

STAMP COLLECTING

Some time ago the use of postage stamps was prohibited in Afghanistan. Now, however, it is reported in the "Philatellesches Echo" that the order has been rescinded, and a new set of stamps issued.

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The 2½ stamp of Gibraltar was only issued for eight or ten weeks on chalk surfaced paper, when it appeared again on white paper. Concerning the 2½ lilac and black on blue paper with multiple watermark, a writer from Gibraltar stated that there were only 200 sheets of 120 stamps each, of which number 75 sheets were bought by local investors.

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The first issue of stamps for British New Guinea was made in 1901. The stamps over-printed "Iapua" were issued this year, the total face value being £437 12s 6d. The quantities over-printed were as follows:—Halfpenny, 29,190; penny, 48,060; twopenny, 70,170; twopenny halfpenny, 25,230; fourpence, only 8100; sixpence, 11,550; one shilling, 13,390; two and sixpence, 13,410. It is stated that all the old issue was over-printed, and that when these are sold any fresh issue will be printed in Australia, therefore an entirely new stamp will most likely be issued. This is one of the instances where the stamps without the overprint are likely to be the scarcest.

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We have often heard of issues of stamps to aid hospitals and various charitable schemes, but according to the "Public Ledger" of Philadelphia, Turkey has broken out with a new idea, namely a sale of 17,000,000 stamps to aid a railway. The article reads as follows:—"Chikib Bey, the Turkish Minister, has announced that his Government has a collection of 17,000,000 postage stamps, which will be sold at auction in August and the proceeds donated to the Higaz Railway, which is being constructed from Damascus to Beirut. Funds for building this railroad are being subscribed by the National Government, the various municipalities, and by citizens who desire to contribute. When completed the road will be operated by a commission designated by the Government. The collection of stamps which the Turkish Government has contributed, consists of more than 100 denominations, issued by Turkey during the last 43 years. Minister Bey will receive bids for the collection and forward them to Constantinople."

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For the information of collectors, the following interesting warning is reproduced from "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News":—"The market is at present being flooded with high value British Colonial stamps which have been fiscally used, cleaned, and cancelled with imitation postmarks, which in some cases are beautifully done. An Italian dealer offered a client of our publisher's the following: Gold Coast, 10/- and £1 cleaned, forged postmark; Seychelles, genuine unuse-1 75c., 1½, and 2½, with various forged postmarks (both bars and letters); Straits 2d., cleaned, the postmark may be genuine; Straits 5d., cleaned, apparently genuine postmark; Straits 5d., with a mark inscribed "Penang C." if genuine it is probably a fiscal cancellation; Fiji 2½, cleaned, forged postmark. A Marcellis dealer sends an approval selection, and in it we note the following: Natal, £5, previously fiscally used and cleaned; with a very good imitation of the "Kleinport" (1) postmark, dated 26.2.04; the "6" of the date is reversed, however. Price, 15 francs. Bahamas, £1 Queen, with traces of pen-marking, postmarked "Bahamas B. JA 26 87." The price asked is 10 francs. Victoria, Gibbons' No. 44, cat. 30/-, mint, well-centred, price 37.50. This stamp shows some slight trace of having been cleaned. From a third source we have quite a collection of fiscally used Bahamas, some with genuine postmarks and others with forged postmarks."

In his "Historie des Timbre-Poste Francais," M. Arthur Mawrys gives as the reason for the abandonment of the design of the stamps in 1848 in favour of the far less artistic one of 1876, that "Everything that was republican was regarded with disfavour by the majority of the men in power in the curious French Republic of that date; the postage stamp, with its design of 1848, excited the ridicule of the reactionary newspapers, they called it the stamp e la Mary Ann, and this was considered quite humorous; it was suggested that the stamp should be stuck upside down upon the letters, etc; people discovered that the numerals were too small, that the design printed badly, that it was easy to counterfeit; in short the stamp with the ellyth of Liberty was condemned and efforts were made to provide it with a successor, the design of which should have no political significance."

The Good Old Times.

BY ANDREW CARNEGIE.

