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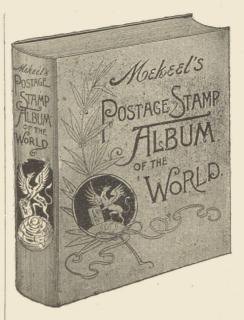
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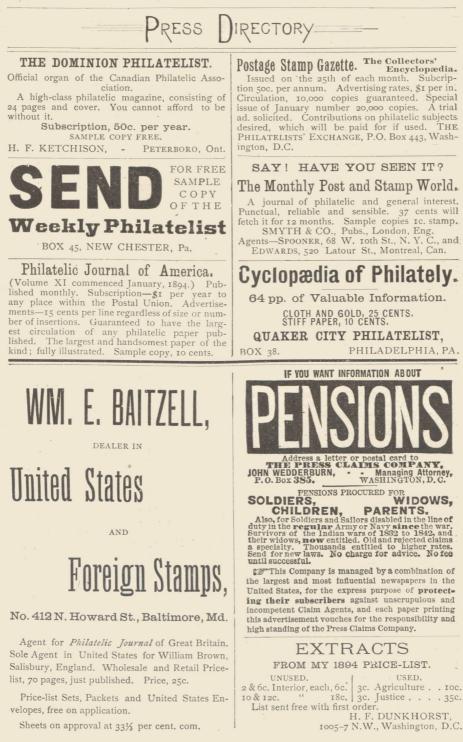
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The Quaker City Philatelist.

VOL. IX.

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MAY, 1894.

No. 5.

PHILATELIC OPTIMISM.

BY FREDERICK S. FOX.

PTIMISM," says old Noah Webster, in a book styled Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, " is the doctrine that everything in nature is ordered for the best." Optimism is an excellent word—a very excellent word, and it represents a very excellent doctrine, too. I have noted, with feelings of mingled surprise and sorrow, that in recent numbers of several philatelic magazines, many of our writers are prone to manifest a display of a certain something altogether different from optimism. Webster calls it "pessimism"—and it is this optimism and this pessimism which I intend to discuss in this article.

Living as we do, in this era of progress and prosperity for all philatelic matters-for no one will deny that this is the most auspicious period since the very birth of our hobby-we have every reason to be optimistic in our talks, our writings and our general doings, and why, from month to month, we should be inflicted with prosaic ebullitions of pessimism by scribes who would convey the idea that we are "retrogressing," or some such fallacy, for fallacy it certainly is, why, I say, this should be the lamentably true condition of affairs, is utterly beyond my perhaps limited powers of comprehension. Here, as I write, I have before me a copy of a paper which we will entitle the Philatelic Bazoo. In one of the articles therein the writer maintains that something is wrong. He believes, according to his actual statements, that dealers are daily taking advantage of collectors, that our philatelic societies are setting the pace that leads to destruction and that in the not distant future they will be of no further consequence or use, and that new issues of stamps are increasing at so alarming a rate that the catalogue compiler will in a few years be at his wits' ends when he attempts to classify and subdivide the innumerable varieties and denominations appearing every month ; the inevitable result being the ultimate hindrance of the further prosecution of the interests of our glorious hobby. He concludes by asking us where philately will be fifty years hence, assuming that the dealers will continue to " bleed," and the societies to disintegrate and the stamps to multiply. Now then, my gentle readers, don your thinking caps and answer him! Where will philately be, or better, where do you think it will be?

A second example of this doctrine which differs so widely from philatelic optimism: In another Journal I read from the pen of one of our most gifted authors that many of the productions of his brother writers for the philatelic press are too radical to a degree. He maintains that they teem with enthusiastic misrepresentations, and that skeptical outsiders are thereby constrained to deem Philately ever so greatly greater a delight or pastime than it actually is. Well, perhaps this is true. If or my part hope that it is true, for no harm will accrue and it will help to convince me that amid these hordes of croakers and pessimists there are still loyal optimists remaining

