, caused continual uproar.

The fact that Russians were in possession of positions in the cabinet and

in the civil and military service was a severe blow to the national pride. The national assembly opposed the foreign officials, and as the prince did not support them, the Russians gave up their places and left the country. This resulted in very strained relations between Russia and Bulgaria.

The South Bulgarians revolted, made their governor a prisoner and invited Prince Alexander to rule over them also. He accepted and declared the two portions of the country united. This action was, of course, contrary to the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin, but rather than provoke another war, the porte allowed matters to remain as they were, and while South Bulgaria nominally belongs to Turkey, it is really in the hands of Bulgaria.

The enlargement of Bulgaria was observed by Servia with jealous eyes, and that country declared war against Bulgaria in 1885. The Servians received a good drubbing in the short campaign that followed, but no change was made in the conditions of the countries.

In spite of these successes, Prince Alexander's government did not get on well, and various conspiracies against him were discovered. Finally he was kidnapped by Russian agents and taken to Russia. He returned to Sofia later, and was received by the people with enthusiasm, but as it was impossible for him to obtain the good will of Russia, he resigned his position and left the country.

Prince Waldemar of Denmark was offered the vacant throne, but declined with thanks, for which action he was certainly not to blame. After searching around Europe for a suitable prince, the sobranje elected (1887) Prince Ferdinand of Coburg, the present ruler.

His has not been a bed of roses since that time, as the powers have never confirmed his election, and it can truly be said that "uncasy sits the head that wears the crown" in this case, as the crown has never been very steadily set upon it.

The assassination of the patriotic ex-minister, Stambuloff, some months ago, reflected very badly on the government, as it is believed that the

murder was instigated by it. Stambuloff was the foremost man of the new Bulgaria.

As mentioned above, Prince Ferdinand is now trying to get into the good graces of the St. Petersburg government. Whether he succeeds or meets the same fate as Prince Alexander remains to be seen.

The sobranje is a representative body, being elected by universal manhood suffrage for a term of three years. Each 100,000 inhabitants are represented by one member. The executive power is invested under the prince in a council of six ministers.

The estimated area of Bulgaria proper is 24,860 with a population of over 3,000,000; that of Eastern Roumelia (South Bulgaria) is 13,500, with a population of 960,000. The capital, Sofia, has over 90,000 inhabitants.

—American Philatelic Magazine.

OTTAWA NOTES.

Without doubt Mr. Mulock is endeavoring to get something more than a cursory idea of the ramifications of his extensive department. He knows that Rome wasn't built in a day, neither can the biggest department in the public service be reformed in a week. One point was settled by Mr. Mulock lately which will commend itself to business people. Some time ago mention was made of some ill-feeling on the part of merchants in Toronto, because they had been forbidden to sell postage stamps, which come to them in the shape of remittances. It appears that the licensees to sell stamps receive their permits on the distinct understanding that they must purchase their supplies from the Government, and no person is allowed to sell stamps unless he has a stamp vendor's license. This is a provision in the Postoffice Act, not a mere arbitrary ruling on the part of the department. The reason for it is that, if the sale of stamps were unlicensed it would leave so many opportunities for boys to steal them, and it was with the specific object of preventing speculation of stamps that the provision was inserted in the Postal Act. To meet the grievance that merchants, who receive stamps as

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WM. R. ADAMS, Editor and Manager.

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BUSINESS OFFICE.

24 ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

In our last issue the whole number was the same as in the previous issue. This error is remedied in the present number.

The publishers of the Halifax Philatelic Magazine, and the Philatelic Canadian, announce that their papers are out. We have seen the later, and it is very neat, and we trust that it will meet with success.

We will send out a good many copies of our next issue as samples, and will continue doing this at least once a month during the season.

BUNCE's address book of dealers was sent to us recently. Mr. Bunce states that every dealer whose name appears in it, is "reliable." We notice those of A. Weisz and Harold Conne & Co., both of London, Eng. The later is not now in business. The announcements of the former still continue to appear, but as he has not paid us an overdue account, we much doubt that other publishers will see any returns.

The proposition has been made that a number of Canadian dealers should issue a syndicate catalogue of Canada postage and revenues. In our opinion the scheme would hardly work.

ONE everywhere hears of the great demand for revenues. They are the fashion. If you have never collected revenues of Canada, you should see them. Ask for them and you will find very few dealers have much of a stock. This alone should prove the wisdom of buying now, as there are probably not ten complete collections in existence.