The problem of our age is the proper administration of wealth, that the ties of brotherhood may still bind together the rich and poor in harmonious relationship. The conditions of human life have not only been changed but revolutionised within the past few hundred years. In former days there was little difference between the dwelling, dress, food and environment of the chief and those of his retainers. The Indians are to-day where civilized man was. When visiting the Sioux I was led to the wigwam of the chief. It was like the others in external appearance, and even within the difference was trifling between it and those of the poorest of his braves. The contrast between the palace of the millionaire and the cottage of the labourer with us to-day measures the change which has come with civilization, and is not to be deplored, but welcomed as highly beneficial. It is as well, nay, essential, for the progress of the race that the houses of some should be homes for all that is highest and best in literature and the arts, and for all the refinements of civilisation. Without wealth there can be no Maccenas. The "good old times" were not good old times. Neither master nor servant was as well situated then as to-day. A relapse to old conditions would be disastrous to both—not the least so to him who serves—and would sweep away civilization with it.

But whether the change is for good or for evil, it is upon us, beyond our power to alter, and therefore to be accepted and made the best of. It is a waste of time to criticise the inevitable.

It is easy to see how the change has come. One illustration will serve for almost every phase of the cause. In the manufacture of products we have the whole story. It applies to all combinations of human industry, as stimulated and enlarged by the inventions of this scientific age.

Formerly articles were manufactured at the domestic hearth, or in small shops which formed part of the household.

The master and his apprentices worked side by side, the latter living with the master, and, therefore, subjects to the same conditions.

When these apprentices rose to be masters there was little or no change in their mode of life, and they, in turn, educated succeeding apprentices in the same routine. There was, substantially, social equality, and even political equality, for those engaged in industrial pursuits had little or no voice in the State. The inevitable result of such a mode of manufacture was crude articles at high prices. To-day the world obtains commodities of excellent qualities at prices which even the preceding generation would have deemed incredible.

In the commercial world similar causes have produced similar results, and the race is benefited thereby.

The poor enjoy what the rich could not before afford. What were the luxuries have become the necessities of life. The labourer has now more comforts than the farmer had a few generations ago. The farmer has more luxuries than the landlord had, and is more richly clad and better housed. The landlord has books and pictures rarer, and appointments more artistic than the king could then obtain. The price we pay for this salutary change is, of course, great. We assemble in the factory and in the mine thousands of operators of whom the employer can know nothing, and to whom the employer is little better than a myth.

All intercourse between them is at an end. Rigid castes are formed, and, as usual, mutual ignorance breeds mutual distrust.

Each caste is without sympathy for the other, and ready to credit anything disparaging in regard to it.

Under the law of competition the employer of thousands is forced into the strictest economies, among whom the wages paid to labour figure prominently, and often there is friction between the employer and the employee, between capital and labour, between rich and poor. Human society has lost homogeneity.

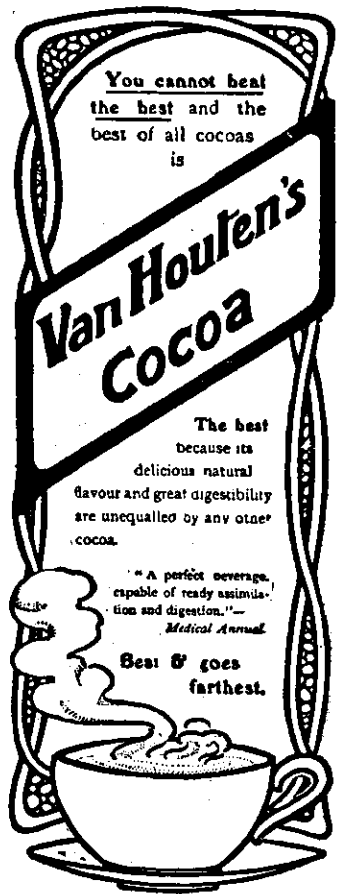
Two chauffeurs of Columbia, Indiana, adapted the methods of mediaeval tournaments to twentieth century life by fighting a duel with motor-cars.

They collided while driving through the town in their cars, and each claimed the other was responsible for the accident.

By way of proving his assertion one chauffeur reversed his car, ran back for some distance, and then came ahead at full speed against his opponent. The motor-cars met again with a terrific crash, and rebounded, but were apparently uninjured.

That was the beginning of the duel. In the presence of hundreds of spectators the maddened chauffeurs then proceeded to "hit" against each other. Collision followed collision, until one car was practically wrecked. The chauffeurs were nearly "unseated" several times.

When one car was disabled the driver dismounted, and attacked his rival with his fists. They fought savagely for several minutes until separated by the police.



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