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No. 3.

A HISTORY OF THE EARLY POSTAL SERVICE.

(Concluded.)

AN application having been made to Congress, in 1818, for the establishment of a branch of the General Post-office in one of the Western States, the post-office committee reported adversely thereto, stating the opinion that such a division, so far from increasing the efficiency of the mail service, even in the Western States, would impair the same, by diminishing the uniformity of proceedings of the office, and making it less convenient to the Representatives of those States. They thought the entire establishment should remain subject to the direct inspection and investigation of a general head residing at the location of the legislative and the other executive departments of the General Government. A very wise decision.

John McLean, of Ohio, then Commissioner of the General Land-office, and previously a member of Congress from Ohio, took the reins of the establishment on the 1st of July, 1823. He possessed fine administrative talents, and great tact in infusing his own spirit of energy and zeal into his associates and subordinates. His administration forms a bright page in the history of the department. During his term, in March, 1825, a postal Act superseding all previous ones was passed, which, in its main features, constitutes at this day the fundamental law of the department. Some two years after this, Congress augmented the Postmaster-General's salary to \$6000 per annum, thus raising the post-office, which till then had been a bureau, to the rank of a department of the Government. Mr. McLean did not, however, take a seat in the President's Cabinet. He was the first to carry into effect, if not to conceive, the happy idea of paying the mail contractors by drafts on the post-offices, thereby superseding the old, loose and hazardous system of having the money transmitted by those officers to Washington, thence to be returned by the same hazardous mode to the contractors. During his term the mail service was immensely extended.

The following shows the moneys paid into the Treasury during the administration of this gentleman and some of his predecessors, viz.:

Osgood.....	1789 to 1791.....	\$ 15,392
Habersham.....	1795 to 1801.....	363,310
Granger.....	1801 to 1813.....	291,579
Meigs.....	1814 to 1823.....	387,209
McLean.....	1823 to 1829.....	13,466

Mr. McLean's plan was to keep all the funds of the establishment in active operation.

Gen. Jackson having, on his accession to the Presidency, transferred this gentleman to the Supreme Bench, Wm. T. Barry, of Kentucky, succeeded to the management of the post-office. He was the first Postmaster-General that took a seat in a President's Cabinet. He followed out his predecessor's favorite idea of keeping the receipts of the department in active employment; and made, in consequence, extensive improvements in the service, by extending numerous routes, and raising the grade of conveyance on many others from horse to coach. To effect this he had to make large extra allowances to contractors in many cases, the legality of some of which was questioned.

Although affairs seemed to prosper in his hands for some time, and the mail facilities of large sections were evidently greatly augmented, yet it soon became evident that the finances of the office were getting into an unhealthy state. He was obliged, towards the close of his term, to call on the banks for loans, and to defer payments due to the contractors. This state of things called forth much unpleasant comment from the newspapers, and led to a lengthy investigation of the department's affairs by a committee of Congress. Mr. Barry's popularity being evidently on the wane, and the credit of the postal establishment in a low state, this kind-hearted and too liberal gentleman was transferred by Gen. Jackson to a post calling for less financial and administrative talent.

I should state, before parting with Mr. Barry's administration, that a few months after he took the post-office in hand, he appointed as one of his assistants S. R. Hobbie, who continued in that capacity till April, 1851 (when ill health obliged him to resign), and who by his fine talents, remarkable devotion to business, and great fidelity, exercised during the whole of that period a vast influence on the operations of the department.

On Mr. Barry's resignation, Amos Kendall was called to the duties of Postmaster-General. He had an eagle eye, and a strong head, which enabled him to perceive at a glance what steps were necessary to retrieve the affairs of the department, as well as to put them in force. He forthwith directed to open a new set of accounts and make all payments for mail service out of the funds accruing in the quarter of its performance. As all intelligent people were of the opinion that the revenues of the establishment were ample for its support, when properly applied, this step gave confidence to all then engaged in conveying the mails. The previous balances in favor of contractors were transferred to a set of accounts styled "arrearages," to be settled for out of the future profits of the department. The extra allowances ordered by Mr. Barry were directed to be stopped. Mr. K., in a few months, had the satisfaction to inform Congress that the concern was out of debt.

In October, 1837, not only had the Barry deficiency, of from \$350,000 to \$600,000 been paid, but the department had in bank and in the hands of postmasters about \$780,000.

He submitted to Congress, soon after taking the office, a plan for its reorganization, which became a law on the 2d of July, 1836. The distinctive feature of this consisted in a transfer of the settling branch of its business to an officer created by the Act, styled "Auditor of the Treasury for the Post-office Department," and appointed by the President and Senate. It required that the revenues of the department should be paid into the Treasury, and that the necessary sums for carrying on the postal service should be paid from that department, out of appropriations annually authorized by Congress, on warrants drawn by the Postmaster-General, countersigned by the Auditor, and based on statements of balances certified by the last-mentioned officer to be due to the individuals in whose favor they were drawn. As this new accounting officer was empowered to refuse the payment of allowances ordered by the Postmaster-General, if deemed by him illegal, of course he constituted a check on that individual. This arrangement was a vast improvement on the previous loose system, under which all had to be entrusted to the fidelity and correctness of the receiving, who was likewise the paying agent of the Postmaster-General.

