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"Chiffre Taxe" we find, by referring to the Cyclopædia, is the inscription on a French stamp, meaning unpaid.

Part II, gives a list of the different stamp-issuing countries, their rulers, etc. \* \* \* \* \*

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## The Quaker City Philatelist.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC SOCIETY AND SECTION PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONALER PHILATELISTEN VEREIN.

VOL. IV.

#### JANUARY, 1889.

No. 1.

#### United States Letter-Sheets.

R. RECHERT gives, in the December issue of the American Philatelist, the following as being a complete list of Letter-Sheets, not considering the slight variations in gum and shapes.

Issue A.—1886—Unwatermarked and on creamy white paper.

Var. 1.—Eighty-three perforations across top:

Side lines continuously perforated, cross perforations on each side of the side lines at the middle folding point. Six perforations on flap above top line.

Var. 2.—Forty-one perforations across top:

Side lines continuously perforated, but

a. Cross perforations at right. b. " " left.

Six perforations on flap above top line.

Var. 3.-Forty-one perforations across top:

Side perforations discontinued at folding points. Five perforations on flap above top line.

a. Cross perforations at right.

Var. 4.—Thirty-three perforations across top:

Side lines discontinued at folding points. Four perforations on flap above top line.

> a. Cross perforations at right. b. " " left.

Issue B .- August, 1887-Watermarked, United States monogram, and on snowy white paper.

Var. 5 .- Forty-one perforations across top:

Side lines as in Var. 3. Five perforations on flap above top line.

Series 1.—a. Cross perforations at right.

b. " "

Series 2 .- a. Cross perforations at right.

b. " " left.

Series 3 .- a. Cross perforations at right.

Total, thirteen varieties.

## AUGMION SALE.

THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC SOCIETY and Section Philadelphia Internationaler Philatelisten Verein, Dresden, will hold their second auction sale, January 16, 1889, at the rooms of the societies, Earley's Hall, 1321 Arch street, Philadelphia, at 8.15 P.M. The sale will contain quite a number of good stamps, and there will be a number of lots suitable for small dealers. Catalogues will be furnished upon application, by W. H. Corfield, 3609 Locust street.

#### SOME POSTAL FAGTS.

HE first law made under the Constitution fixing postal rates, was passed February 20, 1792, and made the rate six cents for a single letter sent less than thirty miles, over thirty miles eight cents, over sixty miles ten cents, and so on up to twenty-five cents for a distance of more than four hundred and fifty miles. By various acts the postage has been reduced until our rates are less than those of any other country. In 1789 there were but seventy-five post-offices with a revenue of \$30,000; now there are 57,376, with a revenue of \$53,000,000. Then the post routes covered 2275 miles; now there are 403,976. Then there were no stamps, no envelopes, no postal-cards, no registry of letters, no money orders. The first of these necessities was provided

only thirty-seven years ago.

Comparing our postal service with that of other countries, we have some very interesting facts. We have in this country 57,376 post-offices; Germany has 18,688; Great Britain, 17,587, and France, 7296. Russia, with more than twice our territory and nearly twice our population, has less than a tenth as many post-offices. Our mail routes cover 403,976 miles; those of Germany, 85,885; those of Great Britain, 44,-275; and those of France, 65,334. The American mails carried last year 3,576,-100,000 pieces—letters, papers and packages; the British carried 2,279,532,000; the German, 1,816,066,000; the French, 1,463,249,000. The average number of pieces carried for every inhabitant of the United States was 71; of Great Britain, 61; of Germany, 41; of France, 37. The postal expenditure last year in America was \$55,795,358; in Germany, \$44,348,939; in Great Britain, \$28,876,935; in France, \$28,327,666. In all these figures the telegraph service of foreign nations has been omitted. Our letter and postal-card rates are the same as those of Great Britain, and cheaper than those of Germany or France. Our newspaper rate (in bulk) is a cent a pound, while in the countries mentioned it is from two-fifths of a cent to a cent a paper. The comparison is, in these points, much in our favor.

