

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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

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THE ENGLISH POST-OFFICE.

THE Postmaster-General's annual report, says the London *St. James' Gazette*, on the work of his office up to the 31st of March last, has been issued. The great event of the year was the assumption by the post-office of the charge of direct telegraphic communication with the continent of Europe. Negotiations, which are described by the Postmaster-General as both difficult and delicate, were set on foot, and arrangements were made for transfer to the post-office, on the 1st of April, of the cables of the Submarine Company, and for the simultaneous reduction of the rates to France, Germany, Holland and Belgium to 2d. a word, with a minimum of 1od. per message.

In many respects, the year 1888-89 has been rather one of steady growth than of striking new developments. It is estimated that during the twelve months there have been delivered in the United Kingdom, 2,362,990,000 letters, post-cards, newspapers and parcels. New post-offices have been opened in 399 places. The number of letters alone transmitted is estimated at 1,558,100,000. Post-cards were especially favored by the public. The number of post-cards used (201,500,000) increased by nearly seven per cent. There has been, for the first time, an actual decrease in the number of newspapers sent by post—a result due no doubt in part to the competition of early newspaper trains. The Postmaster-General is not likely to lament this diminished load if the opinion he quotes, that all half-penny matter is carried at a distinct loss to the revenue, is correct. Of letters proper there has been a striking increase in London, which has sent no fewer than 480,000,000 in the year, an increase of seven per cent on the previous year.

The parcels post is in a flourishing condition. The increase in the number of parcels delivered during the year is nearly 3,000,000, or seven and eight-tenths per cent, and the total number posted is close upon 40,000,000. The increase in London has been rather greater than in the provinces; but Ireland shows the highest per cent of increase. The parcels post has been extended to many colonies and foreign countries during the year, and there have been one or two notable improvements in these posts. A reduction in the rates between this country and the Australian colonies and the Cape of Good Hope has led to an increase of forty per cent in the parcels sent. Canada, which has been very shy in admitting parcels, has now opened all her post-offices to parcels ranging up to five pounds. The United States, however, still refuses to interchange any parcels, owing, it is said, to the influence of the private carrying interests.

The number of letters, post-cards, book-packets, newspapers, parcels, etc., received in the Returned Letter Offices was 14,286,835, showing an increase of 850,178 on the number for the previous year. No fewer than 28,330 letters were posted without any address whatever, and 1390 of them contained cash, checks, and bills to the value of £8700. During the last five years the total number of unaddressed letters has never been less than 25,000, or more than 28,500, while the number containing value has been between 1390 and 1686. It is evident that there is a law governing even gross carelessness. About 58,000 loose postage stamps were found detached from letters owing to the careless way in which they had been affixed.

The post-office has its usual string of odd incidents to relate, the prettiest story being that of a tom-tit who builds her nest in a private letter-box by a farm gate. For two years she resented the intrusion of the letters, and pushed them out as fast as they were placed in the box. This year, however, she permitted them to remain, and successfully hatched five young ones.

As usual, articles of great variety have been discovered in the undelivered correspondence and parcels. One parcel contained a human skull, the crown of which had been sawed off; another, thirty green tree-frogs, all alive. Specimens of the ladies' dress-improver and packets of made-up hair for ladies' head-gear may be seen in the museum in which these various articles find a temporary resting-place. The composition of some articles at Christmas-time was peculiar. In one were two petticoats, a pair of stays, a leg of mutton, and a packet of tobacco. In another, a rabbit stuffed with two tobacco-pipes, tobacco, a doll, and a piece of bacon, the whole being wrapped up in a lady's jacket. In the parcels stopped in transit as contrary to regulation were found a cat, a squirrel, pigeons, lizards, dormice, snakes, a cuckoo, muskrats and moles, all alive, not to mention one or two other parcels containing dead dogs and cats. A very objectionable practice, and one likely to occasion risk and disappointment to the sender, is the growing habit of transmitting money in various articles sent by parcels post. Four sovereigns were found in a mass of crushed grapes, six in a packet of tobacco, and 10s. mixed up with smashed eggs and butter.

A native of India, residing in London, expressed a wish, in September, 1888, to send by parcels post to India, the ashes of his cremated brother, so he dropped into the Sacred Ganges, but was informed that, unless he could limit the weight of the parcel to eleven pounds, the post-office could offer him no facilities. No further application was received on the subject.

A letter was received from Naples bearing for address a rough sketch of two pears with the word "London" underneath and was promptly delivered to the soap-makers in New Oxford street, who acknowledged the accuracy with which the department had interpreted the intention of the writer.

FOREIGN REVENUE STAMP COLLECTING.

BY PH. HEINSBERGER.

