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THE Stamp Reporter,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

Devoted to the Interests of Stamp Collecting.

Vol. 1., No. 2.—New Series.]

ST. CATHARINES, ONT., SATURDAY, APR. 8, 1899.

[Old Series—Vol. 2., No 8

From our Regular Correspondent.

Hamilton Notes.

BY CHAS. S. APPLGATH.

Under this heading I shall strive each week to acquaint our readers with what events of a philatelic nature occur from time to time in the Ambitious City.

As it is my intention to make frequent reference to the "Philatelic Section of the Canadian Club," a few words about this organization may be of interest.

On the evening of November 5th, 1897, about a dozen local philatelists met in the office of the now defunct Star Stamp Co., and after much discussion it was thought desirable to organize a local society, and thus the Hamilton Stamp Club came into existence. It was some weeks, however, before a suitable club room could be secured, and in the meantime, meetings were held regularly every Tuesday evening at the homes of various members. On March 1st, 1898, very commodious quarters were secured at 45 1-2 King street East, and shortly afterwards the meeting night was changed to Friday.

On March 1st, last, the Hamilton Stamp Club amalgamated with the "Canadian Club of Hamilton," and the name changed to "The Philatelic Section of the Canadian Club."

Next to the library is the billiard and games parlor, the finest room in the house, while on the opposite side of the hall are situated the smoking room, pool room and lavatories.

It is not strange, therefore, that the majority of the members of the Philatelic Section are specialists in the stamps of Canada and other British colonies.

The Canadian club occupies the second story of the Federal Life Assurance Co.'s fine stone building at the corner of James and Vine streets. Immediately upon entering the club's entrance on Vine street is a large spacious hall, at the end of which a fine oak stairway leads to the club's suite

of rooms. At the head of the stairway to the left is the room occupied by the Philatelic Section, and across the hall is the library and reading room, which is well supplied with all the leading weekly and monthly philatelic, as well as other publications.

The Canadian Club has a membership of about 700, and has for its objects "The encouragement of the study of the history, literature, art, music and natural resources of Canada, the recognition of native worth and talent and the fostering of a patriotic Canadian sentiment."

The International Committee of the P. S. of C. C. have in preparation a debate on "Resolved that it is more desirable to collect unused stamps than used," to be given on April 7th. The speakers will be, for the affirmative, A. H. Ward and C. S. Applegath; negative, W. B. Grant and J. H. Slater. This debate promises to be very interesting as both sides are working hard.

Mr. Findlay I. Weaver, of Berlin, publisher of the "Canadian Philatelic Review," and well known in both this country and the United States, has taken up his abode in this city. Mr. Weaver arrived here on March 31st, and will be a welcome addition to the ranks of philately in Hamilton.

Recent visitors in this city were Geo. E. Davenport, president of the "Philatelic Club of Toronto." W. A. Starnaman, of Berlin, and Max Hart, of New York.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Ottawa Notes.

BY J. S. DALTON.

It is said that the 4c stamp will not be printed for some time. The 7c will appear shortly.

The stamp business is pretty brisk here just now.

The department seems to have a supply of the 1-2c and 2c maple leaf. The 1-2c is the most numerous.

There is still fear in the hearts of many collectors and dealers that the 2c purple envelope will again be printed, but there is no danger from this point, for I have made enquiries and am told that it will not be reprinted. The post office here, however, have still some on hand, but no one knows if they will put them on sale at the different offices or not. It is not likely that the stock they control will make much difference anyway.

Complete sets of 188-92 and maple leaf issues, as high as 10c, can be obtained from the post office and the departments have some complete sets of the jubilee on hand yet.

The 5c numeral has not been put on sale at this office.

The writer has seen (besides the purple shade) three distinct shades of the 2c purple stamp. One is a very bluish purple, another a brighter bluish purple and the other a very light purple.

News in Brief.

The C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. have come to life again.

President McKinley receives 1,000 letters daily.

A new set of stamps is being prepared for Cuba. The designs will represent Cuban scenes, etc.

By "Stamps" we learn that Mr. W. K. Hall, of Peterborough, has no doubt been done out of \$21.30 by Messrs. Hilkes & Co., Limited, of 64 Cheapside, London, England. Dealers and collectors having dealings with that firm are hereby cautioned to be on their guard.

A stamp collector's society in the east has been organized and adopted the name of Tiffany in honor of the memory of the late John K. Tiffany, of St. Louis.

There are two dies of Uncle Sam's new 2c envelopes. The chief difference is in the bottom of the bust and the direction in which it points.

Plate Number Collecting.

BY CHARLES A. NAST.

As I am an enthusiastic plate number collector myself, I beg to say that these thoughts and suggestions must be considered as my own individual views and gathered rather from my own experience, with my own collection as a basis for opinions. Recently in a dealer's shop in this city (Denver, Colorado,) the question arose over a two-cent brown (Jackson), whether it was printed at the National or the Continental Co., on examination with powerful glasses failing to reveal any of the secret marks illustrated in the catalogue. Now if a strip had been preserved with imprint and plate number, or even only a single stamp with the number, as the two concerns used different notations in this color, the question would have been settled upon the face of it.