## GORRESPONDENCE.

OW many of our philatelists, or as some call them, stamp collectors, are trying to gather together a philatelic library? There are plenty of books and papers pertaining to the subject to make a large library, if we would only take the trouble to collect them. How many, as soon as they read a stamp paper, fling it into the waste basket, instead of procuring complete volumes and having them bound! Nothing can be more interesting to the true philatelist than to peruse the pages of a large bound volume of some good stamp paper. It is also an excellent idea to save all the articles pertaining to philately that we find in other papers. A great many of our dailies and weeklies publish such articles, and the only way to save them is to make a philatelic scrap-book. One of my most treasured books is my philatelic scrap book. If all who read this would only take the trouble to save philatelic scraps for one year they would be surprised at the amount of information in their possession. If we find articles in papers or magazines we do not wish to cut, it is a good idea to write them down. Procure a blank book, and every thing you see in regard to our science, write it out in full. Annex an index to your scrap-book, as they are indispensable in referring to anything. Some may say it is too much bother to make a scrapbook. If you only commence you will find it takes but little time and the amount of information gained is worth more than twice the time spent in anything else; also, if collectors would spend more money for stamp papers and books pertaining to stamps, and less for stamps, most of them would be better informed in philatelic matters. Hoping these lines will persuade some philatelist to become a scrap collector, I re-Yours philatelically, E. B. J. main,

## H HISTORY OF THE CARLY POSTAL SERVICE.

THE United States Postal Establishment, now so gigantic in dimensions and influence, was an exceedingly small affair in its commencement, and has been very slowly and gradually developed. The wants of the early colonists induced them, at a very early period, to make provision for the occasional transmission of letters and other packets by post. I will give a few facts touching their operations in the matter, but must refer inquisitive readers to a recent very interesting address of William B. Taylor, of the New York City Post-office, for fuller information on this antique point.

A monthly post was organized between New York and Boston, in 1672, the trip to be made in about a fortnight, each way. Some ten years subsequently, at the suggestion of the wise and good William Penn, a postal communication was effected between Philadelphia and the principal towns in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1692 an Act passed the Virginia Assembly, looking to the introduction of mail arrangements into that and the adjacent colonies, which, however, in consequence of the dispersed condition of the inhabitants, was not carried into effect. Mails were, however, put in operation in that colony about forty years subsequently. Offices for the receipt and dispatch of letters were set up at Philadelphia in 1683, at Boston in 1687, and at New York in 1692.

Somewhere about the year 1700 a patent was issued by the British Government to Thomas Neal, empowering him and his heirs to erect post-offices in the Colonies for twenty-one years. At this time no mail route was in operation south of Philadelphia. Letters for places south thereof had to be sent by special express. Mr. Neal appointed Col. Andrew Hamilton his Deputy Postmaster-General, but his privilege having been, some time afterward, transferred to the British Crown, and the establishment having been consolidated with that of the mother country, in 1753, that power appointed the celebrated philosopher, Benjamin Franklin, to the situation.

Franklin's methodical mind, and the fact of his having held the City Postmastership at Philadelphia a few years before, gave him peculiar qualifications for such a post, although it is probable that his selection was owing mainly to the celebrity his name had attracted in Europe, in consequence of having, in 1749, succeeded by means of a silk handkerchief and a pair of cross sticks, attached to a metallic pointer, in drawing the electrical fluid from the clouds. The author of "Poor Richard" could hardly fail to make a thrifty Postmaster-General; so that, although his post-boys, with their little saddle-bags, traveled very unfrequently (say once a week in summer, and once a fortnight in winter) to the Northern cities, he succeeded in obtaining from the establishment a small revenue for the mother country. As an illustration of his prudent management of his trust, I will state that I find a printed letter of his, addressed to George Washington in 1756, saying that the mail from Philadelphia to Winchester, Va., would have to be discontinued unless he (Mr. W.) could induce the Virginia Legislature to defray the cost of the part beyond Carlisle. He was not a lazy postmaster either, for I find it stated that on one occasion he traveled sixteen hundred miles at the North in examining the posts. Franklin having, in 1774, while in London, offended the British ministry by his independent replies, when catechised before a committee of the Commons concerning the affairs of the Colonies, was promptly dismissed from office.