After reading effusions such as the above, I am of the opinion that a talk on "Philatelic Optimism" is decidedly in order. I have cited these two instances of the doctrine called pessimism to introduce a subject of an opposite nature, and right here, I wish to ask you a question: Why should not all of us be optimists? Indeed, why should not every member of the philatelic fraternity become a disciple of the doctrine which knows no croakings or lamentations, and which inspires us to work for the advancement of a cause we love so well, and which we wish to foster and encourage? Those who have never embraced philatelic optimism cannot realize how great and glorious a doctrine it really is. And we have no use for croakers in our ranks; those to whom pessimism is a cardinal virtue, and who cherish it as a salient watchword. Those writers in the *Bazoo* and the other journal which I have referred to—they are representative types of the philatelic pessimist. Do you want to be like them? Is it your fond desire to sit in your chair and twirl your thumbs, pondering over the dark side of the present, and reflecting on the whereabouts of our hobby fifty years hence, if, indeed, it will be at all? Do you wish to forever croak and croak because one member of the journalistic fraternity chanced to be too enthusiastic in his praises of fair Philatelia? If you do, why then I would advise you to place your album on the shelf, and, I might add, lock the shelf, for Philatelia recognizes no croakers.

Perhaps our friends of the anti-optimistic persuasion are laboring under the impression that they have justifiable reasons to support them in the stand they have taken. Possibly the writer for the Bazoo has been truly "bled" by a dealer or by a stamp society. If this is a fact, I'll wager it occurred through his own carelessness. In nine cases out of ten, those who receive the underside of the argument with a dealer-I mean in cases where gross fraud and misrepresentation exist-usually patronize irresponsible and unscrupulous fellows, regardless of the fact that there are dealers in our fraternity who are transacting a legitimate business; that we have professional dealers like the great outside world has butchers and bakers and candlestick makers, who can illy afford to conduct their business transactions in a "shady" manner, and on whom we should bestow our patronage, however extensive or insignificant it may be. And then, my dear writer for the Bazoo, since one dealer has played the "flimflam game" on you, does it signify that all other dealers are in the habit of daily taking advantage of collectors, as you state? Let's reason together. If a member of your church is discovered to be a rascal, does it follow that every other member of that church, from the minister himself down to the humblest communicant, is a thief and a cut-throat and an all-around bad man ? Such an argument is utterly foundationless in fact.

Then, too, there are those of us who are unfortunate enough to be by nature pessimistic—it is born in them. And, indeed, we all, I think, at various stages of our philatelic careers, have been visited with attacks of gloominess when we think of abandoning our hobby and selling our album and its precious contents, and withdrawing from the little world which to us once held so many of earth's treasures dear. But such visitations are only occasional, and they simply act as reminders that

> "Into each life, some rain must fall; Some days must be dark and dreary."

How strangely true those words seem now. Grand inspiration of Longfellow's! In their charming simplicity, they stand for a more powerful truism than has ever been expressed by pen or by word of mouth!

I have titled this talk "Philatelic Optimism." Perhaps 'twere better to change it to "Philatelic Pessimism," since I have discoursed largely on the latter subject. But it was unavoidable, and now that I am about to consign my pen to its case, I hope that my remarks may be a means of enlightenment to more than one brother collector whose days are dark and dreary, and whereby he may be converted to the side of philatelic optimism, where we are in the habit of looking on the bright side of the question. These where-are-we-at and what-are-we-coming-to effusions are becoming too numerous, and they should be suppressed, for they will ramify and be productive of no little evil. If, in fifty years from this 16th day of May, A.D. 1804, the stamps will have continued to multiply, as predicted by our friend in the *Bazoo*, there will not be any harm in owning a set of catalogues, provided that a single volume will then prove too ungainly. *Then* we'll have a Philatelic Encyclopædia Britannica! And as regards the disintegration of our grand societies which never were before on a more substantial, footing, and the other insane arguments advanced by those who are forever groping in the dark, I can only say—and I hope that like a true philatelic optimist you will join with me—Ridiculous drivel! Misguided sentiment! False logic! And rendered doubly so, when we reflect that at no time since the word "Philately" was coined, or since stamp-collecting was thought of, has our cause been more prosperous, more universally recognized, in fine, more favored by Fortune in every way, than in this golden era of the present.

THE POSTAL SERVICE OF CHINA. SHANGHAI AND COREA.

Additional news just received March 20th.