And this calls to my mind the story I once heard, that a similar contention in the establishment of the father of philately in this country was only settled by Mr. Scott's producing the remainder of the entire sheet from which the stamps in dispute had been removed, showing imprint and plate number, thereby proving his side of the argument. And this I am informed led to plate number collecting. However the value of plate numbers is not, in our time the same, its chief charms lie in the gradations of tone, and variations and shade of colors, sometimes indeed, the differences are quite beyond the range of tint, and assume the dignity of different colors in fact.

I have only words of praise for Bartel's catalogue, but it must be apparent to any one who has studied the matter only a little, that no catalogue could include every variety of ink. In a general way an issue is listed in its official color, or as blue and ultramarine for the one-cent denomination, and as pink and carmine for the two-cent in the unwatermarked series. But this does not nearly cover the field. It was my privilege to see a collection of top strips only, of the first fifty numbers ever printed in the 2c red. We have here carmine, pink, rose, dull red, claret, salmon, light and dark red, brownish red and bronze red, this latter was from plate number 9. It was a strikingly peculiar red. No two strips were exactly alike in color, the whole making a beautiful tone-picture. The expense of collecting all four sides of a given plate is what appals the average collector, but I claim it is not necessary to collect in this manner, though I do it myself. Let me suggest to those who are inclined in this direction, to collect only a certain side and stick to it, reserving other positions for exchange; or choose the top, this is invariably cleaner and prettier, has always large margins, and is oftenest free from ink smudge. The bottom strip is the most difficult of all. The margin is sometimes barely sufficient to permit the number to show.

As in all other stamp matters, the bottom strip being the least likely to be perfect, it is generally higher price-

ed. The quantity of any position on the market, regulating the price. But whatever is decided upon, let it be thoroughly understood that a plate number strip in its accepted form must be perfect as to the centering of each stamp, nor must the perforations be allowed to go through the imprint and the number itself. It means a strip of absolute perfect stamps to the minutest detail of any given number, and not merely anything with a certain number attached; because we are not collecting numbers, but perfect stamps of a number.

Recently the Omaha Exposition series and the surcharging of the current issues, has created a new interest in this specialty. While it is true the Omahas require only the top and bottom strips, it is equally true that out of a dozen strips taken at random, only two will be found perfectly centered. It seems a most difficult matter to get the perforations just right on all sides of these stamps.

With two kinds of surcharges besides the inverted surcharge, and the printing of some of the plates in both green and blue inks, it is quite possible to get three, four and five different sets of strips of the same number; therefore I advise a blank book as a plate number album. The pages can be divided by ruling two or three horizontal lines across the page, thus allowing a full page for various sets of the same number, or for different numbers on the same page. But I hope my suggestion of collecting only one position will not go unheeded. Let us have collectors of lefts or rights only, or tops or bottom strips only. This will increase the interest and add new recruits to our ranks. Then in the future we may have a plate number society with its attendant department, just as is now done in postal cards.

In the watermarked series we have but one shade of blue listed, but it is quite possible to find the same number in three or four shades differing greatly, from 98 to 122 inclusive.

Just before the Government issued the 1c green, all plates running from 443 to 496 were printed in a very dark blue in extra heavy ink. The difference over the ordinary blue is apparent to anyone. In passing it should be mentioned that the different shades are not due to any chemical action of light or air, but are so just as they came from the press.

It was a long time before a uniform color for the present 2c red was adopted. From No. 80 or thereabouts the ink seems to have been pretty generally the same, but latterly the Government has started on an economical streak. It will be remembered how last spring the Postmaster General suggested that a saving of \$12,000 per annum might be made by using some less expensive color, but finding that the International Postal Union prescribed red they began, to cheapen the ink by the addition of less lake madder. The change was soon apparent and a reference to my collection shows pale reds, and salmon pinks, besides the rose color in all numbers from 501 to 525. Some very pale shades obtain in numbers ranging from 499 to 517. Some of the latter look as though they

had been washed out. A very pretty page consists of the 5c numbers in both blue and brown. And finally in this day of errors, let me not forget that we have one in plate Nos. also. I refer to the 2c Postage Due issue of '79 to '94. By some inadvertence the figure 5 was omitted from certain parts of the plate in No. 315, making it read 31 instead. In conclusion let me add that the letters which precede the figures in the catalogue are very essential to a perfect strip, these are printed sometimes quite apart from the number and the imprint, but they are very desirable to a complete plate number.—Weekly Philatelic Era.

Local Happenings.

Several booksellers here have added stamp albums to their stock and they are taking well. The boy trade is booming, and the dealers are doing a good business.

Mr. Jas. F. Irwin, previous to his leaving the city, has sold his entire stock of stamps.

Mr. T. H. Caldwell, of Brantford, spent his Easter holidays here with his aunt.

During the past week a large number of "Stamps," (New York), and a few Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, (Brooklyn Special), were received as samples. Collectors are therefore enjoying some outside news.

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Order ..

This Paper for
52 Weeks and a
1-2c Jubilee,
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THE STAMP REPORTER.

Published every Saturday.