On the rupture, in 1775, between the mother country and the Colonies, an opposition post-office was started by the Colonies, to which step they were induced, in a large degree, by the editorials of William Goddard, publisher of a very free newspaper in Baltimore. The British establishment nominally continued for some years thereafter, although the following, issued by its Secretary, Francis Dashwood, would seem to have betokened its dying groan:

"New York, December 25, 1775.

"Whereas, The Provincial Convention at Annapolis has passed a resolve that the Parliamentary Post-office (as they are pleased to call it) shall not be permitted to travel in or pass through that Province with any mail packet or letter, and in consequence of that resolve, have taken his Majesty's mail from the Post-office at Baltimore, with letters contained therein; the committee at Philadelphia have also taken the mail containing all the last packet's letters to the southward, opening many of them to the great hurt of many individuals, and signified to the Postmaster their intention of stopping all others for the future; and other of his Majesty's mails having been taken and abstracted, notice is hereby given to the public, that the Deputy Postmaster is obliged, for the present, to stop all the posts."

Matters having thus fallen into the hands of the Colonies, the Congress of the Confederation, on the 26th of July, 1775, passed a resolution for the appointment of a Postmaster-General, who should hold his office at Philadelphia, with a salary of \$1000 per annum, and have power to appoint a Secretary and Controller at \$340, and "such and so many deputies as to him may seem proper and necessary," whose compensation should be twenty per cent of the postages they might collect and pay over, not exceeding \$1000 in amount, and ten per cent on larger sums. Benjamin Franklin was unanimously elected to the office. Other resolves of the same date authorized him to put in operation a line of posts between Falmouth, in New England, and Savannah, in Georgia, with such cross-routes as he might think fit, and exempted postmasters and post-riders from military duty.

On the 17th of October, 1777, two additional Surveyors of the Posts were authorized by this body, who were to be paid \$6 a day. This compensation, compared with that of the Postmaster-General, seems extravagant, but, in view of the hazards incident to their duties in a time of war, was, it is presumable, not too high. An Inspector of dead letters was also provided for, with a salary of \$100 per annum, whose duty it was made to examine, quarterly, the letters returned by the deputies as uncalled for, keep a register of the same, preserve all articles of value found therein, and communicate to Congress those containing hostile intelligence.

Franklin having, in the latter part of 1776, been called to more important public trusts, Richard Bache, who had been his Controller, succeeded to the office in October of that year. The ledger kept by him down to 1779, is now at the General Postoffice, and may fairly be regarded as a curiosity. It contains about three quires of foolscap paper, bound in boards, and states the accounts of the deputies (about eighty) in sterling currency, and in a plain hand. It cuts an odd figure when laid alongside of the numerous big and beautifully bound folios in which the present accounts of contractors and postmasters are registered.

Ebenezer Hazard succeeded to the office early in 1782. He had acted in 1775 as the Constitutional City Postmaster in New York, and as a Surveyor of the Posts under Mr. Bache. There is a singular dearth of information in the printed records of the time as to postal affairs during the administrations of this gentleman and his predecessor. This is owing, doubtless, to the unsettled state of the Colonies during the Revolutionary War, and the impoverished condition of the inhabitants for some years succeeding its close, which operated to the prevention of regular posts, and the writing of many letters. Our forefathers in those days, it is fair to suppose, were so engaged in watching the red coats, and repairing the dilapidations produced by the seven years' hostilities, that they had little opportunity for epistolary correspondence.

On the 18th of October, 1782, the Colonial Congress passed the first extended or-

dinance for the regulation of the establishment. It set out thus:

"WHEREAS, The communication of intelligence with regularity and despatch, from one part to another of these United States, is essentially requisite to the safety as well

as the commercial interest thereof; and the United States, in Congress assembled, being by the articles of the Confederation vested with the sole and exclusive right and power of establishing and regulating post-offices throughout all these United States; and, whereas, it has become necessary to revise the several regulations heretofore made relating to the post-office, and to reduce them to one Act, be it therefore ordained," etc.