THE history of foreign revenue stamps is an old one, and dates back to the year 1805, as far as fiscal authorities have ascertained. Great Britain has the honor of having issued the first revenue stamp. Authentic proofs have been found, that in 1805 England had already revenue stamps, but it may be, before that time, revenues were used elsewhere. It has been, and still is, a difficult, troublesome and very expensive thing, to gather reliable information from all countries about their revenue stamps, date of issue, value and color. This result can be reached, not with money only, but by patience, true love for foreign revenues, and with the assistance of friends and of strangers in the fiscal service of all foreign countries, and the numerous readers of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST. No American ever has made the trial! Until our present day only one man has dared to undertake this gigantic job, to gather information about all revenue stamps. Not for the sake of money, but for the sake of our hobby—the love for revenues! This true philatelist is an official in a European fiscal service, a German who has spent ten years of his life, troublesome time, and many thousands of dollars of his own money. And for what? To gain in the interest of all revenue stamp collectors reliable information about all foreign revenue stamps. The love for his own collection of revenues brought him success, and after years of hard work, he was able to present to the philatelic world the first and only illustrated descriptive catalogue of the revenue stamps of the world, issued in the German language, but in English letters. Great was the joy of collectors of revenue stamps, as the

first edition of this valuable work was issued, and in our present time, this catalogue is in the hands of over 3000 collectors of foreign revenue stamps in all countries on the globe. I will mention here, that some French dealers have translated this German catalogue, and have issued a French edition of foreign revenue stamps. A collection of foreign revenue stamps, no matter how small, is beautiful. The size of a revenue stamp is large, and on account of this, the arms of the different countries, the heads of emperors, kings and princes, are more impressive for the eyes, and in short, the whole design of a revenue stamp is marvelously nice in itself. It is a fact that the revenue stamp has long been treated as an outcast, but year by year the number of fiscal lovers have increased. There are now issued revenue stamp papers in the German and in the French languages. Further there are issued descriptive price catalogues of the revenue stamps of single countries. Last, but not least, I desire to acknowledge the fact, that leading American and European postage stamp papers have, and still continue to chronicle, in their pages all new issues of the revenue stamps of all countries on earth.

Postal and fiscal are two souls with but one thought; they are brother and sister, and the name of their mother is Philatelia. Both have the same rights, both have their supporters, but fiscal can and does claim antiquity; nothing can put aside the right of fiscal. The yearly increase of collectors of revenue stamps is the best answer—and facts remain facts. According to my last information the number of collectors of revenue stamps in all countries on the globe whose names are known, is as follows:

United States, 950; Canada, 100; Mexico, 25; Brazil, 40; Chili, 10; Peru, 5; Argentine, 20; San Domingo, 3; Cuba, 5; Porto Rico, 10; Great Britain, 500; Germany, 1000; Austria-Hungary, 1200; France, 850; Italy, 640; Belgium, 225; Switzerland, 25; Greece, 10; Turkey, 5; Roumania, 10; Australia, 10; Hong Kong, 5; Philippine Isles, 9; Mauritius, 5; Cape Colony, 3. And how many unknown? Revenue stamps are issued only in small quantities by the different governments, and therefore more valuable than postage stamps. Revenue stamps can best be arranged on white card board, and later bound as blank albums.

U. S. STAMPED ENVELOPES.

THE Third Assistant Postmaster-General Hazen has completed the proposals for bids for making stamped envelopes for the next four years. On May 1, every four years, these bids are advertised for, and the competition is more active and hair splitting than for any other Government contract, as it is the largest single contract which the department makes. For twelve years the Plimpton Envelope Company, of Hartford, Conn., and the Morgan Envelope Company, of Springfield, Mass., have had the making of stamped envelopes. Since the Government began in 1851 to sell stamped envelopes there has been a steady increase in the amount required each year, until the Government has for several years been selling more envelopes than all other producers combined. Last year 279,000,000 stamped envelopes, worth \$5,773,000, were sold. With every letting the size of the contract increases and the price of envelopes is reduced. Envelopes which in 1869 cost \$4.80 per thousand can now be sold for \$1.80 per thousand, and the extra-letter size that then cost \$6, is now sold for \$2.40.

The proposals this year provide a greater variety of paper and a number of new grades. It was found that people preferred to buy the best quality of envelopes rather than the medium sorts, while no cheap grade was provided. This time a plain un gummed manila envelope has been called for which can be sold for forty cents a thousand. This will meet the demand of circular advertisers, which is a large one, monopolized hitherto by private dealers. Two sizes, called baronial, about 3 by 4 inches, have been inserted for the benefit of the ladies who like to use fancy note papers. The size most used is the plain white or amber known as No. 5, 3½ by 65-16 inches. Of this, for the year ending March 31, 130,475,000 were required, more than twice as many as any other kind used.