This Act arranged the clerkships of the office on an improved basis, giving forty-three to the accounting branch and thirty-seven to the department proper, with fair salaries. It also authorized the appointment of a Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

Mr. Kendall improved Mr. McLean's system of paying the mail contractors by sending them, quarterly, in lieu of drafts on postmasters for *specific amounts*, collection orders for the *entire net postages* collected in the previous quarter. By this simple process the department made its creditors its collecting and settling agents for most of its small and distant offices. This practice still continues.

In 1836, Mr. K. established several lines of horseback express, to carry the letters of those desiring great dispatch, at triple the ordinary rates of postage. This, how-

ever, did not prove profitable, and was soon dropped. Near the close of that year the department was burned down, but lost few papers of value by the accident. It was then removed to the building now known as Willard's Hotel, where it remained till December, 1841.

The present arrangements of duties and principles of proceeding at the department are nearly identical with those in operation during the latter part of Mr. K.'s term.

On his resignation, in May, 1840, Mr. Van Buren called to the postal chair John M. Niles, of Connecticut, who kept it only about nine months, owing to the political revolution that occurred in the country toward the close of that year. Mr. Niles evinced while in office a strong desire, when cases were presented to him, to ascertain what would be a just decision, and to act accordingly.

On the 4th of March, 1841, Gen. Harrison selected for his Postmaster-General Francis Granger, of New York, son of a previous incumbent of the office. In consequence of a political rupture with Mr. Tyler, which induced him and other members of the deceased President's Cabinet to resign, Mr. G. retired from the department in about six months. He evinced great promptness in deciding on cases, and, without doubt, would have administered the office well had he continued in it long enough to familiarize himself with its duties.

Charles A. Wickliffe, of Kentucky, was commissioned Postmaster-General in September, 1841. The establishment was in a prosperous condition throughout his term of three and a half years. On the last day of his official term, 3d March, 1845, Congress passed two laws of considerable importance touching the post-office; the first, authorizing the Postmaster-General to make contracts, for periods from four to ten years, for mail transportation to foreign countries, giving a preference to bidders proposing to carry in steamships, and agreeing to surrender their vessels to the United States for their value, if wanted, in time of war; the other, reducing the postage on letters not weighing over half an ounce, or going over 300 miles, to five cents, and requiring the Postmaster-General, when making future contracts for the service, to regard only the regular, safe and expeditious transportation of the mails. The former ordinance was called for by the wants of our rapidly extending foreign commerce; the latter was an immense boon to the social intercourse of the masses, as well as a judicious release of the inland correspondence of the country from taxation for the conveyance of passengers in the mail coaches.

On the accession of Mr. Polk to the Presidential chair, he called to the post-office Cave Johnson, of Tennessee, a gentleman of bland manners and clear head, who presided over its interests with dignity and success for four years. Owing to his opposition, while a member of the House of Representatives, to sundry ill-defined old claims, and other projects for relieving Uncle Samuel's pocket-book of its surplus cash, many anticipated that he would prove exceedingly parsimonious in his new capacity. So far, however, as I have been able to learn, he uniformly evinced a very just and liberal spirit whenever cases of real merit, or improvements in the mail service of clear value, were submitted for his consideration.

Jacob Collamer, of Vermont, was the person selected for the office by General Taylor on his elevation to the Presidency, in March, 1849. He united to a good heart and frank disposition great firmness and strong sense—qualities tending to fit him well for his post. But the decease of the President, and the formation of a new Cabinet by Mr. Fillmore, terminated his official term in July of the following year. Previous to his retracy, at his suggestion, Congress made a large addition to the clerical force of the establishment, an increase made necessary by the rapid expansion of the mail service.

On the 23d of July, 1850, N. K. Hall, of New York, was commissioned Postmaster-General, at which time there were about 19,000 postmasters, 4760 mail contractors, and 5590 operating post routes on the lists of the department. The revenue from postages amounted to \$5,495,000 per annum, of which \$919,486 arose from newspapers. Of the gross annual expenditure for mail conveyance

(\$2,724,426), \$264,506 was for five foreign routes. This estimate does not take in the Liverpool, Chagres and Astoria lines, which were paid for by the Navy Department.

In his first report to the President of the condition of the department, he strongly urged a reduction of the single postage rate to three cents prepaid, or five cents unpaid, and of a more accommodating tariff on newspapers and other printed matter. His suggestions having been, in the main, adopted, as the public are aware, this highly important improvement went into effect on the 1st of July. I understand that its workings during the first quarter were highly satisfactory.