The Act then went on to authorize the Postmaster-General to appoint the necessary deputies (for whose fidelity he was to be accountable); to put in operation a postal line from New Hampshire to Georgia, and to such other parts of the United States as he might think fit, or Congress direct; to appoint the necessary post-riders, etc. His compensation was fixed at \$1500 per annum, and that of his Assistant at \$1000. He was directed to allow his deputies for their services what he might think them worth, not exceeding twenty per cent of the postages they collected and paid over. The Act prescribed a tariff of postages, fixing the charge on single letters, going not over sixty miles, at one pennyweight (equal to 5-90 of a dollar) and eight grains two pennyweights for distances not exceeding one hundred miles, and so on; and authorized the riders to convey newspapers outside of the bags, at rates deemed by the Posmaster-General reasonable on condition of their paying over to him a stipulated portion of such earnings.

On the 20th of Septemper, 1786, Congress passed a resolve requiring the collection of the postages in specie, thus indicating that these early legislators were no ardent admirers of a paper currency, although the necessities of the country had induced them to issue it in large amounts.

On the debut of the Federal Government, in 1789, the appointment of Postmaster-General fell into the hands of the President and Senate. Washington selected for the place Samuel Osgood, of Massachusetts, a man of fine abilities, and who had served that colony as a delegate to the Colonial Congress: He kept his office in the city of New York till about the 1st of December, 1790, when it was transferred to Philadelphia, where it staid till the removal of the seat of the General Government to Washington, in 1802.

Among Mr. Osgood's first acts were the appointment of Jonathan Burrall as his Assistant; Sebastian Bowman, Postmaster at New York, and the reappointment of Robert Patton as Postmaster of Philadelphia. Mr. Burrall was immediately dispatched to the South to reappoint such of the deputies as might be found to have conducted well, and were able to give good security. One of the changes made during this tour—the substitution of John White as Postmaster of Baltimore for Miss Mary B. Goddard—besides showing a little lack of gallantry, seems to have created a good deal of unpleasant feeling in that pretty town.

At this epoch there were but seventy-five post-offices in the Union, and less than two thousand miles of post-road, consisting of a long route from Wiscasset, in Maine, along the principal Atlantic towns, to Savannah, in Georgia, with half a score of crossroutes, the entire cost of which was \$22,274. The postage receipts at the principal offices were as follows: Philadelphia, \$9674 per annum; New York, \$5537; Baltimore, \$3937; Boston, \$3695; Richmond, \$2994; Petersburg, \$1863; Alexandria, \$1580; Fredericksburg, \$1326; Norfolk, \$1350; Charleston, \$1040.

Mr. Osgood, on the 20th of January, 1790, submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury an interesting Report on the state of the office, with suggestions for its improvement. He pronounced it deficient in energy and productiveness; the former defect growing out of the system of letting the mail contracts, and the postmasters doing pretty much as they chose; the latter from the injudicious postage tariff in operation and the defective regulation in regard to sea letters.

## The Quaker City Philatelist.

## Published by THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO., Limited.

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## Address all communications QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST,

Box 1153.

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Two inches	ments of three months.
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A discrimination in the rates of postage to city subscribers is made between weekly and monthly periodicals, to the great disadvantage of the latter, for while the weeklies can be mailed to city subscribers for one cent per pound, monthlies cannot be mailed to city subscribers for less than one cent for each two ounces, except where the subscribers go to the post-office for their mail. This regulation REFERS ONLY to subscribers in the particular city in which the periodical is published. As THE PHILATELIST is located in PHILADELPHIA, we are, therefore, obliged to ask our Philadelphia subscribers twelve cents extra for postage, unless the paper is addressed at the post-office to be called for, or to any post-office box. REMEMBER this refers to Philadelphia subscribers ALONE, and to those in no OTHER city.

Philadelphia Subscribers can obtain their papers at our Branch Agency, E. R. Durborow, 203 S. Tenth St., Philadelphia.

WE come before our readers this month in our usual good shape, and begin anew our efforts for a successful new year. Few philatelic publications have lived so long as this, or open the new year with as bright prospects. Many of our contemporaries are tottering through a want of support and will disappear, while others will try to take their places, some to succeed, the larger number to fail, and while we hope for the success of all and regret the many wrecks which have occurred, we believe that collectors should give full support to those publications which give every evidence of future existence.

Our record for the year has been all we promised, and we hope and expect to exceed it in the coming year. Three years ago we first appeared as a magazine of eight pages with cover, and the oceans of work we have lavished on its production seemed lost when we contemplate the result, but we have now no occasion to feel ashamed, as that initial number has been to philately an aid and encouragement for three full years (no double numbers), and our list of subscribers has constantly grown, until we believe we now outrank all our competitors.

