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THE

# Canada Stamp and Coin Journal.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., AUGUST, 1888.

No. 2.

## The C. P. A. Official Organ.

MY friend Mr. Henry S. Harte has taken great offence at a remark of mine in the last number of this *Journal*, and has made me the subject of over half a page of the valuable space of the *Stamp Collector*.

My words of last month, which I still adhere to, were "The C. P. A. in electing the *Toronto Philatelic Journal* as its official organ, has chosen one of the worst-edited papers on this Continent."

Mr. Harte says "We were quite surprised when we read the above editorial in the initial number of the *Canada Stamp & Coin Journal*. Such remarks, to my mind, seem to be a slur upon those members of the C. P. A. who voted for the T. P. J. as the official organ, and are not to be taken altogether as they read, for while the editing of the T. P. J. may not be all that could be desired, it is far ahead of many so-called philatelic journals. If Bro. Findlay wants to see the official organ of the C. P. A. become a success, would it not be well for him to refrain from such remarks as the foregoing? It is about time that the Halifax *grumblers* buried their hatchet and resigned themselves to the inevitable."

Well, Mr. Harte, I should be very sorry indeed to have any words of mine tend to injure the Canadian Philatelic Association, and I wish it distinctly understood that it matters little to me what paper is appointed official organ, provided that paper is properly conducted. But when we look through a copy of the T. P. J. and see but little (often nothing) outside of the reports of the various officers; and that little mixed up with such reports—no system, no business-like

manner—just as it is easiest for the printer; when we see an ad. of "silk ribbons" alongside of Mr. Harte's own report; when we see our official paper contain advertisements of cures for private diseases, and of people who sell "scarce goods" and whose address is "greenbacks"—why when we see all this, and a little more too, don't you think, Mr. Harte, that it is time to say "stop?" Don't you think that a speedy change is necessary?

In classing me among the Halifax *grumblers*, whoever they may be, Mr. Harte has made a great mistake. I do not crave the position of official editor for myself, or of official organ for my *Journal*; and I do not think the publishers of the *Halifax Philatelist* could be induced to accept either of those positions. I am therefore at a loss to know who Mr. Harte refers to as the *grumblers*. I think the members of the Nova Scotia Philatelic Association, (the Halifax branch of the C. P. A.) only desire what is right and proper. Let the editor and proprietor of the *Toronto Philatelic Journal* follow the plan of the *American Philatelist* (the official paper of the American Philatelic Association) and his paper will be good enough for us, and he will get all the assistance needed in the way of contributions and advertisements. Let him furnish a representative paper that deserves the name, and he will not find it necessary to be without articles to fill his reading space, or to have to depend on advertising patronage of an outrageous character.

JOHN R. FINDLAY.

ADVERTISERS should read special offer on page 12.

### A Universal Language.

WHAT an incalculable boon a universal language would be to the stamp and coin collector. With what ease he could reply to letters that are now but a source of annoyance!

That a universal language would be of great benefit to man in general, besides those interested in our study, no one will for a moment doubt. But can we ever expect such a thing to come to pass? Certainly *not in our time*; for it is impossible to *invent* a language that will be adopted by all nations. Volapuk has now had a fair trial. Has it been a success? *No*. It never will, never can be. Considerable interest is manifested in it and a large number will no doubt make a study of it, but it will gradually die out. Many will learn it, but as no one will attempt to speak it, how can we expect it to live?

A universal language must be the result of growth—must gradually spread itself over the globe, either by its superiority or by the immigrating propensity of the people who speak it. That it will be because of its superiority I doubt, but the other reason I firmly believe in.

When we give time to deep thought about the matter we cannot fail to see that the English language is fast spreading over the habitable world. The indications are that it will in time become universal. It is now spoken by over a quarter of the population of the globe, who occupy about one-fourth the dry land, and own nearly two-thirds of the tonnage of the ships. It is estimated that one-half the letters carried by the postal service of the world, are written, mailed and read by English-speaking populations; who live in all regions; handle all articles of trade; preach to all nations; own one-half of the gold and silver, and distribute more than two-thirds of the Bibles and Testaments. These figures speak for themselves.

I do not claim for the English language a superiority over other languages; although it is second to none. But the very nature and habits of the English

speaking race cannot help but lead a close observer to draw the above conclusion. They are always ready to enlighten, and being in continuous immigration to the most remote regions of the world, they are constantly adding converts to their tongue, and are laying the foundation of a language that will be of incalculable benefit to future generations.