Bidders are required to give a bond for \$200,000 that they will go on with the contract if it is awarded to them. The contractor is required to do the work under the supervision of a Government agent. The composition of the paper must be according to Government formulæ. Rags must be kept in the beater engines not less than sixteen hours and jute not less than ten. The watermark, which has been a large monogram "U. S. P. O. D.," will be changed to a small plain "U. S." The cost for the supply of stamped envelopes is reduced by this year's proposals 20 per cent.

"'TIS TRUE, 'TIS RITY, AND RITY 'TIS, 'TIS TRUE."

FROM "THE LONDON GLOBE."

WE shall now, we presume, have minor Bourse panics in stamps. The new Postage Stamp Exchange in Vienna is getting into full swing, and did business at its last meeting to the amount of several thousand florins. One pink stamp went for 150 florins—which is a good price certainly, though not by any means approaching "the record," and there were several people ready to give more than 100 florins for some of the old Austrian issues. The solemnity of the whole business is distinctly affecting. The barterings of thirty years ago, which were of such a happy-go-lucky kind that £5 was thought an enormous price for a stamp, are now brought up to the level of financial science. The philatelic shares are now quoted on the Exchange, so to speak, and legitimate gambling may begin in the world of stamp collectors. The first thing we shall hear of will be "corners" in the business. Some enterprising American will buy up all the black British penny stamps, and then no rising philatelist will ever be able to make his collection respectable without resort to the stamp millionaire. Then spurious stamps will be floated, just like bogus companies; and it will be worth some diplomatist's while to intrigue with a foreign government for a new stamp issue, after having himself made large purchases of the old stock. The quotations of the various specimens may be expected to rise and fall now rather in accordance with speculation than with legitimate competition, as at present. A modern stamp dealer's catalogue is sufficiently curious as things are; but still more eccentric will be the quotations in the *Evening Stamp News*, recording a run upon "Egyptian, blue, 1 piastre, envelope," or "Canada, 5 cents, '65 issue." There are already good people who spend their lives over stamps, microscope in hand, looking for an extra mark, a deeper tint of paper, a curved line instead of a wavy one, a perforation more or less—any of which points constitutes "a different specimen," and enables Jones to head Smith's collection by one. These ardent devotees will be spurred to renewed devotion by the existence of the Postage Stamp Bourse.

FAGS AND FANGIES.

THE printers of the *American Philatelist* were compelled to purchase ten pounds of C's, in order to set up the account of the late Convention. It is evident that Messrs. Calman and Corwin were heard from.

It is strange how easily we are fooled now and then. Yet such must have been the fact when we elected Bradford Secretary. We thought that we were getting a competent man, but it turns out that he is nothing but an overgrown boy, utterly devoid of common sense.

A POST-OFFICE employé says that the gummed surface of a postage stamp should never be placed on the tongue. Moisten the other side of the stamp and the corner of the envelope, or the latter only, and the stamp will stick for all it is worth.

MR. GEORGE F. HEATH is quite a poet, judging from his poem in the *Stamp World* of August.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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AFTER careful consideration we have decided to present the name of Mr. Millard F. Walton, of this city, for the Secretaryship of the American Philatelic Association. He is thoroughly equipped for the position, and we are safe in saying that he would be a credit to the Association. He is an excellent penman, being head book-keeper and cashier for one of Philadelphia's largest houses.

We bespeak for him the support of every reader of the **QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST**, and hope to be able to announce his election in our next number.

SINCE we last greeted you the Fourth Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association has come and gone. What promised to be a lively meeting has passed off as a fair summer's day. All hands have buried the hatchet and harmony is now so thick that it can be cut with a knife.

As our October number was out before the Convention met, and as it would be foolish to publish an account of the proceedings at this late day, we shall content ourselves with a review of what has been accomplished.

On the whole, we are well pleased with the work of the convention; especially so with what was one of the last resolutions to be passed—a thing for which we have striven for the last two years, and now success has crowned our efforts. We have reference to the Hill-Chalmers controversy. By the resolution which was passed the President will appoint a committee of four, evenly divided between the adherents of Messrs. Hill and Chalmers, who shall have power to select another, making five in all. The question will be thoroughly examined by them, and the report published in the June (1890) number of the *American Philatelist*, so that every member can vote intelligently on the subject. The passage of this resolution is a rebuke to those who, in a hasty and ill-advised way, committed the Association to the claims of Mr. Chalmers.

The report of the Exchange Superintendent shows a deficit in his department. It is to be hoped that this will be overcome by next year, but at any rate we do not think it right that the Association should compel him to make up any deficit. In his

report, he says that the Staten Island Branch should make good the loss, by one of its members, of sheets to the value of \$275.76. This, to our mind, is one of the strongest arguments for the Individual Circuits which he has introduced. We are heartily in favor with all the suggestions he makes, especially with that calling for monthly statements.

