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DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY. 1885.

No. 3.

Written for the Toronto Philatelic Journal.

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.

BY C. E. SWOPE.

According to the most authentic information obtainable by the most careful and accurate research in history, the first postal service was invented by Cyrus, King of Porsia, on his Scythian expedition; he establishing one hundred and eleven posts from the shore of the Ægean Sea to Susa, the capital; each a Argean Sea to Susa, the capital; each a day's journey from the preceding. Though, generally conceded by historians that posts were well-known among the Romans, it has been too difficult to trace with any degree-of certainty, the exact period of their intended of t troduction. It is a well-known fact, however, that Augustus instituted them along all the large roads of the empire, and hired young men to deliver his dispatches from post to post until the place of destination was reached. Burland the Kieffer the direct supervisional forester of the Kieffer the direct supervisional forester. Shortly afterward, the same Emperor changed this method of delicery to that of sending all his messages and dispatches by means of charioteers, in regular chariots, with relays of horses Shortly afterward, the same Emperor of sending all his messages and dis-patches by means of charioteers, in regular chariots, with relays of horses at each post. This was kept up by his adop to Ralph Allen, about 1720, successors for a number of years, alinstit. Standa series of cross-posts, which though slight information can be obtained concerning them up to about the year 807 A.D., when the Emperor and in 1782, a plan was suggested by Charlemagne established three public John Palmer, by which the mails were posts—one each in Italy, Germany and Spain—in order to facilitate his communication with those three countries. which he had placed in a state of subjection to his dominion. Wit's his death, however, these were soon dropped, and covered up to about 1470, when Louis XI., King of France, owing to his suspicious and restless nature, and also to his eagerness for a gaick and continued.

This causing a confliction with the continued of the to his eagerness for a quick and certain knowledge of what was transpiring within his kingdom, established them to the Duke of York as a branch of the to his eagerness for a quick and certain throughout the whole civilized portion of France.

From France, his method gradually

Count Taxis settling them at his own expense in Germany, for which the Emperor Matthias, in 1616, gave the position of postmaster to him and his descendants. In England, the earliest accounts indicate that Edward III. set up some species of posts, but nothing definite has ever been ascertained concorning them. In 1548, during the reign of Edward VI., an Act of Parliament was passed, making the rate of post-horses at one penny per mile.

The first chief postmaster of England was Thomas Randolph, appointed by ed by Lord Stanhope, but Charles I. continued it to William Frizel and upon sa same model as has been since were found to be of great convenience to the public, as also to the government; to be carried in stage-coaches under guard. This plan met with a great deal of opposition at the start, but gradually overcame it, until about 1784, when it came into very general use. The penny post was first started in London by Mr.

spread to other portions of Europe; 1794. Mails were first carried on rail- fection as can possibly be attained.

road trains in 1830 by the overland route to India, which method was found to be a much cheaper way of transporting them.

In 1837, Sir Rowland Hill offered his plan of penny postage, which was adopted in 1839 by the House of Commons after a full thorough investigation.

In December, 1839, the four penny, uniform rate per letter, came into operation as an experiment; and in January, 1840, the uniform rate of one penny per letter of half an ounce weight was adopted; and finally, in May, 1840, the widely celebrated stamped envelopes, designed by Mr. W. Mulready, first came into existence. From this time on the postal service made rapid strides toward perfection. To show with what rapidity it progressed, a few figures will not be amiss.

The number of letters delivered in 1899 was 82,470,596; in 1840, 168,768,-344; in 1851, 360,651,187; in 1856, 478,000,000; in 1859, 545,000,000; in 1860, 564,000,000; in 1861, 593,000,000; in 1862, 605,000,000, and in 1864, 679,000,000

In 1855, the English Treasury issued a warrant, providing for the carriage of books, pamphlots, etc., by post under certain restrictions-four ounces for one penny, eight ounces for two pence, etc.; and in the same year street letter-boxes were instituted, the first one being placed at the corner of Fleet and Farringdon streets, London.

