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No. 1

TO THE NOVICE.

Have you ever had an opportunity to make a collection of postage stamps? No! Then you have missed the most fascinating pursuit in which a boy ever engaged. You say you have friends who are collectors, but you never tried it yourself? Ah, yes, you probably never had a chance to look into the subject, but now that you have a little spare time, we will talk it over, and then you will know all about it.

The postage stamp at a first glance seems to be a very insignificant thing, but in these days that little one inch piece of paper is as powerful in its sphere as the greatest king on earth.

The postage stamp when properly attached to a letter, will carry it to the uttermost end of the globe. The swiftest steam-boats, the fastest railroads, the most enduring animals are engaged to carry it. The most perfect safeguards that human ingenuity can devise are thrown about it, and life itself will be sacrificed to protect the missives bearing that little stamp.

To send a letter to China through any other medium than by a stamp, would cost many, many dollars, but by attaching this little piece of paper it will go anywhere for a few cents, while the power of governments will be lent it for protection. Isn't it a wonderful little thing when we look at it right?

Where is the boy who would not like to travel over the whole earth, gathering and keeping from each country, something

which belonged to each place? Few of us can travel thus, but at a small expense we can collect the stamps from every clime, each bearing its own distinctive picture or wording, and forming when together, an exhibition pleasing to the eye, instructive to the mind, and descriptive of the far away lands of which we delight to read.

A collection of postage stamps differs in an essential point from any other collection. Were you to collect minerals, coins, butterflies, or anything else, it would require large space in which to keep them, but your stamps are all mounted in one book, and a few moments is all that is necessary to find any country.

A collection of stamps will impart more knowledge to a boy in one week than he will get from his school books in many months, and do you ask why?

Because his collection is his toy, and all the knowledge he can gain from it is taken as a pleasure, whereas his books are considered a task.

He will learn all he can regarding his stamps because he is interested in them, and it is a pleasure to learn, and learning obtained in this manner is permanent.

Do you ask what can be learned from postage stamps? More than I could tell you in hours.

Nearly every new issue of postage stamps, put out is issued for some reason. A new king on the throne; a revolution in progress; a centennial of some great event; a jubilee. Of such events the collector learns through

(To be Continued)

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CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY,
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This paper is under a new management, and during May, June, July and August, it will appear fortnightly only.

Beginning in the next issue, a Canadian dealer will commence a Catalogue of Canadian Revenue Stamps, with prices, basing it on the usual discount rates.

A firm that recently published a new catalogue, compute, without minor varieties, that the total number of the world's different stamps to date would amount to just under 14,000.

All the dies, plates, etc., of the Newfoundland stamps from 1866 to 1896 have been destroyed.

A great stamp robbery at Buda-Pesth has just come to light. It appears that sheets of stamps from the State printing office ordered for destruction, have for some time past fallen into unauthorized hands, and that several persons in high positions are said to be implicated.

Very great confusion, and no end of trouble has been caused by the refusal of the Maltese Government to accept the Imperial Penny Post Stamp. At the present time, every letter received bearing only the 1d stamp, is charged 3d on delivery.

The fourth centenary of the discovery of Brazil will be celebrated in 1900 by a new issue of stamps.

The new Malta stamps are manufactured by De la Rue & Co.

All Finnish postage stamps are to be withdrawn at the end of the year.

The designs for the Cuban envelopes have been accepted and an order given to have the dies made. The head of Columbus as used on the 50-cent piece of 1892-93 (Columbian half-dollar) was finally decided upon. There are to be two denominations, both of same design, 2c red and 5c. blue. The word 'Cuba' appears at top and 'Dos' or 'Cinco Centavos,' respectively, at bottom. The figure of value appears twice at side, surrounded by foliage. A circle of pearls surrounds the head. No word has been received from Cuba as to sizes and paper varieties wanted. It appears that for the present the regular U. S. paper will be used for their manufacture, but later on a distinctively Cuban watermark will probably be adopted. The prospects for a sufficient number of varieties are therefore quite bright.

At last the Philippines are to be favored with a colonial set. The Post Office Department is now preparing to send to Manilla stamps for use on the islands. They will be the same as those now in use, but will be surcharged with the word "Philippines," which will probably be printed diagonally across the face of the stamp, similar to the Porto Rico surcharge.

They do some things better on the Continent. A new postal departure has just been instituted in the Grand Duchy of Baden, which has much to recommend it. If it happens that in the course of a journey the traveller wants to despatch a telegram all he has to do is to write his message on a post card with the intimation that he wishes it wired, affix the requisite amount of stamps and drop it into the letter box attached to the train. When the train stops the box is cleared and the wires sent off without further trouble.

It is reported that only 6000 2c Purple envelopes were issued.