Creation of an Imperial postal service in China. It was elaborated by Sir Robert Hart, and his scheme has now been approved. From his memorial last spring to the Throne it appears that he intends to place a foreign postal superintendent of the land and water services at the capital city of each province, and an ordinary European postmaster in each prefectoral city, assisted, of course, principally at the beginning, by English-educated Chinese clerks of the staff; while the district cities, as well as the more important unwalled market towns, will be in charge of trained Chinese only. This concerns inland and non-treaty ports only; and the whole, not counting the Chinese in the departments, will scarcely include 200 foreigners. With regard to the treaty ports the service will be managed by a larger number of foreigners, mostly detached from the maritime customs, numbering, say, 400 men, so that the total number of Europeans to be connected with the new postal service will not come up to 600 men of all ranks.

The new post-offices, where practicable, will be joined with the telegraph offices, and the usual courier service (mounted and on foot) which has hitherto only carried Government despatches throughout the length and breadth of the land, will also be introduced into the new scheme, and be specially used as heretofore—but under European superintendence—to carry memorials to the Throne from high provincial authorities, and the official correspondence of the various yamên. Here the system of "franking" will be exchanged for that of the yamên seal of the official sender.

As to the private Chinese postal agencies, whose name is legion, and who have

DÜNELËF POTIK PLO CINAN JANGAI & KÓRE.

(Volapukan.)

Jafam dünelefa potik limepik in Cinän. At pevobädom fa Sir Robert Hart, e ployeg oma pezepom ya. Segun penot omik Limepübe timü flolatim lätik, jinos das desinom cälön sulogeli potik foginik dünelefas tetöl län e flums in glezif plovina alik, e potali komunik yulopik in zif präfetik alik, kel, natiko, poyufom begino fa dünans cinänik pedaduköl fa nelijänans. Zifs stükik, äsi malitazifs veütikum no laböl daemis, pogovoms te fa cinänans pejulöl. Löpnikos tefom te zifis ninlänik e nebalamapofis (o.b. pofis tefü kels balams ko foginels no sibinoms): e löl, sekikü cinänans dünelefa, osuämom töbo fogiinels 200. Tefü balamapofs dünelef pogovom fa möd gletikum foginelas, pedesumöl mödiküno de toladöps melanik, suämöl, ze, mans 400, sodas möd lölik yulopanas pofetanöl dünelefe nulik potik no osuämom mans 600 cädas valik.

Potacems nulik, aikö mögos, pofetanoms telegafacemes, e dünelef spidelas (monitelik e futanik), kel epolom jünu te nünis sölefik daü län lölik, ponindukom leiko ini ployeg nulik, e pogebom plo düns patik äsliko jünu—ab pagovöl fa yulopans—al polön penotis Limepübe de löpefs geilik plovinas, e spodis calik elas yamêns mänifodik. Tefü atos, sit "flänama" povotom al sit snila yamên ik sedela calalik.

Tefü dunanäts plivadik potik cinäna, kels binoms nenumik e kels laboms klübi a large guild in Shanghai, they will be closed by Government, but their staffs will be allowed to join the new Government services, which will, therefore, have a band of experienced men—experienced as far as the localities and addresses are concerned—at disposal, while opposition will be disarmed.

It is not intended during the first year or so to go beyond the treaty ports, the sea-coast towns and cities along the Yangtse. Thence it will be gradually extended inland until, within the space of six or seven years at most, it is expected that there will be no town or large-sized village in the empire without its post-office. Especially will the new Government postal service be a boon to the poorer classes of Chinese. A glance at the usual scale of prices will explain this. From Pekin to Shanghai a letter costs 10 to 65 cents; Pekin to Canton 20 to 25 cents; Pekin to Yunnan 50° cents, and so on. The " wine money," or postage fee, is variable according to the ignorance of the recipient, and the usual fee of 10 to 15 cents in its elasticity sometimes mounts up to 40 or 45 cents. There is a similar state of chaos and uncertainty in the delivery of parcels, and there can be little doubt that, founded upon a liberal basis and under the able foreign direction and working which Sir Robert Hart may be trusted to recommend, an Imperial postal service will confer very considerable benefits upon the country.

gletik in Shanghai, ats pokikoms fa sölef, ab dunelef omas podälom fetanön oki dünelefe nůlik solefa, kel sukü atos olabom kopefi manas eplaköl—eplaköl aliko tefü topöfs e ladets—keli okanom gebön, dü tadun podevatom.