GEO. BRADLEY, Editor and Publisher,
St. Catharines, Ontario, Can.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Canada and United States per year 50c
Other countries in postal union per
year... ..\$1.00
All subscriptions commence with cur-
rent issue.
Back numbers cannot be supplied at
subscription rates.

ADVERTISING RATES.

1 inch insertion... ..\$ 40
5 inches to be used as desired... 1 75
10 inches to be used as desired... 3 00
Reading notices per line... .. 10

TERMS.—Cash must positively accom-
pany orders.

Contract ads. may be paid weekly,
monthly or quarterly in ADVANCE.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

FORMS CLOSE on Tuesdays at 5 p.
m. All copy must be received by that
time to ensure appearance in follow-
ing issue.

REMITTANCES — Unused current
stamps of Canada or the United States
taken in payment of account for sub-
scriptions and advertisements under
\$1. This sum and larger amounts may
be remitted in bank notes or by postal
note, post office or express money or-
der.

RETURN POSTAGE should be en-
closed in all letters enquiring for in-
formation other than of general inter-
est and requiring a personal reply.
This will insure our attention and a
cheerful reply.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—In notify-
ing us of any change of address sub-
scribers should be sure to give their
old address as well as new address.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES
with this issue if a (X) appears in the
margin opposite this paragraph. The
paper is not abruptly discontinued on
the expiration of subscriptions, unless
expressly so ordered. We shall highly
appreciate an early renewal from you,
or an order to have your paper discon-
tinued.

Ourselves.

It has not been our custom in the
past to devote much space to "blow-
ing our own horn," but owing to the
fact that we must have more subscrib-
ers and advertisers to make this paper
as a weekly a success, we hope our
readers will forgive this waste of
space.

Of late we have written to many
dealers soliciting an advertisement,
and quoting lowest cash rates for same,
but invariably receive no reply. Some-
times we wonder how it is. Have our
efforts in trying to make the S. R. a
success been a failure? Perhaps they

doubt our having any circulation. To
such probably the following will prove
that if not many they are buyers.

One advertiser receives between \$40
and \$50 from each advertisement.

Surely if you are an enterprising
dealer and desire to extend your busi-
ness the above statement ought to be
sufficient to merit a trial advertise-
ment in next week's issue. If you
doubt our reliability we will send you
first class references on demand.

Along with advertisers we must get
subscribers. We placed the subscrip-
tion price as low as possible and hope
that our readers will consider all the
good points and decide whether it is
worth a "half" or not. If you decide
to subscribe look up some of our special
offers.

A good stamp paper to the stamp col-
lector is a good friend. It protects
and encourages him, and though he
can, he ought not to do without it.

If you get more than one copy of this
paper give the duplicate to a stamp
collecting friend.

Number one did not appear prompt-
ly on time owing to the delay caused
by having to submit a copy to the
Postmaster General for his approval,
before being allowed mailing privi-
leges.

Many have expressed their opinion
that this paper will not last long. We
might say that it is our intention to
stick to it, and you need not fear send-
ing in your fifty cents for a year's
subscription. Each one received makes
our burden that much lighter.

Brother Dodge has lost another
chance by allowing William R. Brown,
publisher of Stamp Talk, to gobble up
the "International Philatelist."

Special Notice.

Every subscriber who receives more
than one copy of this number will con-
fer a favor by handing the extra copy
to a philatelic friend.

The Duke of York and Philately.

A foolish paragraph has been going
the round of the outside press that
H. R. H. the Duke of York seriously
contemplated the sale of his first-class
collection of postage stamps for a
charitable object. Though it might
seem somewhat unnecessary we are
glad to see that Mr. J. A. Tilliard
has come forward to flatly contradict
this absurd rumor.

To those who doubt the sincerity of
H. R. H.'s devotion to the pursuit
we beg to point to the researches he
has made in the matter of the 2 rig-
bank skilling (blue) stamp (1857) of
Denmark, read before the London
Philatelic Society by the Hon. Secre-
tary. Stamps (Eng)

Notes of Interest.

The sale of the United States peri-
odical stamps, which began February
15th, was a decided success. They
were distributed at the larger post
offices, 5,000 sets being retained by the
department at Washington, 3,000 at
New York, 2,000 each at Philadelphia
and Chicago, and a smaller number at
other offices, with instructions that
one set should be sold to a single cus-
tomer. The price set by the depart-
ment was \$5 per set. As far as the
United States Government is concern-
ed the sale was a great success, for
after paying all expenses there is
\$249,975 left. There are a million or
so stamp collectors in the United States,
and the eagerness with which
these stamps were purchased makes As-
sistant Postmaster-General Merritt re-
gret that he did not charge \$10 a set
for them and thereby double his pro-
fit.

The United States stamps command-
ing the highest price are probably the
15, 24, 30 and 90 cents of the issue of
1869. These stamps are printed in two
colors, and consequently were run
through two presses. By accident sev-
eral of the sheets were inverted dur-
ing the second process, with the result
that the central picture or illustration
was printed upside down. The mis-
take was not noticed until after the
stamps had been disposed of to the
public by the post office department
and gives them great value to collec-
tors. These oddities now bring from
\$150 to \$500 each.