J. R. FINDLAY.

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### Literature.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED:—Agassiz Companion, Agassiz Record, Badger State Philatelist, Charleston Philatelist, Collectors' Ledger, Common Sense, Curiosity World, Eastern Philatelist, Exchangers Monthly, Geologists' Gazette, Halifax Philatelist, International Collector, L'Echo de la Timbrologie, Le Courier du Timbrophile, Little Clipper, Mohawk Standard, National Philatelist, Ohio Philatelist, Old Curiosity Shop, Philatelic Advertiser, Philadelphia Philatelist, Philatelic Gazette, Philatelic World, Philatelic Journal of Ohio, Philo's Monthly, Plain Talk, Springfield Republican (Phil. Dept.), Stamp, Stamp Collector, Stamp Collectors' Figaro, Toronto Philatelic Journal, United States Philatelist,

### PAMPHLETS RECEIVED:

Auction Catalogues from Messrs. Bogert, Casey, Scott.

Stamp exchange Circular, Stanley, Gibbons & Co.

Sixth Addendum to Priced Catalogue, Stanley, Gibbons & Co.

Townsend's American Stamp Collectors' Directory.

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THE *Buckeye State Collector*, *Agassiz Record*, *Philatelic Herald*, *Witch City Philatelist*, and *Western Philatelist* have suspended publication.

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THE *Charleston Philatelist* gives lots of advice to its contemporaries as to their appearance, etc., but continues to publish

cuts of "prominent philatelists" that look as though they were cut on pine and printed with mud.

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In the *Halifax Philatelist* for June will be found copies of the official correspondence relating to the New Brunswick "Connell" stamp. It will be read with interest by all philatelists and will help, no doubt, to settle the dispute on this very rare issue.

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For a first issue, the *Stamp Collector*, of Ottawa, Ill., is the best effort we have had the pleasure of reading for many months.

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BRO. VOUTE has the field all to himself now, since the suspension of the *Western Philatelist*. The *Figaro* is improving with each issue and bids fair to outshine all its contemporaries. But the greatest wonder of all is—Bro. Voute has reformed! He don't intend to sling mud any longer. So says a recent number of the *Figaro* (but he slings it all the same). We don't believe you can reform, Voute. Eh?

---

TOWNSEND'S American Directory is certainly the neatest and handiest thing of the kind that has appeared, and is the only directory of stamp collectors worthy of the name since Handford's. It is all that Mr. Townsend claims it to be and should be in every library. Price 25cts. Akron, Ohio.

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Our thanks are due Mr. Scott for a file of the *Calmar Exchange*, and Mr. Wetherell for a file of the *Agassiz Record*. The first named has been succeeded by the *United States Philatelist*; the other has suspended publication.

### Curiosities of Alloys.

THE way in which an alloy of gold and copper or other metal is affected by a small quantity of impurity presents one of the most serious difficulties with which jewelers have to deal in working gold. It has long been known to workers in the precious metal that minute quantities of certain metals render it brittle and unworkable: and referring to this, in a lecture in Birmingham, Professor Roberts-Austen, of the Royal Mint, said: "It may be well to demonstrate the fact. Here are 200 sovereigns. I will melt them and will add, in the form of a tiny shot, a minute portion of lead amounting to only the 200th part of the mass, first, however, pouring a little of the gold into a small ingot, which we can bend and flatten, thus proving to you that it is perfectly soft, ductile and workable. The rest of the mass we will pour into a bar, and now that it is sufficiently cold to handle, you see I am able to break it with my fingers, or at least, with a slight tap of a hammer. The color of the gold is quite altered, and has become orange-brown; and experiments have shown that the tenacity of the metal—that is, the resistance of the gold being pulled asunder—has been reduced from eighteen tons per square inch to only five tons. These essential changes in the property of the metal have been produced by the addition of a minute quantity of lead." In the same lecture Professor Roberts-Austen said: "Here is a bar of tin, two feet long and one inch thick, which it would be most difficult to break, though it would readily bend double. If only I rub a little quicksilver on its surface, a remarkable effect will be produced—the fluid metal will penetrate the solid one, and in a few seconds the bar will, as you see, break readily, the fractured surface being white, like silver."