Delicacy forbids my speaking freely of Mr. H. I deem it, however, but justice to him to say, that he labored indefatigably during the sixteen months he held the postal reins, as well as accomplished wonders in the way of familiarizing himself with the organic law and details of the office, and that he was emphatically Postmaster-General, allowing no man to make decisions for him. He watched every opportunity for improving the postal machinery, and left his mark upon the establishment.

There were employed in the entire concern (which was all under one roof), 155 clerks, viz., eighty-five in the Auditor's office and seventy in the department proper, whose average annual salary was about \$1150, a sum barely sufficient to maintain a small family in Washington. The Auditor employed thirty of his force in examining the accounts of acting postmasters, ten in paying contractors, and the residue in settling accounts of ex-postmasters, prosecuting defaulting contractors, stating the accounts of contractors, copying letters, etc.

The Postmaster-General assigned about twenty of his clerks to the office of mail contracts, the residue being divided between the Appointment, Finance and Inspection^s bureaus.

As this force looks large compared with that engaged in the establishment in earlier days, I state that its official forms, records, contracts, etc., are kept on a much more systematic and explanatory plan (adding to their convenience for future reference), than was the custom previous to the reorganization of 1836; which circumstance, added to the enormous multiplication of the agents connected with the service, will account for such expansion in the controlling machinery.

NOTES.

TEN countries issued postage due stamps before the United States.

OVER 500,000 two-cent postage stamps are sold daily in the New York post-office.

A CORNER in the Champs Elysees, of Paris, is a rendezvous for philatelists, who assemble there every Sunday afternoon to buy, sell and exchange stamps.

TWO ounces of circular, enclosed in an envelope, can be sent all over the country for one cent, while we pay two cents for the transmission of a sealed letter weighing one ounce. Is this consistency?

RETURNS from thirty of the largest post-offices in the United States, for the quarter ending December 31, 1888, show an increase of nine per cent over the business transacted by the same offices for the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.

THE postal card service of the United States cost the government more than the sum derived from the sale of the cards. Hence, one of the arguments used in favor of penny postage is that the expensive issue of postal cards would be abolished.

GUY W. GREEN.

WE have been informed that the National Society of New York is working on an exchange system that will knock the American Philatelic Association and the I. P. V. into a cocked hat. They do some wonderful things in New York. Time will tell what the result will be. *Next!*

RATES OF POSTAGE IN 1835.

ON a single letter composed of one piece of paper,

For any distance not exceeding 30 miles,	6	cts.
Over 30 and “ “ “ 80	10	“
“ 80 “ “ “ 150	12½	“
“ 150 “ “ “ 400	18¾	“
“ 400 miles,	25	“

A letter composed of two pieces of paper is charged with *double* these rates; of three pieces, with *triple*; and of four pieces, with *quadruple*. One or more pieces of paper, mailed as a letter, and weighing *one ounce*, shall be charged with *quadruple* postage; and weighing *one ounce*, shall be charged *quadruple* postage; and at the same rate, should the weight be greater.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

For each newspaper, not carried out of the State in which it is published, or if carried out of the State, not carried over 100 miles, 1 cent.

Over 100 miles and out of the State in which it is published, 1½ cents.

MAGAZINES AND PAMPHLETS.

If published periodically, distance not exceeding 100 miles, 1½ cents per sheet.

If published periodically, distance over 100 miles, 2½ cents per sheet.

If *not* published periodically, distance not exceeding 100 miles, 4 cents per sheet.

If *not* published periodically, distance over 100 miles, 6 cents per sheet.

“ Every printed pamphlet or magazine which contains more than twenty-four pages on a *royal sheet*, or any sheet of *less* dimensions, shall be charged by the sheet; and small pamphlets printed on a half or quarter sheet of royal or less size, shall be charged with half the amount of postage charged on a full sheet.”

The postage on *ship letters*, if delivered at the office where the vessel arrives, is 6 cents; if conveyed by post, 2 cents in addition to the ordinary postage.

PRIVILEGE OF FRANKING.

Letters and packets to and from the following officers of the Government are by law received and conveyed by post free of postage.

The President and Vice-President of the United States; Secretaries of State, Treasury, War and Navy; Attorney-General; Postmaster-General and Assistant Postmaster-General, Comptrollers, Auditors, Register and Solicitor of the Treasury; Treasurer; Commissioner of the General Land Office; Commissioners of the Navy Board; Commissary-General; Inspectors-General; Quartermaster-General; Paymaster-General; Superintendent of Patent Office; Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives; President and Secretary of the Senate; and any individual who shall have been, or may hereafter be, President of the United States; and each may receive newspapers by post, free of postage.

Each member of the Senate and each member and delegate of the House of Representatives, may send and receive free of postage, newspapers, letters and packets, weighing not more than two ounces (in case of excess of weight, excess alone to be paid for), and all documents printed by order of either House, from the period of sixty days before he takes his seat in Congress, till next meeting of Congress.