We hope every reader of this will think it worth his while to send in his subscrip-

tion and enable us to do still more for him and philately.

PHILADELPHIA is not alone in her disbelief of the Chalmers' claim, as the Rhode Island Philatelic Society was also unwilling to pass a snap-judgment on the matter, and still holds to its original opinion. Mr. E. B. Hanes, who was the President of the Society at that time, was requested to investigate the subject, and, while he had no opinion, pro or con, at that time, and had at hand a considerable portion of the mass of matter which Mr. Chalmers has favored all Americans with, he found it impossible to decide in his favor, and so reported to his Society.

This Society, by the way, is largely composed of the older and best class of collectors, business men and men of means, and, among others, a Scotchman who could not even wait for a full hearing of the matter, and pressed a resolution in favor of Chalmers' claim in advance of the discussion, which was finally negatived, his own being

the only (faint) vote in its favor.

No little curiosity is felt by Mr. Hanes and his friends to know who wrote the letter mentioned by Wolsieffer in the Stamp World, of December. Mr. Hanes has changed his mind somewhat since arriving at the City of Brotherly Love, but if he

can be believed, he certainly has not on this subject.

Right here, Mr. Wolsieffer, let us thank you for the long-delayed admission that the Chalmers' resolution was engineered, and who did it. We always knew it was engineered, but this has frequently been denied; also, let us thank you for not insisting (only wishing) that the subject be dropped, and we hope that, in courting the fullest investigation, you will not lend yourself to such a solid squat as the anti-Chalmers resolution of Mr. Henderson received in Boston last summer, and which invited such a scathing criticism from the leading philatelic publication of England.

MR. F. E. P. LYNDE severs his connection with The QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST with this issue, and the Board of Managers will conduct its editorial matters until further notice.

Having passed through a successful year, we make our fourth annual bow, and look around to see who is left and who have left.

This year we hope to make a notable one in our history, and hope to receive a larger number of subscribers' names than ever before. SEND YOURS ON AND BE FIRST.

Did we hear it whispered that the gentleman from Philadelphia had saved Chicago for the Republicans and Harrison, or was it merely a May-a-ting breeze? Own up, now; was the pay large for you and did you carry your own division?

The question received from L. R., What is or are Political Philately? is referred

to Mr. ----, of Chicago.

THE Philadelphia Post-office employ a printer, cabinet maker, plumber, has a restaurant, smoking-room and an ice-house.

A MEMORIAL has been submitted to our Postmaster-General to reissue the 12-cent stamp of 1870, as it just prepays the postage and registry fee on registered letters.

As IT has been proved that Shakespeare did not write what purports to be his plays, perhaps he was the author and originator of adhesive postage stamps. Queerer things than this have happened.

We are in receipt of a very neat card from the Chicago Philatelic Society wishing us the compliments of the season, etc. Many thanks for the kind remembrance. We wish you many long years of success.

THE Eastern Philatelist says: "From appearances THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST does more for the pocket-books of its publishers than any other paper. Every number but two has been published at a profit."

ALL waste paper collected in the Philadelphia Post-office is carefully examined twice for letters, before being finally disposed of. The careless clerk dropping a letter on the floor is severely disciplined, with the result that very few letters or parcels are found in the waste paper.

An official of the Russian Post-office has been sent to Siberia for robbing the mails. One of the large English stamp dealers having had several parcels of valuable stamps extracted from their registered mail, made complaint and backed it up with energetic action, caused the arrest and conviction of the official. If more of the dealers would take like action in this country as well as abroad, there would be less loss through the mails.

## THE PROXY QUESTION.

NE of the uppermost and much vexed questions of the day is the proxy system of the American Philatelic Association. In both the 1887 and 1888 Conventions three or four members decided all questions, and on all divisions these few members voted against the majority of members present. Several suggestions have been advanced to get around this system. One is to limit the number of proxies any one member can hold. But to our mind this could very easily be circumvented. Another is to do away with the proxy system entirely. This would take away, to a great degree, the interest we all have in our Association. We all feel now that we are directing its course, when we give our proxies and instructions, which are usually followed out on the first ballots, and then ignored on subsequent votes. Still another plan is to only allow proxies to vote on place of next meeting, leaving all other questions that may arise to be voted on only by those present, and therefore more capable of deciding, having heard both sides of all questions.