No desinon ovobädön du yels nilikün ba tel, plö balamapofs, zifils melajola e zifs ve flum Yangtse. Usa sit popakom slepo ini ninlän jüs, unü yelüps mäl u vel, pavalädos, zifil nonik ni pag nepülik in Limepän osibinom nen potacem okik. Lepatiko dünelef nulik potik sölefa obinom benod klades pöfikum cinänanas. Logedön lisedi kösömik tefü kost sedöna penedis, oseplänos atosi. Sedön penedi de Pekin al Shanghai, kostos sentabs 10.jü 65; de Pekin al Canton, sentabs 20 jü 25; de Pekin al Yunnan, sentabs 50, e somikos. El "wine money" (vinamon), u potadüt, binom cenlik a segun nesev getela peneda, e düt kösömik sentabs 10 jü 15 kodü lastin okik mödom oki sotimo jü sentabs 40 jü 45. Stad sümik neföma e nezeläda sibinom tefü segivam päkedas, e kanon töbo dotön das dünelef potik limepik at, keli Sir Robert Hart okomedom nedoto, pestaböl su gleplisips libälik e pasulogöl e padileköl fa foginels skilik, oblinom benodis leno pülik Cinäne.

(One Mankind, one Language.)

(Menade bal Puki bal.)

PARCELS POST SYSTEM.

An Arrangement in Effect between the United States and Newfoundland.

POSTMASTER CARR has received notice that a parcels post system of exchanges has been established between the United States and Newfoundland, beginning on the 1st instant, and continuing in force until terminated by mutual agreement or annulled at the desire of either department upon six months' previous notice given to the other. It was signed January 8, 1894, at Washington, and at St. Johns on January 25, 1894, by the Postmaster General on behalf of the United States, and by James Oliphant Fraser for Newfoundland, and was subsequently ratified by the President and by Sir J. Terence O'Brien, Governor for Newfoundland and its dependencies.

The convention relates only to parcels, and does not affect the arrangements existing under the Universal Union Postal Convention, but applies exclusively to mails exchanged under the stipulations of the Parcels Post Convention. Articles of merchandise and mail matter may be forwarded—except letters, post-cards, and written matter—of all kinds that are admitted under any conditions to the domestic mails of the country of origin, except that a packet may not exceed eleven pounds nor certain dimensions. Admission is prohibited to publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination, and other articles which are destructive of health, good morals, or which in any way damage or destroy the mails or injure the persons handling them.

All admissible articles of merchandise mailed in one country for another or received in one country from another shall be free from any detention or inspection whatever except what is required for collection of customs duties. The postage must be fully prepaid with stamps of the country of origin, and for a parcel not exceeding one pound in weight 12 cents will be charged, and for each additional pound or fraction of a pound 12 cents.

The parcels will be promptly delivered to the addressees at the Post-offices of address in the country of destination free of charge for postage; but it may, at its option, levy and collect postage from the addressees for interior service and delivery, and charge the amount which is to be fixed according to its own regulations, but which shall in no case exceed five cents for each parcel, whatever its weight.

Other articles of the Parcels Post Convention arrange for the use of the registry system and provide for declarations to meet the requirements of customs revenue statutes, and each country retains for its own use the whole of the postage, registration and delivery fees, so that there are no separate accounts between the two countries, and some other provisions have been inserted relating to various details of the service.

NEW ISSUES.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

Azores.—The Don Henry Jubilee stamps of Portugal are surcharged "Azores" for use in these islands.

Baden.—Our European contemporaries are mentioning the "discovery" of a 9 kreuzer of the first issue printed on green; it is probably a fake.

Belgium.—The souvenir stamps of the Antwerp exhibition are very similar in appearance to the regular issue of Sunday stamps; their use is not confined to the exhibition and they are good for postage at all Post-offices in the Kingdom. There are three values—5c. green on rose, 10c. carmine on blue; 25c. blue on rose.

Bolivia.—There are three post-cards with stamps of the new design. Ic. yellow brown on pale green; 2c. blue on buff, and a double 2c. card.

Br. Bechuanaland.—The *Ill. Brief. Fournal* says that the Great Britain wrappers exist with the name of this colony surcharged in red instead of black.

Bulgaria.—The unpaid letter stamps are being re-engraved with slight, though distinct changes in the design. We have only heard of the 5st. so far.

Canada.—When the United States issued the large-size postal card Canada followed suit. They have now reduced it to conform to our new card, which is the regulation size of the Postal Union.