The most valuable American stamp
was issued by the postmaster of Balti-
more before the National Government
assumed that responsibility. Three
examples only are known to exist, one
is on blue paper, and two on white.
The blue one sold for \$4400 some years
ago. The white ones are quoted at
\$2000 each.

It is stated that a mistake was made
in surcharging the two cents United
States stamps for Cuba, with the value
two and a half c de peso. This was
done with the idea of making a value
equal to that which had been used for
interior postage. It was found later
that the rate of interior postage had
for some time been 2 c de peso; there-
fore the stamps of this surcharge were
sold for the original face value in U.S.
currency.

The first issue of Hawaiian stamps
in 1851 are very rare and valuable,
having been sold as high as \$2,500
each. India stamps, with India letter-
ing upon them, are also very rare, but
for some reason there is no demand for
them. They are not popular among
collectors, chiefly because they do not
belong to any particular series or set,
and are only curiosities. The value of
a stamp depending upon the demand
for it, is largely regulated by the ease
with which the set to which it belongs
can be completed. If the collector, for
example, has all stamps of a certain
issue, with the exception of one, he will

give a larger price for that one than it would otherwise bring. Stamp collectors will tell you that there is more demand where all stamps of a particular issue are easily obtainable with the exception of one or two. Issues that are practically obsolete have no active demand.

The highest price ever paid for a postage stamp was £1000, or \$4,810, by W. H. Peckitt, of London, who bought a penny Mauritius stamp of 1847 for that price at auction last year. It is the rarest stamp in the world.

A stamp the value of 3 c de peso surcharged on the United States 3 cent stamp has been issued for Cuba, so that the full set including 1 to 10 c de peso.

An error has been discovered in the 5 cent stamp surcharged for Cuba, the lower portion of the "B" is broken making the surcharge read "Cupa" instead of "Cuba."

A new United States revenue stamp 4 3/8 in value has been issued.

The United States Government are preparing special dies for the use of large proprietary firms.

Some years ago a well known collector, who is also a wag, caused the publication of a story that an old lady in Albany, N.Y., had died and left in her will a provision that her valuable collection should be divided among the collectors in the United States who were fortunate enough to own Brattleboro stamps. He announced himself as the executor of the estate. In that way he was able to locate all the Brattleboro stamps in the world, and succeeded in buying one, which he had long coveted.

Newspaper and Periodical Stamps.

At last the efforts of the stamp collectors have been rewarded. For years philatelists all over the world have been endeavoring to secure for their collections one or more newspapers and periodical stamps, but without avail, unless, of course, they had either been stolen or inadvertently got beyond the precincts of the Postoffice Department.

A few weeks ago Postmaster Brown of the Cincinnati Postoffice received a notice from Washington stating that the Postmaster General had decided to offer for sale at \$5.00 per set newspaper and periodical stamps. Some of the stamps were originally valued at \$100 a piece face value. The Post office Department has on hand about 50,000 sets, and of this number the Cincinnati Post office will get 3,893 sets, which will now represent a value of \$19,465. The stamps will be on sale only at first-class Post offices throughout the country. The last issue of stamps consisted of 12 denominations, as follows: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, \$2., \$5., \$10., \$25., \$50. and \$100.

The only way heretofore in which the stamps got into the hand of the public would be through careless Postmasters who use them in lieu of the regular postage stamps, or they were stolen from the Postoffices. The stamps were never put into circulation, and if the clerk in charge of them lost or misplaced any he was held responsible by the department and had to make up the discrepancy. These stamps were merely used by the Postoffices as a check on the clerk. Every concern publishing a newspaper or periodical of any kind must place on deposit with the cashier of the Postoffice an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the postage on each issue. This deposit is supposed to be kept constantly on hand, and the publishers are expected to pay promptly on the publications which they send out. Whenever such a mail is received at the postoffice it is weighed and the number of pounds entered into a record book. Then sufficient stamps are placed not on the package, but in the receipt book. The stamps are canceled and every three months the original receipt, with the stamps attached, is forwarded to Washington. A penalty was attached to any employee of the postoffice Department who sold the stamps.

Mr. Jacob Kiffer, who since November 1849, has been stamp clerk at the local postoffice, is thoroughly posted regarding the newspaper and periodical stamps. He said that the rating which is now called second-class mail matter came into existence January 1875. The rate then was two cents per pound for dailies and weeklies, and three cents per pound for semi-weeklies, semi-monthlies and monthlies and quarterlies. The rate was changed to one cent per pound, as it now stands about two years after the enactment of the law, the stamps then in use he says, were practically of the same size and design as the present ones. The designs are works of arts in ever sense, and it is no wonder that stamp collectors are desirous of adding them to their collections. The first newspaper and periodical stamps were of the following denominations: 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 9c, 10c, 12c, 24c, 36c, 48c, 60c, 72c, 84c, 96c, and \$1.92, \$3., \$6., \$9., \$12., \$24., \$36., \$48 and \$60.

The use of the stamps were discontinued last July, since then the clerk merely uses the receipt as made out heretofore. This simplifies matters considerably, and gives them less worry. J. EDWARD SOHN jr.