We believe this to be the best plan, which, if it had been carried out at previous meetings, would have had a different effect on several important questions, notably the

Hill-Chalmers controversy.

We would like to have the opinions of our readers on this much vexed but not as yet much talked of question.

## PERSONALS.

- MR. C. B. Corwin takes a great interest in oddities and errors. His List of Errors now running in *The American Philatelist* will be of great use to collectors. Collectors having any errors should send a description of them to Mr. Corwin.
- Mr. E. B. Sterling has just been appointed Exchange Superintendent of the American Association, Mr. Clotz having declined a second term. Mr. Sterling's philatelic knowledge will prove that he is the right man in the right place.
- MR. E. B. Hanes was the first Exchange Superintendent, and, as such, all of the work of putting the exchange system into perfect working order fell on his shoulders. All credit is due to the manner in which so successful a start was made. Mr. Hanes has just been elected President of the Philadelphia Section V. I. P. Dresden. All of Mr. Hrnes' Chalmerite friends are afraid Philadelphia, the home of fair investigation, has had a bad effect on his judgment, causing an alleged letter of his, acknowledging Chalmers' claim, to have been suppressed.
  - MR. W. C. STONE, one of the editors of the American Philatesist, is also one of the

editors of a promising church paper published in Springfield. We are now looking to see a "New Issue" department in its columns.

MR. CORWIN, the Collectors' Review says, while having the reputation as the "boss kicker," when he "kicks" some good follows. All who attended the Boston Convention realize the immense amount of good that followed the majority of Mr. Corwin's objections, and if all the members were Corwins the Association would be the better for it.

### OUR GONNEMPORARIES.

The Stamp World, for December, has a granite-colored cover, very appropriate for a New Hampshire publication. A portrait of Mr. Grenny, in all his war trappings, together with a short sketch, current (?) publications, over two months old, and the Proxy System, are among the readable articles. The January number is fully up with the times.

The *Philatelic Monthly* says a collection of United States envelopes, complete, not counting shades of paper or impressions, would consist of about 1300 varieties, including Horner's fractional numbers and his omissions.

The American Journal of Philotely contains a further valuable installment of a Revised List of Postage Stamps, New Issues, Post Cards and Adhesives, well illustrated, and also treats of Watermarks.

The American Philatelist, the peer of all our contemporaries, still continues far in the lead. Our friend, Mr. Mekeel, manages to keep up a big showing for The Philatelic Journal of America; The Stamp World remains with us in better shape than before, which we can also say of The Stamp, The Collectors' Ledger, The Halifax Philatelist, and The Eastern Philatelist.

Among the uncertainties we may count the Collectors' Figaro, which has been resting since September, and The Philatelic Gaeztte or Western Philatelist, we hardly know which to call it properly—certainly one is dead, and probably both; but, perhaps, we reach the most accurate truth by calling the Western Philatelist dead, The Philatelic Gazette, of Altoona, dead, and we can then welcome the bright new-comer, The Philatelic Gazette, of Chicago.

We do not wish to neglect our other more or less periodical friends, but as our space is limited we crave their indulgence for some future issue.

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100 varieties Foreign, 10 cents; 150 var., many unused 20 cts.; 35 var., all unused, 25 cts.; 40 var., So. and Cent. Am., 40 cts.; 40 var., West Indian, 40 cts.; 50 var., Asiatic and African, 50 cts.; 45 var., U.S. (no revenue), 25 cts. Postage extra.

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5	66	Hussy Rider	10
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6	"	Canada bill	5
8	"	Roman States	10
8	"	Samoa	20
24	"	Germany	35
34	66	Egypt official	35
17	66	Germany	20
II	66	U. S. State Dep't 4	50
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Stamps to sell for Ic. each and over, 40c. per 100 Stamps to sell for 2c. each and over, 75c. per 100 Stamps to sell for 3c. each and over, \$1.35 per 100 Stamps to sell for 5c. each and over, \$2.00 per 100

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