Fernando Po.—At last we have a baby king stamp from this small Spanish colony; it is a loc. violet brown. A I, 2 and 5c. are promised.

France.—Other unpaid letter stamps in new colors are as follows: 50c. puce, 60c. brown, 1fr. pink. They all come imperforate for use in the colonies.

Greece.—We hear of several values of the unpaid letter stamps imperforate.

Philippine Islands.—*Le T. P.* mentions the following new colors in the current stamps: 1, 2 and 5mil. olive, $\frac{1}{8}$ c. brown, 2c. carmine, $2\frac{1}{8}$ c. gray, 5c. yellow green, 8c. brown violet, 15c. red.

Roumania.—A new set is in use; they have the same head as last issue, but with different frames; the 1¹/₂b. black, 3b. brown, 5b. blue, 10b. green, 15b. red are out; the balance of the set will follow shortly.

South Australia.—The *Stamp News* says : "The permanent $2\frac{1}{2}d$. and 5d. stamps are in use, they have the queen's head, the former is bluish lilac and the latter brownish purple. We have not seen the stamps and do not know whether these are new colors or new names for old colors."

Tobago.—The 1sh. yellow brown now comes watermarked C. A.

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OUR EXCHANGES.

, All exchanges will be noticed hereafter under this heading.

- No. 3.
- American Philatelic Magazine, Vol. ii, No. 6.
- Australian Stamp News, Vol. i, No. 8.
- Briefmarken Anzeiger, Vol. i, No. 4.
- Briefmarken Journal, 21st year, Nos. 6, 7, 8.
- Briefmarken Offertenblatt, 3d year, No. 33.
- Briefmarken Zeitung, Vol. vii, Nos. 10, 11, 12,
- Bristol County Stamp News.
- Buenos Aires Postal, Vol. i, Nos. 2, 3.
- Canadian Philatelist.
- Collector, Vol. iv, No. 6.
- Detroit Philatelist, Vol. ii, Nos. 11, 12.
- Die Post, Vol. i, No. 7.
- Eastern Philatelist.
- Echo de la Timbrologie, April, 1894, No. 31.
- Electric Philatelist.
- Evergreen State Philatelist, Vol. i, Nos. 3, 4.
- Filatelic Facts and Fancies, Vol. ii, No. 18.
- Iowa Philatelic Weekly, Vol. i, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Monthly Journal, "Stanley Gibbons," Vol. iv, No. 45.

- American Journal of Philately, Vol. vii, Monthly Post and Stamp World, Vol. i, No. 7.
 - Pennsylvania Philatelist, Vol. v, No. 5. Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser.
 - 66 Comfort, Vol. i, Nos. 1, 2.
 - "
 - Era, Vol. viii, Nos. 4, 5. Journal of America, Vol. xi, 66
 - No. 112. Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, Vol. iv,
 - No. 40.
 - Philatelic Kaleidoscope, Vol. i, No. 6. 66
 - Monthly. 66
 - Tribune, Vol. xviii, Nos. 5, 6. 66
 - Visitor.
 - Californian, Vol. i, No. 7.
 - Post Office, Vol. iii, Nos. 36, 37.
 - Recreation Echo, Vol. i, No. 10.
 - Reporter, Vol. ii, No. 9.
 - Southern Philatelist, Vol. v, Nos. 3, 4.
 - {Vol. ii, Nos. 11, 12, " iii, No. 1. Stamp,
 - Stamp Collectors' Journal. Vol. xvi, No. 186.
 - Stamp News, Vol. x, No. 95.
 - Timbre Poste, Nos. 376, 377.
 - Union, 2d year, No. 8.
 - Weekly Philatelist, Vol. ii, Nos. 74, 75, 76, 77, 78.
 - Weekly Stamp News, (Mekeel's) Vol. iv, No. 174.

AUCTION SALES.