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JOHN R. FINDLAY, - Editor and Proprietor.

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THE success of our initial number has far exceeded our expectations.

We have received a great many subscriptions, and good wishes have almost smothered us. Many thanks.

We have decided to keep our offer open for the present, viz: that any member of either a Philatelic or Numismatic Association may pay his subscription at the end of the year.

In order to give dealers a chance to try our columns, we shall accept advertisements, until further notice, at one-half our regular rates, given above. Remember, this offer is not likely to be repeated; it is only made to give you a chance during the dull season. Cash must always accompany copy.

## A Million Postage Stamps.

A PHILADELPHIAN has collected, sorted and filed away enough cancelled postage stamps to reach, if placed side by side, from the Delaware River to Cobb's Creek, the extreme western boundary of the city. In this extraordinary collection there are 1,000,000 stamps. These stamps, if used as wall paper, would be sufficient to cover the walls of a medium sized city house, and if spread over a space one yard wide would reach nearly 500 yards. The patient collector of this million of little bits of engraved paper is Paul Des Granges, a retired merchant, who began the task February 6, 1882. Mr. Des Granges says of his work: The plan adopted for the preservation and actual counting of the stamps was to remove them from any adherent paper by soaking in water, and after drying, to tie in packages of 100; these were then made into bundles of 1000, then into 5,000, and ten of these into parcels of 50,000 stamps each, weighing five pounds and five ounces. Having much unoccupied time, and the assistance of numerous friends and acquaintances, the first "brick" or package of 50,000 was completed on October 12, 1882. Others followed at irregular intervals, varying from nine months and twenty days to fourteen months, until finally 1,000,000 was completed on October 8, 1887, in a period of five years, eight months and two days. Of one-cent United States stamps there are 118,900; of two-cent stamps, 665,000; of three-cent stamps, 99,000; of miscellaneous stamps, 85,400; of foreign stamps, 30,800; total 1,000,000.—*Philadelphia Record.*

MR. H. S. HARTE will soon issue a complete "History of the Postage Stamps of Canada and Provinces."

Authors are invited to send us their best efforts in Stamp and Coin articles, with price. If suitable we will remit per return mail. Only first-class articles desired.

## The Coinage of Nova Scotia.

BY D. A. K.

*Continued from last month.*

- O.*—Same type as preceding.
- R.*—Payable by John Alex. Barry, Halifax, ship to right, size 16.
- O.*—Same as preceding.
- R.*—Halifax, ship to right, size 16.
- O.*—Same as preceding.
- R.*—Genuine British copper, Britannia seated to right size 16.
- O.*—Half-penny token, 1815, barrel in circle, spikes, nails, etc., on head of barrel.
- R.*—Importer of ironmongery, hardware, etc., within circle; Payable by—Miles W. | White | Halifax | N. S. size 18.
- O.*—Payable at W. L. White's Halifax House, Halifax, One | Farthing.
- R.*—W. L. White's Halifax House, Halifax, Cheap | Dry | Goods | Store, size 14.
- O.*—Starr & Shannon, Halifax, 1815, Indian with dog to left.
- R.*—Half-penny token, Nova Scotia, ship under full sail to right, size 17.
- O.*—Commercial change, 1815, Indian with dog to left.
- R.*—Same as preceding, size 17.
- O.*—Wholesale and Retail Hardware Store, 1815, house full front.
- R.*—Halifax, Nova Scotia, in centre; spades, barrel, scythe and sickle, size 16.
- O.*—Same as preceding.
- R.*—Payable at W. A. & S. Black's, Halifax; barrel, spade and scythe, size 16.
- O.*—Nemo me impune lacessit, Thistle in centre.
- R.*—Payable at the store of J. Brown, ship to right, sails furled, size 16.
- O.*—Half-penny token, Commerce to right, seated scales in right hand and cornucopia in left.
- R.*—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick success, ship under full sail to right, size 16.
- O.*—Robert Purves, Wallace; Cheap | Family | Store.

*R.*—Encourage | country | importers | size 16.

*O.*—Ferry Token.

*R.*—Halifax Steamboat Co. steamer to left, size 12.