Postmasters may send and receive free of postage, letters and packets not exceeding half an ounce in weight; and they may receive one daily newspaper, each, or what is equivalent thereto.

Printers of newspapers may send one paper to each and every other printer of newspapers within the United States, free of postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster-General may provide.

E. R. DURBOROW.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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Two inches \$1 35
One half column 2 10
One column 3 90
One page 7 00

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Cash **MUST** accompany order.

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Subscriptions must begin with current number.

No back numbers supplied.

A cross opposite this notice signifies that your subscription has expired. Please renew.

NOTICE TO PHILADELPHIA SUBSCRIBERS.

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.

IN the future our paper will be issued about the twentieth of each month; at least until the fall, when we propose to be out before the first of each current month. This change is made necessary by our printers being crowded with work. It has always been our ambition to be the first philatelic paper issued in the month, and we will soon have our plans arranged to do so.

WE have been favored with advanced sheets of Messrs. Durbin and Hanes' new catalogue. We believe in pronouncing it the best we have ever seen that we are not even saying enough in its favor. It will be larger in every respect than the previous editions. Watermarks and perforations are each taken up and treated in a manner intelligent to all classes of collectors. The dates of issue of each stamp and the descriptions are such that any stamp may readily be placed. To top all, the front-piece will be a phototype of the late L. W. Durbin—a work of art from cover to cover.

SOME one has ventured to air his views of the American Philatelic Association in a non-philatelic paper, published at Erie, Pa. Indications point to a well-known philatelist of that city and personally a member of the Association. We regret his action, and must say that it is very unwise for members to rush in to print for satisfaction. If they have any real cause for complaint, they should remember that there are proper channels in the Association for redress.

THE *Stamp* says, and very truly, that it is a move in the wrong direction for philatelic journals to reduce their price; it causes collectors to expect their philatelic literature for next to nothing, and goes on to say there is no other fraternity paying so little for their literature as the philatelists, and consequently no other branch of journalism sees so many failures and so many poor papers. Our contemporary does not offer a solution of this vexed question.

We think one of the troubles consists of so lavish a distribution of sample copies. Collectors will not subscribe when it is possible to obtain so many free copies. By dropping a postal now and then to the various papers, nearly a complete file may be obtained. We found that when we reduced our subscription price, our list of subscribers increased fourfold. Again it is argued that if a plentiful supply of sample copies is not distributed, advertisers will not patronize a paper; therefore, we hold that a low subscription price, a large subscription list, a large advertising clientage and a very few sample copies, is the right combination to be effected.

During eight months of the year our new subscribers average over one hundred per month. At the present rate of increase, we will soon be compelled to again increase our circulation. Our paper costs us twelve cents per year for every subscriber we have over *nineteen hundred*. In general literary magazines the subscribers pay the cost, while the advertisements are the profit—a rule always reversed in philatelic journals. It was hoped and expected that the organization effected last fall among the philatelic publishers would have a good effect, not only on the magazines, but on the general readers, but as yet the organizers have been in a state of “innocuous desuetude.” It is to be hoped that they may awake soon.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON, formerly editor and manager of this paper, is reported to be down with typhoid fever, brought on by hard study and also by the extra work entailed on him as editor of the new Pennsylvania University paper. Mr. Henderson is spoken of as one of the brightest men in the University.

WE had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bush, of Bellefonte, Pa., finding him quite a jolly young man, with many a good story to tell of his philatelic adventures among the farmers of this State, some of whom were quite green, as he informed us of many rich finds at a very small outlay of cash.

MR. E. R. DURBOROW will again be a frequent contributor to our columns. His old friends will readily recognize his good work with brain and pen.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE.

BY R. W. BURCHARD.

THE February number, of Volume II, of *The American Philatelist*, lies before me. What a splendid monument of philatelic growth and industry it is! Place it beside the first number issued, or with any of the philatelic monthlies of the present day, and the comparison will show more clearly than anything else the increasing popularity of stamp-collecting. On the first of July, 1884, there were only seven titles to make up the list of philatelic journals published in the United States; now there are over fifty, and at least 100 published in foreign countries. Of course a large percentage of these journals are of no use whatever to the philatelic public, filled, as they mostly are, with nothing but trash and nonsense; but there are a few exceptions.

Now, a good philatelic monthly is a valuable production, worthy of all consideration and support, and which a collector, if he be a collector, is unable to do without. “I emphatically believe in the dissemination of knowledge by means of good, reliable philatelic journals, and I am glad to see three or four publications of this sort at present apparently flourishing in our midst”—so says Mr. C. B. Corwin, in the *American Journal of Philately*. I heartily echo his sentiments, but I must say that there are more than “three or four good, reliable philatelic journals.”