AUCTION SALES.	180	4
JANUARY 24	, 109	4.
PUTTICK & SIMPSON SALE. Great Britain.	S.	d.
ter en la seconda de la se		
S. Australia, Id., imperf., pair, fine 4	0	0
Moldavia, 27 paras, pair, fine 12	0	0
	15	0
" 108 " " 6	0	0
Naples, ½ toonose, blue, arms 17	0	0
Spain, 1851, front of envelope with pair of 2 reales, block of eight,		
Io reales, all lightly canceled	0	0
United States, set of State, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20 25	0	0
VENTOM, BULL & COOPER.—19th, 20th, 21st and 23d, 1894.		
	-	-
Geeat Britain, V. R	0	0
" " £5 orange 2	0	0
Saxony, 3 pf	0	Ő
Moldavia, 108 paras	0	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, unused 20	0	0
Switzerland, Geneva, used 22	0	0
" Poste Locale, plate of forty 32	10	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie, unused 14	0	0
" 3 lire 26	0	0
Russia, 2097 Locals 115	0	0
Cape of Good Hope, wood block, error, blue 42	0	0
Mauritius, second issue, 2d. blue 21	10	0
Canada, 12d. black 50	0	0
Newfoundland, 1sh. carmine red 19	0	0
British Guiana, 1850, 4c. yellow 23	0	0
Victoria, 5sh. blue on yellow, unused 7°	5	0
MR. CHEVELEY'S SALE.—February 14,1 894.		
Switzerland, Basle, 2 ¹ / ₂ r 3	0	0
Ceylon (Star), 2sh., perf., I	3	0
Afghanistan, 1293, I sunar, tablet 4	10	0
Natal, first issue, 9d 23	10	0
Lynchburg, 5c. blue, pair 13	0	0
Turks Island, 1sh. prune 6	15	0
Nova Scotia, 1sh. plum 7	10	0
South Australia, 10d., surcharged, invested 5	12	6
New South Wales, 8d. yellow I	8	0
Hadlon's Sale.—February 16, 1894.		2
	10	
Great Britain, V. R		0
Cevion 8d impf. star fine	5	0
Ceylon, 8d., Impf., <i>star</i> , fine	0	0
	8	0
	5	0
Cullucity of 2 at Broom Transformer Transforme		0
West Australia, 1sh. roul., first issue I	5	0

AT THE POST-OFFICE.

Smart Ellick Any letters here for me?			
Clerk.—No, sir.			
Smart Ellick How do you know ? You	don't know	my	name.
Clerk This is the stamp window.			

A FOUR YEARS' RETROSPECT.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

PERHAPS it was an unkind fate that prompted me to pick up a copy of the Fiftieth Edition Standard Catalogue this evening, and compare the prices of stamps then and now.

A short step it seems between fifty and fifty-four, but to the collector with a small purse and large desires to fill the blank spaces within the covers of his album, it is a step which he cannot take.

A young English tourist who was viewing the boundless prairies and the lofty mountains of the West, by chance located for a brief while in Colorado and soon learned a lesson in estimating distances.

One day, leaving his hotel, he noticed a mountain which looked invitingly upon him and impelled a desire in his breast to make the ascent and drink of the beauties of that region from the summit.

Now this young Britisher, accustomed to the fog and mist of his narrow, native isle, had not learned of the treachery of this clear, mountain air, and estimating, from an English standpoint, that the lofty mountain could not be more than two or three miles distant, started to walk out there. He walked for hours and hours and still seemed to be as far from the rising wall of granite and quartz boulders as he was at the start. But as he was endowed with an indomitable spirit he pushed on and on until the day wore away and still apparently as far away from the lofty peak as before. At last, meeting a prospector who was going into town, he stopped and very politely asked him how far it was to the mountain. He was informed that it was "close on to ten miles." His heart sank within him and he concluded to return to the hotel. So joining the prospector he retraced his steps, weary and worn.

The prospector knowing every by-path and short-cut struck off from the traveled road and going down a steep incline came to the banks of a little mountain stream possibly eight or ten feet wide.

He urged the Englishman to jump across and he'd follow, but much to his surprise the sturdy Britisher stoutly refused and jumping into the stream instead, he waded across to the opposite side, regained his footing on the farther bank and shouted across : "I'm not going to take any chances on distance hereafter. That only looked to be a few feet wide but it might be a mile, and I'd just as soon swim from the start."

So it is with the stamp collectors who have vainly sought to estimate the increased cost of certain stamps in forthcoming catalogues. We have tried to content ourselves with the thought that we'd be able to attain the coveted prize in one year more, just as did the visiting Englishman think that each successive mile would bring him to the mountain's side, and the result has been with us, as it was with him, that we are bewildered and incredulous, and are in such fear of our incompetency to estimate that we are forced to jump in and wade out.