The postal guide first appeared in 1856, and during the same year London and vicinity was divided into districts for the convenience of the postal department, viz.: east, west, etc. The money order service was originally started in 1792, but was comparitively little used until 1889 when 188,291 money orders were issued, amounting to £313,124.

In 1861, this branch of the service alone issued 7,580,455 orders, amounting to £14,616,348.

The above facts show with what great

general service, and was, therefore, annoxed to the Crown in 1690.

This was made a two-penny post in reached about as high a degree of per-

· Abouting

now have simply to stump our letter, drop it into some street corner letterbox, and after that our great postal system takes control of it, and it is forwarded with the quickest possible dispatch until it is finally delivered either into the hands of or to the house of the party to whom it is directed. It is truly wonderful to note what a great system our postal service is, and how accurately and correctly all letters are delivered. Time certainly works wonders, and we may yet see many more astonishing improvements made in this already great system.

However, let us watch and wait, who knows what the future may bring forth.

oronto A hilatelic

Is published on the 15th of every month by Toronto Philatelic Co., 18 Orde St., Toronto, Can.

GEORGE A. LOWE EDITOR. Subscription, 25 cents a year; Foreign Countries, 35 cts.

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Remit money by P. O. Order, or small amounts in one or two cent stamps.

TORONTO, MAY, 1885.

NOTES.

Any one sending us four subscriptions will receive this Journal free for one

We have received a copy of the Constitution of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society.

We want agents in every city and town in the world to get subscribers for this paper.

We send you a copy of this paper as an inducement to subscribe if you have not already done so.

The Spanish stamps, with round holes punched through them, indicate that they have been used on telegraph service.

The next meeting of the Toronto Philatelic Society will be held at 76 Baldwin street on Friday, May 22nd, at 8 p.m.

The United States superintendent of foreign mails has decided that the department cannot enter into the parcel post arrangement proposed by England and Germany in the absence of legislative authority.

Great Britain buys her postal card supply from Germany, the last order given the successful bidder being 150,-000,000 cards.

Mr. Lyman H. Low has sent us a catalogue of the Balmanno Collection. The sale of this collection will take place on 10th and 11th June.

There were only 200 of the 2c. brown Canada bill stamps struck off, and only about three-fourths of this number were used; this accounts for their rarity.

Mr. Henry Hechler, publisher of the Philatelic Courier, and Captain of the 63rd Rifles of Halifax, has gone to the Northwest Territory to assist in suppressing the robellion.

One of the greatest curiosities in Japan is the wonderful and almost indiscribable variety of coins that are used daily, it requiring in some instances 1,000 pieces to make a dollar.

The new English postmaster-general, baving gone down to his office and let himself in with a latchkey, was promptly arrested by a detective and held until identified as a non-dynamiter.

A solid silver balustrade, which has stood in one of the Mexican churches since the time of Cortez, was torn down not long ago and taken to the mint and coined, producing 60,000 silver dollars.

There is great convenience in the 25 cent shinplaster that sed to be in circulation. Though they restill to be "called in," those few that all re ulabout are eagerly sought for, and anthred in the transmission of small sums jough the post. Besides, the government has need of money, and this form of oan is one that falls very easily on the people. By all means let the shinplasters come out again.

We have received the following stamp papers up to date:-New England Philatelist, El Filotelico (San Domingo), Philatelista (Brazil), Pine and Palmetto, Philatelic Monthly, Keystone Stamp and Coin Gazette, Philatelic Herald, Our American Youth, Tidings from Nature, Capital City Philatelist, Collectors' Companion, American Journal of Philately, The Philatelist, The Museum, The Collector, The Exchange, Craugton's Occasional, Philatelic Observer, Philatelic Globe, The Hermes, California 2 penny, grey; the 4 penny, lilac, and Philatelist.

The following are the names of the successful competitors for the prize competition advortised in our March and April numbers :- First prize, Mr. C. E. Swope, Louisville; second prize, H. A. Mallin, Girard; third prize, Mr. F. H. Best, Toronto.