The suggestion of the Literary Board, that two more members should be added, is a good one. The *American Philatelist* would then be in a position to add that which in our opinion it needs most—an editorial column. In the discussion as to what would be the best way to cut down the expense of the *American Philatelist*, it was suggested that the accounts of the proceedings of the Branch Societies should either be cut down or dropped out altogether. This is a suggestion we made long ago, and which was ridiculed by a certain Western contemporary. Strange to say, one of its officers was the very one to propose it at the Convention.

We cannot see why the work of collecting the dues should be shifted from the Treasurer to the Secretary. The former has little or nothing to do, while the latter is overworked.

The adoption of the amendment, providing for a Vice-President in every State, will prove to be an advantageous arrangement. In this way, more information can be had of all new members, who will be closely scrutinized, so that we shall not, if it can be avoided, have any black sheep in our number.

The way in which the Westerner looks upon the race between New York and Chicago for the World's Fair, can be readily seen from the committee which the President appointed. All of its members are from the vicinity of New York. If the Fair should go to Chicago, is it understood that this committee shall resign?

The members of the Association are to be congratulated on the results of the late Convention; and we only hope that when the next meeting is held in New York, it will be on the same harmonious basis.

HAPPENED AND HEARD AT ST. LOUIS.

THE Fourth Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association assembled at St. Louis, Monday, October 7, in Odd Fellows' Hall. Less than thirty members were present, representing 409 members.

Mr. E. T. Parker was elected Secretary, *pro tem.*, in the absence of Mr. Bradford, who did not even send his books or report until telegraphed to do so.

Owing to the illness of Mr. Parker's wife, at his request Mr. A. N. Spencer was elected his assistant.

MONDAY EVENING, October 7, President Tiffany gave a reception, at his house, to the American Philatelic Association members. His magnificent collection was examined and greatly enjoyed. It is without doubt the finest collection in the United States, although several of the Eastern members are very close behind him. The United States, including proofs, were a treat in themselves. The native Indies, English, French and Spanish colonies are unique. To name over the gems of his collection would be to name every country that ever issued stamps. In addition to the stamp collection his collection of stamp literature is nearly perfect. The collectors could have spent a week looking over his various collections.

FIVE of the Eastern members, Messrs. Bogert, Beamish, Calman, Sterling and MacCalla took the B. & O. for St. Louis. On the train they met A. N. Spencer, of Cin-

cinnati. A very enjoyable time was had by this coterie of stamp men. We learned more of the various collectors from them than we ever knew before.

MR. E. B. STERLING held 110 proxies, more than anyone else. This will show the members that he is held in esteem by the rank and file of our Association. Every reform that he inaugurated was upheld. Before the Convention was over Mr. Sterling was the most popular man there. His pet scheme of allowing members of Branch Societies to also receive stamps on the Individual Circuits was approved.

Mr. Sterling should be proud of his vindication, and we hereby offer our congratulations.

The Exchange Department will have a big boom; the New York and Staten Island members threaten to flood it with sheets. The more the merrier.

No personalities were indulged in and all members left St. Louis on the best of terms. This alone will be of great benefit to the Association.

THE annual dues were raised to two dollars and fifty cents; this was made necessary by the deficit in the treasury. No collector will begrudge the fifty cents. Either the official organ had to be reduced in size or the dues raised. The members present thought, as all will agree with them, that the *American Philatelist* is too valuable to be reduced in size.

ALL American members are now entitled to vote. All pay the same dues. The boys ought to be happy now. Perhaps with the increase of their dues they may now wish to remain non-voters.

Ask Spencer to tell the bowl story?

Ask Nienstedt and the other St. Louis boys why they don't make their lady friends members of the Association instead of decorating them as members of the Chicago Society?

Ask for the surroundings of the reconciliation?

Ask the Eastern boys if they will ever forget the good time they had?

Ask Major Grenny what place reminded him of home?

Ask Flachskamm why he left so early?

Ask Beamish who his friend was on the trip home?

Ask the St. Louis Committee if the visiting members did not keep them on the go?

Ask Michaels why he left the light burning in his room and the door open when he was not there?

Ask if a unanimous vote of thanks should not be given our Committee for their efforts to cause us a good time?

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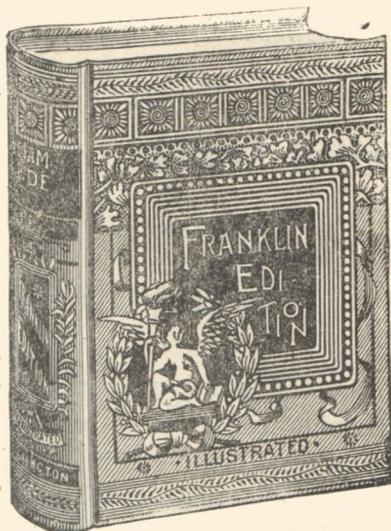
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