I see by my album that I need quite a number of Prussia's, Lubeck's and Mecklenburg's. I could have purchased them four years ago at a moderate cost, but I thought that in a few years, when our hobby should become better known and the market prices obtainable should be noised about in these countries, that the supply would increase and the prices come down in consequence. But I reckoned without my host, for I failed to include in my calculations the probable increase in demand as well as supply and I am confronted with a dilemma, neither horn of which I care to seize.

And this brings the reflection, that we had well consider the question as to where these prices are ever going to stop. With the army of collectors constantly increasing, the supply of these stamps nearly exhausted, a supply inadequate to the demand, will it not be a case of the man with the largest purse taking all the blue ribbons?

This review of an old catalogue may cause me to take a melancholy view of the affair, but there is, at least, grounds for viewing the matter in this light, and profiting by this little review of prices covering only four brief years.

THE POSTAL SERVICE OF CHINA, SHANGHAI AND COREA.

HE younger class of American stamp collectors, for whose special benefit I have written this article, are always in the dark about the "interior" postal service in the lands of "gods" Confucius, Buddha, etc., and therefore I will inform the numerous readers of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST about this important matter. I begin with the "Celestial Empire" (China), situated in Asia, and ruled by an Emperor-dictator, who resides in the capital Peking. In the flowery empire, China, " Post-offices are an unknown thing, as John Chinaman does not write much, and therefore the mail trade is without any importance as regards revenues derived therefrom." The Chinese mail for "foreign countries" is forwarded by the Post-offices of England, Germany, France, and the United States mail will soon be forwarded by a United States Postal Agent located at Shanghai and Hong Kong. The Chinese mail matter from the interior to Shanghai and from Shanghai to the interior is forwarded mostly by private messengers, alias runners, but this service has nothing whatever to do with the postage stamps of China, as we call them. China, as an Empire, has no postage stamps at all—as there are no Post-offices in China! The stamps of China, I candareen green, Ic. green, 3c. red, 3c. violet, 5c. yellow, 1875, 5c. yellow, 1885, watermark, are issued by the Chinese "Sea Custom House," whose head office is in Shanghai. This Custom House has "Governmental power," and is acting as a Post-office for Chinese "interior" mail matter, all of which "must" bear the Chinese postage stamp (compulsory) if it is mailed by the Custom House authorities. The postal route begins in Shanghai, and mail is delivered to the Chinese ports, "Amoy, Chettoo, Ching Kiang, Foochow, Aehang, King Kang, Nanking, Newchiang, Ningpo, Pagoda aug Horage, Shwaton, Taku, Wenschow (those ports are open for foreign trade), and the mail is carried by Chinese and Japanese steamers. Mail from the city of Tientsin to the capital Peking is forwarded by postal messengers on foot, who run also to the northern parts in winter time, when the Chinese Sea is frozen. The Chinese postal messengers leave the Chinese Custom House at Shanghai always one day after the arrival of the American and European mail steamers, and return from their often perilous trips within fourteen days to Shanghai, bringing along such mail matter as people have given them, and which they receive from the Chinese Custom Houses in the above-named ports.

The regular Chinese postal service, where the Chinese postage stamps are used, has been for some years also extended to the ports of Chemulpo, Fusan and Wösan (in Corea, the neighbor land). The annual tax for delivering the people's mail to the named ports is fixed at \$30, but single letters and parcels are also received on payment of the required postage stamps. All mail matter delivered at the Chinese Custom House from those annual subscribers (\$30 tax) is forwarded free of charge (that means without affixing postage stamps); but the mail from all non-subscribers must bear the Chinese postage stamps. These stamps of China are perforated, and are manufactured by Chinese " artists?" in Peking and in Shanghai. Sometimes there are to be seen also " unperforated" stamps (but seldom); these " unperforated " stamps never have been used by the people, but are used as " samples" pasted upon the packages with stamps, sent to the Chinese Custom Houses in the above-named ports. If the wrapper is loosened from the parcels, the " sample" unperforated stamp shall be torn to pieces (divided) and thrown away; but smart "John Chinaman" sometimes pastes the two pieces together and uses the stamp made as postage fee.