Now, all true lovers of "philately" should give journals of this class their support by cash subscriptions and advertisements, for, as I said in the beginning, we cannot afford to be without them, especially if we live in the country. A collector living in a large city has no idea how welcome a good philatelic journal is to the average collector who lives in a small town. The former is within easy reach of two or more reliable dealers to keep him informed concerning all that is new and interesting. He can, moreover, be a member of a good society, where each collector's knowledge adds to that of his colleagues. All this is very different with the solitary collector living in a village, a small town, or in the country. Without his journals, all the new issues, changes, etc., in philately would be as a sealed book to him. He would be at the mercy of every fraudulent dealer who choose to send him *new issues*, or more likely counterfeits. He would be completely bewildered with the surcharges, changes in value, and fall into the hands of dishonest dealers, who would offer marvelous bargains and great rarities, which sadly fail to answer to description, or to come at all. All these annoyances are, in a measure, obviated where a collector has at hand good and reliable journals to read carefully and understandingly. Every philatelist should have his library; mine has been of inestimable value to me, and I would not part with it for anything if I could not obtain a duplicate.

Besides the philatelic journals, there are many standard works on different subjects connected with our hobby that every collector ought to possess. Take, for instance, Tiffany's "History of United States Stamps." No collector of United States stamps can thoroughly understand his specialty without this book. I might mention a good many others of equal value, but it is unnecessary.

There are two or three dealers now who have "philatelic literature" for their stock in trade, and from whom almost any number and volume of any journal issued prior to 1889 can be obtained. By this means any collector at the present time can obtain a good library at a small cost. He can also increase his library by exchanging any duplicates that he may possess.

NEW YORK HAPPENINGS.

THE stamp exhibition at the Eden Musée, as viewed at first by any of the collectors that already had seen the exhibition in Boston, will be rather disappointing. The Boston exhibit consisted rather of rare stamps, duplicated over and over; the Musée exhibit contains as nearly a perfect collection as will ever be seen. The more we examined the collection, the more were we impressed with its vastness, and all thanks are due the committee for their labors in our behalf. It would be impossible to name all the gems exhibited; collectors at a distance may imagine that if their albums were all filled up, they then would have a Musée exhibition all to themselves. Messrs. Corwin, Scott, Brock and the Staten Island members had the cream of the exhibit. We would advise all collectors, if possible, to visit and study this exhibition.

Mr. Corwin has just unearthed a new local and will be pleased to impart the knowledge of his find to all applicants.

By the way, it is understood that Mr. Corwin is collecting rare prints of Indians in their war paint, that he has bought the entire product of one of the largest paint establishments in New York; at least it is presumed so, it being rumored he is putting on his war paint to exterminate some of our collectors and journals. If we should not appear after this number, our readers will know the why and wherefore of our untimely end.

The more we see of Mr. Joseph Rechert, our American Association International Secretary, the more impressed are we that he is the right man in the right place, and we know if those trying to belittle him really knew how hard he worked to advance the Association they would not be able to praise him enough. If the grumblers did a fourth as much good work our Association would now number its members by the thousands, instead of by the hundreds.

Mr. Wuesthoff, besides his duty as President of the National Society, is also Counterfeit Detector of the American Philatelic Association. His special duty is to examine all exchange sheets, and judging from the lot of "specimens removed" he had, his office is no sinecure. It takes a man of rare discernment to so ably fill this thankless office.

Dr. Mitchell gave a polyopticon exhibit of rare stamps at the last meeting of the National Philatelic Society. Judging from the remarks afterward heard, "poly" was a success.

The Board of Trustees, American Philatelic Association, appear to be a Board that meet and work. No doubt, much good will come from having the members living near each other, instead of from all quarters of the United States, as formerly.

The opinion prevails in New York, that the elective officers should all come from one vicinity, thereby enabling them to meet for transaction of all Association business, and all officers should be elected. While we differ with them on the first proposition, we are in hearty accord on the second.

The Fourth Purchasing Agent, Chas. Muecke, now attends all auction sales in New York for the American Philatelic Association members. He reports bids from the members are increasing, keeping him quite busy.

The Exchange Superintendent of the National Society is displaying his usual push and enterprise, from which much good is anticipated. The exchange will follow out somewhat the same general plan as the Philadelphia Section, I. P. V. of Dresden. Collectors desiring to participate in their exchange should address C. B. Corwin, P. O. Box 1987, New York, for full instructions.

The National Philatelic Society is the most advanced of any local society in America, numbering, as it does, not only all the prominent and active collectors in the vicinity of New York, but in all parts of the world. On the whole, our visit will long be a pleasant remembrance to us.

EXCHANGES.

THE *Halifax Philatelist* for January, with its new cover, presents an attractive outside appearance, and with articles on "The Postage Stamps of Greece," "California State Telegraph," reports of Canadian Philatelic Association, etc., causes the inside also to be an attraction to the philatelic reader. The February number gives us official documents relating to the first issue of Nova Scotia American Telegraph Stamps, etc.