(Continued from 1st page.)

remittances have, that they cannot get rid of them to vendors, the department has always redeemed them at 5 per cent. discount. This is admitted to be too high, especially when it is considered that stamp vendors only make one per cent. on their sales. The Postmaster-General has, accordingly, decided that from this out the department will redeem stamps in sums of not less than a dollar, at a discount of one per cent. the same discount which the vendors get. The stamps must be pasted upon sheets of paper and sent to the department at Ottawa, when a cheque for the amount of the stamps so returned will be forwarded to the party sending them in. As no postage is required on letters to any of the public departments, no hardship will be entailed upon merchants by this decision on Mr. Mulock's part, but on the contrary it opens a way for the disposal by them of stamps accumulating in their possession.

MICABOW.

A FEW NOTES ON REVENUES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The imperforate and part perforate condition of the first issue U. S. Revenues may be accounted for by the hurry with which they were prepared. Congress had passed a war measure levying a stamp tax upon legal instruments and other documents and there was little time before the law went into effect for the preparation of the large variety of stamps required. It was creditable to the contractors that no serious errors were made. Later, the demand was so great that they could not afford to reject sheets of stamps because they had been run through the perforating machine too many times and were double perforated. These double perforated stamps are not very uncommon and are generally found in the case of the most plentiful varieties, these having been produced in the greatest numbers and consequently with the greatest haste and the least care. I think that three or four times the price of the ordinary stamp is enough to pay for these oddities.

Requisitions for stamps came in from all parts of the loyal States, and supplies were sent, some of which included nearly the whole issue of a single variety. Instead of dividing up a batch of stamps among the different sections of the country and sub-stations from which stamps were distributed, the bulk of it would be sent to one place and if no more of that kind were issued, the use of that particular stamp would be confined to the one locality. Thus, almost all the 50¢ P. of W. imperforate

now in collections originally came from California. More specimens have been found on the Pacific coast in recent years, it is said, than in all the East. This probably indicates that many of the rarest revenues are to be sought, each in a particular vicinity of its own. But knowledge of this, if anyone has it, must be a trade secret.

The genuineness of imperforate revenues may be determined to some extent by the date which was usually written or stamped upon them. In 1862, no stamps were perforated and most stamps used in 1863 were imperforate, but stamps of later date need not necessarily be pronounced clipped on this account. I have seen a pair of imperforate 50¢ P. of W. dated 1863. These probably were remainders which had been kept for two or three years before being used. Width of margin is deceptive, for the stamps were often irregularly perforated, sometimes so as to show portions of adjoining stamps both above and below.

After a year or two, it was found to be both inexpedient and unnecessary to require that the stamps should bear inscriptions corresponding with the names of the documents to which they were attached, and thereafter they were used indiscriminately. The engravers, since it was no longer necessary to provide every variety of stamp, retired some plates and dies and printed no more stamps from them. This restricted their issue and made them rarer than the others. The playing card and proprietary stamps were always required to be used for those purposes only, however, and this is the reason for their general scarcity. I am not aware whether the 8 cent proprietary is rare because there was little use for that value, or because it was early retired. Perhaps both reasons operate.

During the early '70's, a number of revenues were issued on a very thick paper. In fact, there are two thicknesses of thick paper. They are easily distinguished from the ordinary papers, but may be tested in this way: double the paper between the thumb and finger; if it will crease easily, it is the thin paper, but if there seems to be considerable resistance, it is the thick, hard variety. Lists have been attempted of the varieties printed on this paper, but new discoveries are continually being made.

It is said that revenues are soon to be catalogued both unused and used. Heretofore, unused specimens have been obtainable for a mere fraction of the face value on account of the fact that the government does not redeem them, but there is such a limited source of supply that they are bound to be

high priced. A distinction must be made between uncancelled and unused revenues. Although the users of the stamps were at first very careful to cancel them well, later on they became less so, and many stamps are to be found on the original documents bearing no cancellation whatever. This is particularly true of the lower denominations.

It is said of the 6 cent Proprietary that it was used almost solely upon two or three medicines, and that there are Commercial travelers who know these medicines. In the course of their tours they visit old-established drug-stores and inquire for them, and thus, without exciting too much suspicion on the part of the druggists, sometimes secure the rara-avis, the gem of the first water, the 6 cent proprietary.