A Queer Postal Service.

In certain parts of Sweden where the most absolute confidence is reposed in the honesty of the people, a very informal postal system is in vogue. As the mail steamer reaches the landing-place a man goes ashore with letters which he places in an unlocked box on the pier. Then the passer-by who expects a letter opens the box, turns over the letters, and selects his own, unquestioned by any one.

Immense Bargains

.. IN ..

Desirable Stamps.

All Stamps in Fine Condition and the prices are very low.

Canada, 5c beaver, used, catalogue price, .06...	02
Canada, 10c violet-black, used, \$2.50...	1 00
Canada, 3c carmine-red, ribbed paper, used, \$1.00...	40
Canada, 20c vermilion, used, 15c...	09
Canada, 50c deep blue, used, .35	20
Canada, 2c registration, vermilion, used, .25...	10
Canada, 2c registration, orange, .04...	022
Canada, maple leaf, 1-2, 1, 2, 3 and 5c...	10
*Canada, maple leaf, 6c, scarce...	10
*Canada, jubilee, 1-2, 1, 2, 3 and 5c...	35
*Canada, jubilee, 8c violet...	20
Canada, jubilee, pair 1-2 on entire, orig. envelope, fine...	40
Canada, bill stamp, 1c brown, surcharged N. S., 25c...	10
Canada, bill, 2c orange, surcharged, 25c...	10
*Newfoundland, the royal set, 1-2, 1, 2 and 3, mint state...	12
Nova Scotia, 3p dark blue, used, \$1.75...	80
Nova Scotia, 2c mauve, used, .75	35
Nova Scotia, 5c blue on entire original envelope, perfect...	20
New Brunswick, 1 shilling dull violet, fine, wide margins, \$3.50...	200 00
New Brunswick, 5c provisional, 1-2 of 10c, on entire orig. envelope, fine, would be cheap at \$15.00...	8 00
Cuba, 1896, set of six var...	12

Nova Scotia Stamp Co.

Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia.

SPECIAL OFFER.

Cut out this Coupon and send it to the publisher along with 50 Cents. In return we will send

The Stamp Reporter
(one year).

and 16 numbers of the monthly S. R.

SEND AT ONCE BEFORE THEY ARE ALL GONE.

Catalogue.

BY COLLECTOR.

In this list it has been the writer's aim to give the stamps with prices annexed, which I consider should be paid by collectors for them. It has been made so that a fair price might be given without discounts.

This is a collector's buying list, not a dealer's.

Catalogue Value.
Unused. Used.

JUBILEE ISSUE.

1-2 c. black...	20	\$ 20
1c. orange...	02	01
2c. green...	03	02
3c. bright rose...	03	01
5c. blue...	06	04
6c. brown...	35	30
8c. violet...	15	15
10c. brown violet...	12	08
15c. steel blue...	15	18
20c. vermilion...	20	12
50c. ultramarine...	50	30
\$1 red...	90	60
\$2 dark brown...	1 85	1 25
\$3 yellow brown...	2 75	1 75
\$4 purple...	3 50	2 50
\$5...	4 50	3 00

MAPLE LEAF ISSUE.

1-2c. black...	01	1-2
1c. green...	02	—
2c. purple...	02	01
3c. red...	04	—
5c. blue...	06	01
6c. chocolate...	07	05
8c. orange...	10	03
10c. brown violet...	12	09

1898 NUMERAL ISSUE.

1-2c. black...	01	—
1c. green...	02	—
2c. purple...	02	—
3c. carmine...	04	—
6c. brown...	07	03
8c. orange...	09	05
10c. violet...	10	05

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMP.

1898.		
10c. blue green...	12	10

1898 IMPERIAL STAMP.

2c. Imperial, black, red and lavender...	10	02
2c. Imperial, black, red and grey...	03	01
2c. Imperial, black, red and light blue...	03	01
2c. Imperial, black, carmine and Prussia blue...	03	01

ENVELOPES.



A1

1898.		
A1 1c. dark green...	03	01
3c. dark red...	07	05
1899.		
A1 2c. purple...	75	50
A1 2c. red...	05	02
2c. black on red...	20	10

Current Comment.

Recently a member of the Dominion Philatelic Association in talking to the writer stated that the library of that association was of no use to the members in general. If this be the case it is only a waste of postage to send duplicate stamp papers to the librarian, and in fact there is no need of appointing a librarian. Perhaps the state of affairs existing may be explained in one sentence, "The books which make up the library may not be worth sending for or the members do not know the names of the books possessed by the association." If the members are to derive a benefit from the library more attention must be given to it. A catalogue should be issued so that the members would have a list of the books. A supplement of new books received could be given in the librarian's report in the official organ each month. The books should be bound in volumes as far as possible and duplicates should be sold, by auction or otherwise, to defray part of the expenses. A letter should be sent to all philatelic publishers soliciting a copy of their publication, month by month, or week by week, for the building up of our library. This request would in most cases be complied with. One philatelic writer explains when members derive a benefit from a library as follows: "Trash is no good anywhere, but good philatelic books and back numbers of good philatelic papers, which are out of reach for the average collector, individually, became accessible when in the library of a society. Books that would cost from \$4 to \$20 to buy may thus be studied at a cost seldom above a \$1. The very best books should be incorporated into such libraries first, and every local society should have such a library, in which case the cost of studying the best of publications would be reduced to a minimum for the individual member. Cheap and poor stuff is good only to swell the size of a library."