Of course, such "unperforated" stamps (pasted together) of China have no value whatever for philatelists. The present issue of postage stamps of China bear as "watermark" a shell, and are of such a color which, if put long in water, the colors will run together. The Chinese call this watermark sign "Ying Yang," and regard it as a sign of good luck, just the same as we Americans do the "Horseshoe" sign above the door or inside. Now I come to Shanghai. The stamps of Shanghai are issued by the "municipality," that means the leading "Christian and Jewish citizens," who have there a local Post-office of their own, erected in the year 1863. All foreign governments have been notified of this, and this local Post-office of Shanghai is recognized as an independent Post-office within the limits of Shanghai and to the above-named ports in China and Corea, where this local Post-office also forwards mail. The first postage stamps of Shanghai were issued in 1865, and as the list of the stamps is too long, I refer you to the catalogue.

The annual tax for subscribing to the Post-office for the forwarding of mail is 50 taels = \$90. The most of the foreign merchants in Shanghai and the above-named ports in China and Corea are annual subscribers, and for such mail no postage stamps as prepayment are used, so, as a matter of course, there are more unused stamps than used stamps on the market. Remember this! Although the Post-office at Shanghai is only a "local Post-office," the postage stamps issued by this office are recognized as regular postage stamps, as their circulation is international (from Shanghai through China and Corea), and the international philatelic authorities have decided so, and collectors can collect them in good faith. Now I will inform you about " Corea." This small country is the neighbor of China (across the Chinese Sea), and always has been tributary and politically dependent on China, and still is so, although the King of Corea will be independent and tries to have things as he likes. In the ports of Seoul (capital), Chemulpo, Fusan, Wönsan (Corea), Japan and China own the Post-offices, which are recognized as O. K. by Corea-because it must be O. K. There is also a Corean State Postal Service, but this service is only for official mail matter and as a passenger post for Corean officials. There are 6000 postal horses in Corea for the convenience of the officials while traveling in their official capacity. In the year of 1884 the "Premier" of Corea, a "German nobleman, Von Moellendorf," in high favor with the King of Corea, established a postal service according to German customs and manners, as good as possible. Under his regime the postage stamps of Corea were issued in the year 1884, vide: 5 mons. carmine, 10 mons. blue. These stamps were manufactured in Tokio (Japan), by the Japanese Government printing office. A second order was given for the manufacture of the values 25 mons. orange, 50 mons. green, 100 mons. blue rose, but meantime an insurrection occurred in Corea, the Postmaster General was killed, and postal matters came to decay. The Japanese ship carrying the stamps 25, 50 and 100 mons, arrived in the Corean capital Seoul long after the Post-office was closed, and those high values "never have been used" by the Post-office, which was a thing of the past. Therefore, these high values, 25, 50 and . 100 mons., unused, have no value whatever from a collector's standpoint, though the stamps are all right. They have been sold to stamp dealers to get the outlaid money back. There are no regular Post-offices in Corea, and mail matter to foreign countries is forwarded by the Post-offices of Japan, China and Shanghai, located in Corea.

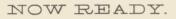
Some Washington lawyers know a good deal about pensions. That is a complicated subject, and a man who is familiar with it has no time to be very expert in anything else. Some other lawyers are well acquainted with patents, but know nothing about pensions. Others know something of the land laws, but are innocent of ideas concerning pensions and patents.

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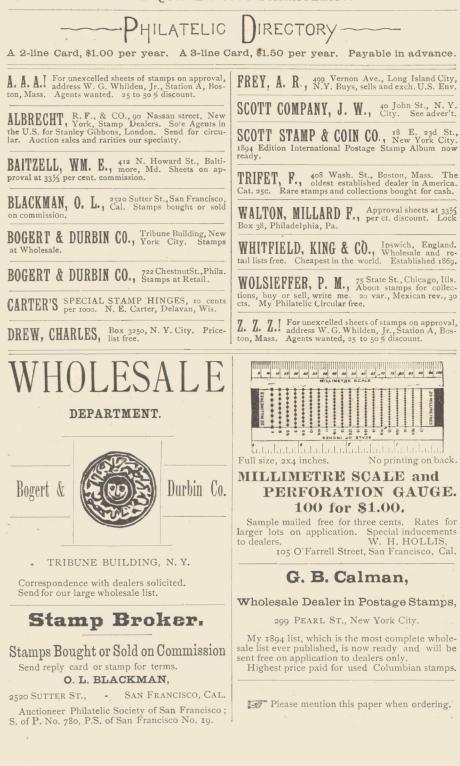
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