"SCOTT'S POSTAGE AND REVENUE CATALOGUE," just issued, is larger and better than ever. Excepting United States, it shows a marked decrease in prices. Collectors nowadays cannot afford to be without several first-class catalogues.

THE *American Stamp*, of Newark, N. J. (Vol. I, No. 1), is a credit to its publishers. Its editorial department is under the efficient care of Dr. W. H. Mitchell, from whom we expect to see an interesting number each month.

THE Philatelic Department of *Plain Talk* is always interesting. Mr. Davison knows what he is talking about and always talks to the point.

MR. M. F. WALTON'S "Price Catalogue of United States Stamps" has just been issued and is well worth the price asked, five cents. Twenty pages and cover. The price is so low that it will pay buyers to obtain a copy at once.

MR. C. F. ROTHFUCHS has favored us with his February, 1889, price lists, both wholesale and retail. Mr. Rothfuchs has exceptional advantages for obtaining the stamps priced and consequently offers them at a low price.

THE *Canada Stamp and Coin Journal*, for January, has several interesting articles on the "Undescribed Essays and Proofs of N. S. W. Postage Stamps," "Counterfeits of British Columbia," etc.

ERRORS IN MEXIGAN STAMPS.

FROM "THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST"—C. B. CORWIN.

MEXICO.—There are a number of varieties of errors in the emissions of this country, and caution should be exercised in their acquirement. At the risk of appearing verbose, I shall comment upon each error or series of errors that I am now about to enumerate, giving such data as I am possessed of after the mention of each.

1856 ISSUE.—The Scott Co. catalogue, a 2 reales, *rose* on white; error. The query naturally arises, "Error of what?" There was no stamp of the '56 issue printed in *rose*, the red 4r. being an entirely different color. I understand that this stamp was found among the remainders purchased lately from the Mexican Government. I should want further information before admitting this stamp to my album.

1861 ISSUE.—Error, 1 real on *rose* paper. Major Evans chronicles this and states that it is only known uncharged. In his latest catalogue he places an interrogation mark after the words, "error of impression."

1864 ISSUE.—The rare 3 centavos, brown, exists upon laid paper, and concerning this variety there appears to be no question.

1868 ISSUE.—Major Evans mentions in the imperforate series these errors: 12c. black on brown; 12c. black on yellow; 85c. blue on *rose*; 50c. blue on *rose*; 110c. black on brown and 100c. brown on brown; in the perforate series, 12c. black on brown; 12c. black on yellow; 50c. blue on *rose*; 50c. black on green; 100c. brown on brown. Of all these errors, the 12c. black on brown and the 100c. brown on brown are the only ones that I have ever met with out of the thousands of Mexicans that I have handled, but I presume Major Evans had been fully impressed with the authenticity of the others before chronicling them.

1872 ISSUE.—Major Evans catalogues, *without* the blue *moiré* pattern on the back, all the values of this issue imperforate, viz., 6, 12, 25, 50 and 100c., but notes the doubt as to whether these are not essays or proofs. I have never seen any that have been postally employed.

The Scott Co. catalogue, a 50c. blue, both imperf. and perf., and I believe that these were also found among those remainders before alluded to. So long ago, however, as 1882, I purchased a copy of this error, imperf., from a responsible English firm, which shows that it was known long before the sale of those remainders.

1874 ISSUE AND LATER.—Major Evans chronicles the following varieties as existing imperf., viz.: of 1874, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100c., and of 1879, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 85 and 100c., but states that it seems doubtful whether these are not manufactured, as it is stated that a stamp in each corner of every sheet can be cut out so as to appear imperf., which remarks he applies as well to the succeeding issues. Nearly all these later Mexicans have an exceedingly broad margin, and scissors are always handy. I have a pair of 2c. green, of 1884, that I believe to be imperf.; at all events, they are imperf. vertically between the stamps, and to all appearances are in the same condition on the outside. It seems that, in order to be absolutely certain of one's ground, one should collect these later imperf. Mexicans in pairs.

The Scott Co. catalogue a 10c. brown, of 1882, on thin paper, which, I fancy, is also from those remainders. The only other mention I can find of this is in the *Philatelic Record*, for December, 1887, where the editor mentions having been sent one for notice.

THE Quaker City boys got left out in the cold, so far as the Directory of Philatelic Societies, as published in the new candidate for favor, the "American Stamp," is concerned. By the way, this new *one* is a beauty, and with such a good fellow as Dr. Wm. H. Mitchell in the position of editor, we look for great things from the Sandy State.

THIRD SALE OF THE

Quaker City Philatelic Society and Section Philadelphia Internationaler Philatelisten Verein,

Will be held March 28th, 8 P.M., at 1421 Fairmount Avenue. All Confederate States are on original envelopes. All stamps in good condition, used, unless so stated. No commission for buying. Bids may be sent to this paper, Box 1153, or to W. H. Corfield, 3609 Locust Street, Philadelphia. All bids are for so much per LOT.