If the foregoing changes, or some similar ones, were applied to our library it would no doubt prove an important factor in obtaining new members and revive interest among old members besides becoming a credit to our beloved society.

In a recent number of "Stamps," (New York), I find the publishers running down auction sales and saying the prices are valueless as guides to standard prices. Probably their statements are due to the fact that they may have placed some stamps in an auction and because they did not receive as large a price as they expected, are trying to belittle auction sales in the eyes of the collecting fraternity. This action in the putting of such statements on the part of such a firm should receive severe criticism from every side. It stands to reason that a rare stamp in good or perfect condition will bring as good a price, if not better, by auction than a dealer could retail it to a customer for. Yet the "kickers" bemoan such mode of buying because their sales are patronized by "bargain hunters."

In looking through several lists of

prices received at auction I find that "bargain hunters" in some cases have paid over catalogue value for good stamps and still consider their purchase a bargain. Prices as a rule are good except on trash and that is dear at any price.

At present we notice that the "condition crank" is becoming more in number every day. The reason for this is that dealers when examining a rare or medium stamp before purchasing, generally points out all flaws and deducts amount from the original value in proportion to the damages. This makes the collector, who in the above was the seller, at once become a "condition crank." In answer to question why he is so particular he replies "Perfect copies are the ones that will bring fair prices when you want to sell, therefore, when buying purchase only perfect copies."

"STAMPS."

The Model Dealer.

What an unmitigated bore the "model" is as a rule, whether as the good boy of the class at school, as the Sunday school teacher, the man with a fad or, in fact, in any line. There are, however, exceptions and the man who goes into anything with the idea of having the best and keeping his possessions in the best order and condition is about as good a model as can be copied. Of course this model is mine and to give you a better idea of what I mean I will take what should be of interest to you, the stamp dealer, I take him because he is what might be termed the foundation stone of the whole business, though stamp collecting would go on whether there was a dealer in existence or not.

One of the prime necessities—in fact the first—is neatness with which must be combined good taste, a knowledge of stamps, carefulness, accuracy and above all he must be thoroughly honest so that all who have anything to do with him can depend on what he says. His word must be as good as his bond if he wishes to gain a name for honesty and integrity, two things that absolutely necessary in securing the confidence of collectors, many of whom have to trust to these factors when purchasing through the mails.

You do not care to deal twice with a dealer who has worked off a damaged copy on you, just because you are a long way off and cannot get back at him.

The model dealer should be a philatelist himself, not merely a handler of stamps, then there is but little chance of having a stamp sold at a way up price because of the absence of a catalogue and he is not likely to lose money through the sale of a valuable variety through the lack of knowledge of what he is handling.

There are many other little points that go to make up the model stamp dealer but there are first the points that go to make up the successful business man in any other line and embrace such things as courteous treatment as customers and enquirers

prompt attention to orders and correspondence and an unfeeling amount of the milk of human kindness so that he will not take advantage of the beginner and probably cause the army of philatelists to lose what may prove a shining light.

Stamp Statistics.

In a recently published Catalogue of the postage stamps of the world are some interesting statistics. The total number of all known varieties of postage stamps issued by all the governments up to the present time is 13,811. Of this number 131 have been issued in Great Britain, and 3,843 in the various British colonies and protectorates, leaving 9,837 for the rest of the world, or dividing the totals among the continents, Europe issued 3,359, Asia 2,571, Africa 2,320, America 4,656, and Orania 905.

Taking the countries separately, the most prolific in stamps is the United States, which leads the list with 287, followed by (curiously enough) Spain with 278, Salvador 272 and Uruguay and Shanghai with 215 each. Las Bela (Beluchistan), Poland Tierra, del Fuego and Wadhwan have each found a solitary specimen to suffice for their postal needs, while Cordoba, Crete, Formosa, Jhalawar, and New Hebrides have each been content with a pair. Two of the British colonies have issued more varieties of stamps than the mother country—Victoria with 174, and Ceylon with 138. The rarest stamps consequently the most expensive, are the two earliest stamps of Mauritius, worth £1,000 each, one of the British Guiana of the same value, one of Hawaii appraised at £800, one of the Roumania at £300, and several of the United States at from £100 to £250 each.—Westminster Gazette.

Philatelic Briefs.

It is reported that the 59th edition of Scott's catalogue will contain many surprises. Which way we wonder, up or down?

The post office at Robertsville, Conn., pays the holder of it \$24 a year.

Almost any collector can, with a little effort, induce one or more of his intimate acquaintances to take to stamp gathering. It is pleasant to have a few philatelic friends to whom you can show your album and with whom you can chat and compare notes. Show your stamps on all possible occasions, as you can never tell beforehand who will make collectors.

The rarest American stamp according to Meckell Weekly is the 10c stamp issued by the Baltimore postmaster in 1845. This stamp was sold to an eastern collector for \$4,000 by the C. H. Meckell Stamp and Publishing Co.