The stamps printed upon blanks for taxable documents, are destined soon to obtain recognition. By far the commonest are two or three varieties imprinted on bank checks, but the same kind of impression has been found on blanks for receipts and other documents. These stamps bear the same relation to adhesive revenue stamps that stamped envelopes bear to adhesive postage stamps, and are fully as collectable; they should be collected entire, also. Some firm obtained the right from the government to print this stamped paper: Large sheets of bank check paper were imprinted at regular intervals with some such design as a large diamond with head of Liberty and the words, "U. S. Inter. Revenue, 2 cents." The banks then purchased this paper and it was cut up into slips of the regular bank check size, each bearing one impression of the stamp. These were printed with the formula for a blank bank check. After the revenue stamp tax went out of effect, banks had their stock of checks redeemed, and they were rubberstamped to that effect, and then used in the course of business. Thus, the stamped checks are to be found surcharged "Redeemed," "Cancelled," etc. Perhaps another generation of philatelists will even collect these.

The Pennsylvania Philatelist.

NOTES.

The flag post mark which was introduced by the United States Post Office Department some time ago seems to have fallen into use in other countries, France, Liberia and Hungary being among the latest.

The stamps of Cashmire are printed from ivory blocks which are so very smooth that they can hold but little ink, and the appearance of some of the specimens verifies this fact, being so indistinct that very little of the design is made out.



See these Figures ?

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CANADA

		Cat. Price.	My Price.
1851	8d red, laid paper	1 50	90
1852	— wove paper	35	19
	— unused	4 00	2 00
	6d, large margins and a fine copy		5 50
	6d, fair copy	5 00	3 25
1857	4d pink, good copies	4 00	2 00
	4d pink, pair		5 75
	4d pink, very fine	4 00	3 00
1858	8d ribbed	2 50	90
	4d pink, perforated	8 50	5 25
	4d pink, perforated, unused, little soiled	12 00	6 00
	8d red, perforated	3 50	1 75
	8d red, perforated, RIBBED, very fine	20 00	12 00
1859	5c vermilion, VARIETY, fine	15 00	9 00
	2c pink, unused	2 50	2 00
	12c green, unused	2 50	2 00
	17c blue	1 50	1 00
1858	1c brown-red, watermarked	2 00	1 50
1870	1c brown-red, laid paper, unused	40 00	22 00
	1c brown-red, laid paper, used, fine	15 00	10 00
	3c red, laid paper	5 00	2 25
1875	8c blue registered, very fine copies	2 50	1 80
1830	5c vermilion Envelope, entire, used, fine		1 00
1890	8c WOVE PAPER, Envelope, entire, used	5 00	1 50

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

1865	1c orange, used	3 50	1 75
	2c blue, used	5 00	2 50
	8c rose, used	2 50	1 25
	4c green, used	5 00	2 50
	6c black, used	5 00	2 50
	12c mauve, used	6 00	3 00
	8c, error, rare	5 00	2 75

UNITED STATES POSTAGE

1817	5c brown (original cover, 60c)	85	50
1851	5c brown, very fine	11 00	9 00
	10c green	1 00	65
1855	5c brown, type II	2 50	1 75
	10c green	50	27
	24c lilac	4 50	3 00
1861	5c brown	40	25
	30c orange	50	40
	90c blue, fine	3 50	3 00
1868	1c blue, embossed	1 25	65
	2c black, embossed	25	14
1869	3c blue, no embossing, used		3 00
	10c yellow, unused, corner stamp		3 75
	15c brown and blue, fine	1 75	1 50
	24c green and purple	7 50	5 00
1872	24c purple	2 00	1 35
	90c carmine	1 00	30
1873	10c brown unused (Cont)	1 00	70

MISCELLANEOUS

	Newfoundland, 4d lake, entire sheet	20 00	11 00
	6d lake,	20 00	11 00
	Quebec Law Stamps, \$10, \$20, \$30	155 00	35 00
	\$10, \$20, \$30, 1890 issue	85 00	20 00

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1860	2c blue	50
1867	1c green	02
	2c orange	04
	5c blue	08
	10c black	15
1890	1c black	01
	3c slate	05
	6c deep pink	09
	12c puce brown	18

NEW ISSUES, 1896 UNUSED.

Barbados, 1p	02
Brit. South Africa, 1p	03
" " 2p	05
" " 3p	10
Chamba, 1/2a	08
" " 1a	15
Cyprus, 3/10a	05
" 1/2a	06
" 1a	12
" 2/1a	12
" 4/1a	25
" 6/1a	35
" 12/1a	70
Falkland Islands, 1p	05
" " 2p	12
" " 3p	35
" " 1/2a	50
Fiji Islands, 1p	05
Gibraltar, 2/6s	08
" 2/3s	75
Grenada, 1p	05
Gwattor, 2/1a	15
Johore, 1c	02
" 2c	04
" 3c	06
Trinidad, 1p	03
" 1p	05
" 2p	10

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