		<i>No. in Lot.</i>			<i>No. in Lot.</i>
1	United States, officially sealed	35	69	United States, Env., entire, 1857, 12c., uns. pair,	
2	Barbadoes, 1887, 1d.	200		part of env.	2
3	Another	200	70	1861, 1c., 5c., 10c., 12c.,	
4	Canada, registered, 2c. (67), 5c. (33)	100		24c., 30c.; 1866, 15c.	7
5	" " 5c.	100	71	1861, 1c., 10c., 12c., 24c.,	
6	Mexico, 1884, 3c.	100		30c.; 1866, 15c.	6
7	1886, 6c. (31); 1887, 3c. (28), 10c. (18)	77	72	Same	6
8	1887, official	76	73	1868, 1c., 5c., 10c., 12c.,	
9	Newfoundland, 1880, 3c.	117		15c., 30c.	6
10	Same	100	74	1868, 10c., 12c., 15c., 30c.	4
11	Russia, Env., 1875, 5k.; 1879, 7k.; 1884, 7k.;		75	1869, 1c., * 6c., 10c., 15c.	
	1885, 5k.	25		(both var.), 12c., 30c.	7
12	Roumania, 1880, 15b., 25b.; 1885, 1 1/2b.; 1886, 5b.	416	76	1869, 1c., 6c., 10c., 12c.,	
13	Sweden, 1872, 120.; 1885, 10.	200		15c., 30c.	6
14	Same	200	77	1869, 1c., 6c., 10c., 12c., 30c.	5
15	1872, 50	67	78	1c., 10c., 12c., 30c.	4
16	Official, 120	180	79	1872, 7c., 12c., 24c., 30c.;	
17	240	159		1888, 30c., brown	5
18	300	51	80	Same	5
19	500	36	81	Navy, 1c.; State, 1c., 2c.;	
20	4, 6, 10, 200	25		War, 2c.; all specimens	
21	Turkey, 1884, 10pa., 1pi., 2pi.; 1885, 2pi.	131		Am. Rapid Tel., 1881,	
22	Austria, 1867, 25k. (42); Russia, 1882, 5k. (36)	78		5c.* 15c., 25c.* 50c.	8
23	Bulgaria, 1885, 1s. (24); Egypt, 1872, 2pi. (19)	43	82	2c. due, 3c. red, 90c. purple, all double perf., registered, pair, officially sealed, eng. and lith.	6
24	Confederate States, Fayetteville, N. C., 5c., black on orange and lemon	2		1860, 24c.	2
25	Confederate States, 1861, 5c., gray	1	83	1869, 1c., 1 grilled.	2
26	1861, 5c., green	1	84	6c.	1
27	Another	1	85	1870, 6c., unperf., rare	1
28	Another	5	86	30c., irrg. perf.	1
29	1861, 5c., blue, fine	1	87	State, 1c., 3c.	3
30	Another	1	88	Navy, 3c., 6c., 12c.	3
31	Another	5	89	State, 3c.* P. O., 2c.,	
32	1861, 5c., blue, pair, uns.	2	90	3c.; * Navy, 10c., 15c.;	
33	Another	10		Interior, 10c., 24c.*	2
34	Another	10		Am. Rapid Tel., 10c.	
35	1862, 2c., green, rare	1	91	Westtown, bronze on gold	2
36	10c. rose	1	92	Wells, Fargo & Co. (Type 205), 1c.; Newspaper,* uns. pair*	2
37	1861, 10c., blue, fine condition.	1		War, 1c., 2c., 3c., 6c., 10c., 12c., 15c., 24c., 30c., all*	9
38	Another	1	93	Justice, 6c.*	1
39	Another	1	94	Revenues, Check Stamps, sheet of 6 checks, 1st issue*	6
40	Another	5	95	Check, 2c., orange and double perf.	1
41	1862, 5c., blue, lith	1	96	Check, 2c., blue, rouletted (rate)	1
42	Another, eng.	1	97	\$20 Conveyance, 1st issue.	1
43	1862, 5c., eng. and lith	10	98	Tobacco stamps, 100 cigars, 1st series, pink paper.	1
44	5c., " two on an env.	28	99	Same, 50 cigars.	1
45	5c., uns. pairs.	2	100	Series of 1883, 100 cigars.	1
46	Another	2	101 1/2	Another	
47	Another	2	102	50 cigars, ten pound, ship in circle, green*	1
48	Another	2	103	2 oz. toba. green*	1
49	Another, 10	20	104	U. S. Revenue, 50c., Proprietary, green paper.	1
50	Another, 25	50	105	Foreign Revenues	68
51	Another, 25	50	106	Austria, 1881, blue*	1
52	1863, 10c.	10	107	Belgium Parcel Stamps, 1879, 10, 25, 50; 1882, 50c., 1f.	5
53	Another	15	108	Brazil, 1843, 30r., rare	1
54	Another	20	109	90r., "	1
55	Another	25	110	1845, 600r., " corner damaged.	1
56	1864, 20c.	1	111	1866, 10r., 20r., 50r., 200r., 500r.; 1876, 100r.; 1878, 20r.	7
57	Another	1	112	British North Borneo, 1887, 3 on 4, 5 on 8.	2
58	United States, Env., entire, 1853, 3c. on white, perf. lines	1	113	Same	2
59	Another	1	114	1886, \$2, uns. pair	1
60	1853, 3c., buff, Horner, 15.	1	115	\$2.	1
61	1857, 1c., " perf. lines	1	116	Bulgaria, unpaid, 1884, 5s.	1
62	1853, 3c., " die 2D.	20	117	25s.	2
63	5c., white*	3	118	Ceylon, 1885, 10c. on 24c., green	1
64	1888, 2c. amber, Rej. die. S5*	1			
65	Cut round, 1857, 1c., 3c. on buff; 1870, 2c. on sal., 2c. on white; * 1874, 5c. white, * 6c. amber*	6			
66	1847, 5c. on orig. env.	2			
67	1851, 5c., 10c., 12c.	3			
68	1855, 10c.; 1857, 12c.; 1860, 24c.	3			