The dies and plates of the obsolete Newfoundland stamps were destroyed June 23rd.

The 4c United States stamp of the 1883 issue is the first United States stamp to have the words "United States Postage," in full upon them.

The United States has 20 postal stations in Alaska, the four principal ones being Sitka, Kodiak, Juneau and Douglas. Of all of these there are none that are even third class, the depository for Sitka and Douglas is at San Francisco, California, and Douglas is the only international money order office in the territory.

The British Levant 40 paras on 1-2d vermilion was issued provisionally in 1893 and was only in use from February 27th to March 1st. It is valued unused at \$25.

Of the 1897 jubilee issue the following quantities were issued:

- 1-2c black, 150,000.
- 1c orange, 8,000,000.
- 2c green, 2,500,000.
- 3c bright rose, 20,000,000.
- 5c deep blue, 750,000.
- 6c rich brown, 75,000.
- 8c violet, 200,000.
- 10c brown violet, 150,000.
- 15c steel blue, 100,000.
- 20c vermilion, 100,000.
- 50c ultramarine, 100,000.
- \$1 wine red, 25,000.
- \$2 25,000.
- \$3 25,000.
- \$4 25,000.
- \$5 25,000.

Of the 1898 maple leaf issue the following quantities were issued:

- 1-2c black, 2,000,000.
- 1c green, 34,000,000.
- 2c purple, 12,000,000.
- 3c bright rose, 41,000,000.
- 5c dark blue, 3,500,000.
- 6c brown, 500,000.
- 8c orange, 1,400,000.
- 10c plum, 500,000.

The collecting of stamps on the original cover is a very interesting side line and if properly arranged a collection is both interesting and beautiful.

A ruling recently made by Attorney General Griggs hold the United States Government liable for the full amount in the event of the loss of a foreign registered letter while in the hands of the post office authorities.

All the remainders of Porto Rican stamps in the San Jaun Post-office were bought up by a speculator who has run up the price and hopes to make a fortune. A writer philatelist declares that stamp collectors will not be bulldozed in that matter. Oh yes they will! There will be a vacancy in the albums and it must be filled, even if the collector has to go without his dinner. Collectors are just the kind of people to be bulldozed. All postage stamps prices beyond the face value are purely fictitious, and therefore there is no reason to halt at a dollar or two laid on by a speculator.

A Comparison.

While figuring on the value of a specimen and its chances of becoming scarce there is no better way of reckoning than to ascertain the number issued. The United States Postoffice Department has given out the figures of the Omaha stamps, and places alongside of these the Columbian issue, they make an interesting comparison.

Here are the totals of both issues.

	Columbian	Omaha
1c.....	449,186,600	70,938,700
2c.....	1,461,589,800	159,453,300
4c.....	19,182,600	4,918,200
5c.....	35,249,300	7,690,780
8c.....	10,657,600	2,923,900
10c.....	16,518,000	4,624,360
50c.....	244,000	530,180
1 00.....	56,100	56,790
2 00.....	46,600	56,080

From the above lists it will be seen that the Omaha's are much less in number than the Columbian's, yet the 1c and 2c are so many that they will always be common. The 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c answer about quarter of the corresponding values of 1893 and considering that there were no 3c, 6c, 15c and 30c stamps in the issue would therefore be used more rapidly. The higher values make a peculiar comparison. Of the 50c twice as many were printed, the \$1.00 about balances, while the \$2.00 are in excess by nearly ten thousand.

WHOLESALE PRICES,

But sell in quantities to suit purchasers.

CANADA, 1898.

1c green, maple leaf, per 100.....	\$ 20
2c purple, maple leaf, per 100.....	50
3c red, maple leaf, per 100.....	15
1c green, numeral, per 100.....	\$ 10
2c purple, numeral, per 100.....	20
3c carmine, numeral, per 100.....	10
5c blue, maple leaf, per 10.....	15
6c brown, maple leaf, per 10.....	50
6c brown, numeral, per 10.....	25
8c yellow, numeral, per 10.....	25
8c yellow, maple leaf, per 10.....	25
3c jubilee red, per per 100.....	25
2c Imperial maps, per 100.....	60
3 var. Hayti, 1898, issue.....	15
3 var. New Zealand, 1898 issue.....	05

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An Xmas Stamp, unused, to everyone sending

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(By P. Williams.)

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Und takes his oysters on der shell,
Und mit der ladies cuts a swell?
Der Philatelist.

Who vas it comes into my store,
Throws down his pundles by der floor
Und never stops to shut der door?
Der Philatelist.

Who takes me by der hand, und say:
"Hans Phiffer, how you vas today?"
Und goes for business rite aavy?
Der Philatelist.

Who spreads his stamps out in rice
Und says: Just look vonce; see how
nice;
You bet I've got der bottom price?"
Der Philatelist.

Who punch my ribs, call me a sport
My oldest daughter dries to court;
Sells stamps cheap because he's short?
Der Philatelist.

Who warrants all the stamps to soub
De customers upon his route
Und when they comes dey is no goot?
Der Philatelist.