The World suggests that soldiers at the front be allowed to send their letters east free of postage provided the envelopes be franked by their commanding officer. This is a small boon, but the convenience in camp will be great, and our volunteers who sacrifice so much for the country deserve every consideration. We are satisfied that Mr. Carling will adopt the idea the moment he reads this paragraph.

The stamp collectors of this city held a meeting at the office of the Toronto Philatelic Co. on the 24th ulto. for the purpose of forming a Philatelic Society. The meeting, after being addressed by Mr. McMinn, Mr. Best, and several other prominent men of this city, adjourned until 8th May, when the following officers were duly elected:—Captain Gamble Geddes, A.D.C., President; Mr. F. H. Best, Vice-President; Mr. H. Morell, Secretary; Mr. T. J. McMinn, Treasurer.

Dealers will find, by giving us a trial, that the Toronto Philatelic Journal is one of the best advertising mediums in America:

We are very well satisfied with your paper, and think it the best in Canada for advertising. Next month we will give you a larger advertisement, and we hope it will succeed. -Krebs Brothers, Stamp Importers, New

We have received many letters like the above, which we would publish had we the space.

NEW ISSUES

That have appeared, or are about to appear:

Brazil.—The color of the 10 reis has been changed from black to orange.

Ceylon .- Has issued a large number of provisionals.

Italy.—Is about to issue four new stamps for parcels post.

Lagos.—The 1 penny is now rose; the the 6 penny, olive.

Montserrat,-The 21 ponny is blue, and the 4 penny, mauve.

Persia.—Is about to issue new stamps. Portugal.—The 20 rois is now carmine.

Sweden.—The following stamps have appeared: 10 ore, official, red, same type as others; 10 ore envelope, red on white; and two post-eards, green, one for the public, and the other official. Two more are expected: 5 ore, green, and 20 ore, blue.

St. Domingo.-The new stumps are as follows: 1 cent, green; 2 cents, red; 5 cents, blue; 10 cents, orange, and 20 cents, brown.

expected; also a 1c. periodical stamp.

A MILLIONAIRE.

Every stamp collector understands the meaning of "the Millionaire" and the almost ludicrous circumstances connected with the origin of the term. A small and obscure dealer in the West of England gives out that in one month he has sold two million packets of stamps! Surely this is going a little too far. It required a man of large faith to swallow Mr. Palmer's "million" story, and the only inference that can be drawn from the announcement of this second "millionaire," who, by the bye, seems totally ignorant of the first principle of business that someone is given to parables or untruths, and it furnishes a powerful illustration of that old proverb, "One fool makes sport for many."-Foreign Stamp Collector's News.

STAMP COLLECTORS.

The following statement is the number of collectors throughout the world: United States, between 150,000 and 180,000; Canada, 30,000 to 50,000; South America, 4,000 to 5,000; Great Britain, 120,000 to 140,000; France and Belgium, 90,000 to 120,000; Germany, 50,000 to 80,000; Austria, 30,-000 to 60,000; Italy, 6,000 to 8,000; Spain and Portugal, 4,000 to 7,000; Switzerland, 6,000 to 8,000; all other European Countries, 80,000 to 55,000; Asia, 1,500 to 8,000; Africa, 600 to 1.500; Australia, 2,000 to 8,000; West Indies, 600 to 4,000; countries and colonies not included in the above list, about 1,000; or a grand total of about 700.000 .- Philatelic Review.

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The Monster Packet contains the following Brazilian stamps:—1 set 1st issue; 180, 300, 600 rs., 2nd issue; 280, 430 rs., and 10; 30 rs. blue of 3rd issue; postcards, telegraphs, envelopes, revenues, fiscals, rare provisionals used in the Paraguayan war-in all 1000 stamps, well assorted—a fine packet for dealers. will send the above in exchange for 1000 sheets of embossed relief scraps (cut out), scrap books, cancelled fac-similes of rare stamps, pieces of calico, sheets of decalcomania, bevelled gilt-edged cards, chromo cards or gold coins, bank-notes or U. S. or foreign unused current postage

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