The Q. C. P. S. and S. P. I. P. V. Third Sale—Continued.

		No. in Lot.			No. in Lot.
119	Ceylon, 1885, 10c. on 16c.	2	148	Perak, 1883, 2c.	1
120	15c. on 16c.	1	149	Philippine Islands, 1862, 5c.*	1
121	1r., 12c. on 2r. 50.	1	150	1870, 5c.	1
122	20c. on 32c., 25c. on 32c.	2	151	1881, 2 on 2½, 8c. on 2c.	2
123	28c. on 32c.	1	152	Queensland, 1882, 2s.	1
124	56c. on 96c.	2	153	Another	1
125	Chili, 1877, 1c., 5c., 10c.	3	154	1882, 5s.	1
126	1881, 1c., 2c., 5c.; 1883, 5c.	4	155	Another	1
127	Egypt, 1872, 1; 1879, 5, 10, 20, 1.	5	156	1882, 5s., 6d., green on part of env.	2
128	France, 1849, 1fr.*	1	157	Roumania, 1866, 20.	1
129	French Guiana, Feb'y, 1888, 5 on 30*	1	158	St. Christopher, 1 on 2½d.	1
130	Martinique, 05 on 20, 15 on 20, 015 on 20*	3	159	St. Vincent, 1885, 1d. on 2½*	1
131	New Caledonia, 05 on 40, uns. pair*	2	160	So. African Rep., 1885, 2d., 1s. on part of env.	2
132	Great Britain, 1885, 12p. on 216.	1	161	So. Australia, 1887, 5s.	1
133	Another	1	162	Another	1
134	Grenada, 1888, 4d. on 2s.	1	163	Spain, 1873, 10p.; 1879, 10p.	2
135	Guinea, 1885, 25r.*	3	164	Tasmania, 1870, 10d.; 1871, 3d.; 1882, 1d., 6d.	4
136	Hayti, 1883, 20c., double perf.	1	165	1871, 5s.	1
137	Hawaiian Isles, 1864, 2c.; '66, 5c.; '71, 6c.; '75, 2c.	4	166	Venezuela, 1879, 1r.	1
138	India Service, 1867, 4a.	2	167	Victoria, 1884, 2s., g. paper.	1
139	Italy, 1854, 5c. (2), 20c., 40c.*	2	168	5s., y. paper.	1
140	unpaid, 1874, 5l., 10l.	4	169	Wurtemberg, 1883, 2m.; 1881, 5m.	2
141	Luxemburg, official, 1876, 1c., pair, 1 inverted*	2	170	Victoria, 1882, 1d.; 1887, 6d.; * Hong Kong, 1885, 1c.	3
142	25c.*	2	171	Ceylon, 2c. on 64; Spain, 1876, 4p.; Luxemburg, official, 12½; * St. Pierre and M., 10 on 40; * Great Britain, 1884, 5s.	5
143	Mauritius, 1878, 38c. on 9d.*	1	172	Mexico, 1885, 2c. (25), 6c. (15)	40
144	Mexico, 1885, 1, 2,* 5,* 10; 1887, 10c., official, brown.	6	173	Autograph of Woo Von Ding.	1
145	Natal, 1885, 1d. revenue used for postage.	1	174	Geo. K. Gliddon.	1
146	Persia, 1882, 5fr., 10fr.	1	175	Phil. Papers 126, Auction Cat. 24.	150
147	Peru, Y. C. A., 5c., black, sur.	1			

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