Of those tokens the Purves token was the last one issued. It was issued by Robert Purves, of Wallace, who did a ship building and general store business in Wallace, N. S., for about fifteen years. The token was issued in 1857 or 1858. There were about half a ton weight of them made, but were never all issued, as, in 1867, when all tokens were out of circulation and not considered legal coin, Mr. Purves had about 600 lbs. in his possession, which he sold out for old metal. There are several other tokens which are said to be Nova Scotian, but on such slight authority as not to warrant their insertion in any list.

## The Pictures Get Stuck on the Road.

I NEVER lost a letter; my letters follow me all over America with never a loss, the very postal cards catch up with me. But somehow or other the "picture papers" have a way of lodging in the cracks of the mail car that is very trying, and to a thick-headed, obstinately incredulous man, very mysterious. Or, not so mysterious, either. It might be mysterious if it only happened to my own mail, or only once in a while. But what I was going to suggest is this, that the Postoffice Department subscribe for these journals for every employe of the railway mail service.—*Burdette.*

## Destroying the Dyes.

A LITTLE roll of metal red with fire was placed upon the anvil, a sledge hammer fell twice upon it, three tiny sparks shot into the air and the molds of the old year's double eagle gold coins were wiped out forever. It was a thousandth part of the work that lasted all day at the mint Tuesday, the destroying of the 1887 dies.

This is a novel form of destruction that falls to the lot of the money-making establishment's blacksmiths at the end of each calendar year, and is the only sure way of preventing the wily counterfeiter from making spurious coin without regard to date. The dies of the Mint are the stamps that imprint on the coin all that fancy business that, when rubbed off by time, gives the street car conductor a chance to insult the holder by refusing to accept it. For instance, it stamps on the dollar the face of the beautiful lady encircled by stars and makes a strong contrast on the other side by printing a game looking eagle perched on arrows under "In God we trust."

The die is a little round chunk of steel about three inches long, sloping off at the top, which makes it look like a miniature milkman's can without handles. On the top of it is cut the face of the coin it manufactures, with the date of the year, and something to think about when you look at them is that the die of a penny costs the government no less than the die that makes precious the \$20 gold piece. Coiner Steel, of the mint, signed the death warrant of the old year's dies. It meant the destruction of a thousand of 1887's money-makers. Every stamp, from double eagles to dollars in gold, from dollars to ten-cent pieces in silver, the fives in nickle and the pennies in copper were doomed.

The place of execution was the gloomy shop in the basement weirdly lit by hungry fire-light. At 9.30 o'clock the dies were taken from their cells upstairs and conveyed thither in black coffin-like pans. Coined gold jingled merrily on all sides as the procession passed. What regret had gold for the steel that gave it power to ruin souls? So the dies of '87 passed to their fate unwept.

The little coiners of big money were first sacrificed. The dies of gold were flung by handfuls into the flames. There they lay until the steel grew red and the face of Columbia blushed crimson. They were not taken out by hand, but with iron tongs, and placed rightend upward

on the anvils. Then the smithy raised his sledge hammer aloft and struck each one full in the face. A shower of sparks, a smashed sound and the agony was over. The ring of the steel had gone, the face vanished like magic and the die of the past was but crushed unshapely metal.—*Philadelphia Press.*

### Curious Postage Stamps.

AMONG the issues of postage stamps by foreign countries there is none more curious within recent years than the new issue of Madagascar—three and one-fourth inches long by two and one-half inches wide—and none that will be more eagerly sought by collectors. There are eight in all, ranging in value from 1d. to 2s. They are issued by England, for letters mailed at the British Consulate in Antananarido, and gummed only in the corner.

The letters are sent to Mauritius, where the Malagassy stamp is removed and kept for a voucher and the Mauritius stamp substituted. The Peruvian government announces its intention to redeem all outstanding surcharged stamps and use only the new issue (1 purple, 2 green, 50 rem, 1 sol br.), to which a 20 blue is to be added. Paraguay is having a 1 green and 2 vermillion, similar to 1884, printed in Buenos Ayres.

The United States of Colombia have issued a hideous 10 yellow, with the head of President Nunez. A complete new issue is announced. Antequia has issued a new set—1 green, 2½d. bl. on yel. and 5 blue—similar to last year's. Shanghai rejoices in a new issue, 40, 80 and 100 cash. Tobago has surcharged its 2½d. blue with 1½d. in black, and St. Kitts the 6d. green with 4d. black.—*American Stationer.*

Can any reader give us information concerning the above stamps?—*Editor.*

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