Who calls by my house ven I's been
out.
Und drinks my beer and eats my kraut
Und kisses Kaderiena in der mound?
Der Philatelist.

Who ven he comes agin dis way
Vill hear vat Phiffer has to say,
Und mit a black eye go away?
Der Philatelist.
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My 1st Auction Sale will be held on April 25th and the following choice lots are offered. All bids will be accepted until the day of sale up to 8 p. m.

1 5 1-2 cent black 68 issue.	53 50 Imperial Maps lavender.
2 2 1 cent yellow 68 issue.	54 100 Imperial Map blue.
3 5 6 cent dark brown 68 issue	BILL STAMPS.
4 5 15 cent lilac (two colors)	55 3 1 cent brown 3rd issue.
5 25 1-2 cent black 1882 issue.	56 1 set of 3rd issue from \$1. down.
6 500 1 cent yellow 1882 issue	UNITED STATES.
7 1000 3 cent mixed colors 1882 issue	57 1 5 cent light brown 1861 issue.
8 25 5 cent grey 1882 issue.	58 4 2c, 4c, 6c, 12c and 15c 1869 issue
9 25 6 cent light and ark brown 1882 issue.	as one lot.
10 10 10 cent carmine red 1882 issue.	59 1 6 cent fank green " " Stare.
11 2 5 cent olive green 1882 issue.	60 25 1 cent Columbian.
12 25 8 cent slate and lilac grey 1892 issue.	61 100 2 cent Columbian.
13 2 20 cent vermilion 1892 issue.	62 25 10 cent Columbia.
14 2 50 cent blue 1892 issue.	63 50 3 cent purple 1890 issue.
15 10 5 cent orange 1859 issue.	64 25 5 cent brown 1890 issue.
16 2 3 pence ribbed paper 1858 issue.	65 10 8 cent violet 1890 issue.
17 2 3 pence wove paper 1852 issue.	66 10 10 cent green 1890 issue.
18 10 1 cent pink 1859 issue.	67 100 1 cent Omaha issue.
19 2 10 cent violet (on cover) 1859 issue.	68 100 2 cent Omaha issue.
20 5 2 cent orange registration.	69 25 4 cent Omaha issue.
21 5 2 cent vermilion registration.	70 10 5 cent Omaha issue.
22 5 2 cent scarlet registration.	71 10 8 cent Omaha issue.
23 10 5 cent green registration.	72 5 10 cent Omaha issue.
24 100 1 cent yellow Jubilee.	73 100 2 cent brown 1873 issue.
25 100 2 cent green Jubilee.	74 100 2 cent green 1887 issue.
26 100 3 cent red Jubilee.	75 100 1 cent light blue 1887 issue.
27 1-2 cent black Jubilee.	76 100 3 cent green 1873 issue.
28 20 5 cent blue Jubilee.	77 25 5 cent blue 1888 issue.
29 2 6 cent brown Jubilee.	NEWFOUNDLAND.
30 2 8 cent violet Jubilee.	78 2 6 pence lake 1863 issue.
31 2 10 cent brown violet Jubilee.	79 2 6 cent rose 1873.
32 1 50 cent ultramarine jubilee.	80 2 6 cent pink 1859 issue.
33 25 1-2 cent black Maple leaf issue.	81 1 5 cent blue (roul) 1876 issue.
34 200 1 cent green " " " "	82 5 1-2 cent red 1887 issue.
35 400 3 cent red " " " "	83 5 1-2 cent black 1859 issue.
36 100 2 cent purple " " " "	84 6 5 cent light blue 1880 issue.
37 25 5 cent blue " " " "	85 50 3 cent slate 1859 issue.
38 25 5 cent blue " " " "	86 6 1c violet, 5c green, 10c red, 12 1-2c
39 10 6 cent brown " " " "	blue 17c black as one lot.
40 10 6 cent brown " " " "	MISCELLANEOUS.
41 10 8 cent yellow " " " "	87 10 1 cent Canada Jubilee.
42 10 8 cent yellow " " " "	88 10 6 cent blue United States 1869.
43 5 10 cent violet " " " "	89 1 12c, black United States 1862 issue
44 5 10 cent violet " " " "	90 1 2c black " " " "
45 25 1-2 cent black Numeral issue.	91 5 2c imperial maps in black.
46 200 1 cent green Numeral issue.	92 1 1c violet Hawaii 1864 issue.
47 300 2 cent purple Numeral issue.	93 2 5c blue Hawaii 1864 issue.
48 200 3 cent red Numeral issue.	94 1 30c black United States 1890.
49 20 6 cent brown Numeral issue.	95 500 1c Canada yellow 1882.
50 20 6 cent brown Numeral issue.	96 2000 3c Canada red 1882.
51 20 8 cent yellow Numeral issue.	97 25 6c light and dark brown 1882.
52 20 8 cent yellow Numeral issue.	98 100 3c Canada Jubilee red.
	99 100 2c Canada Jubilee.
	100 10,000 3c Canada red 1882.

TERMS OF SALE.

All successful bidders will be notified by post-card and are expected to remit promptly. No lots will be sent on approval, but will be shipped promptly on receipt of money.

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