

THE



NUTMEG STATE PHILATELIST.

VOLUME I.

DECEMBER, 1895.

NUMBER 1

HOW STAMPS ARE MADE.

There are many ways of making and printing stamps, all depending on the makers, their machinery, etc., and whether the stamp is engraved or lithographed. The following method is the one used by the principal engravers in London, England who make, most likely, three quarters of all the stamps that are used in the entire world. As soon as the large sheets of stamps come from the press they are gummed, the paste being made from clear starch or dextrine, which is prepared with perfectly pure chemicals, forming a clear, sweet mixture. Each sheet is taken separately, smeared with this paste, and laid between two wire

racks. After the gum dries, the sheets are pressed in an hydraulic press, then cut, as they are printed 200 at a time or in double sheet, this being done by hand with long shears.

Next follows the perforation, by a machine similar to a sewing machine in principle, but of course without thread. They are perforated first perpendicularly, then horizontally. Another pressing follows to get rid of the raised edges on the backs of the stamps, made by the dies, and this ends the manufacture.

During the process the sheets are counted no less than thirteen times, the number of sheets supplied watermarked, having to be accounted for by each workman through whose hands they pass.

In printing the stamp steel plates are used, upon each of which are engraved 200 stamps. If one stamp on a sheet be imperfect the whole sheet has to be destroyed and in that way alone it is said 100,000 are daily destroyed at Somerset House, the head stamp depot of London. As an illustration of the amount of business done by this firm, I would state that in one day four tons of stamps are issued and 40 gallons of gum are used, which, if spread out over a flat surface, would cover five square miles.— *W. Stevens Bacon.*

The U. S. P. O. D.

At the present time the United States Post Office Department is not a paying institution that is, its expense exceeds its receipts by some Seven Millions of Dollars each year. To be sure, at times this branch of the Government has provided a good revenue, but whenever it has gotten into such a condition that it shows enormous profit

a cut in the postal rates has followed.

The effect of cutting the course increases the number of packages sent by mail, since they can be sent more cheaply, but the same time makes necessary a vastly increased expenditure for a time Uncle Sam has his hand in his pocket year and make good the deficit.

In 1883 the department was at a profit, when the rate of postage was dropped from 3 to 2 cents a letter in the United States, Canada or Mexico. Since then the department has never been run at a profit, though it makes a better showing each succeeding year. At some time not far distant it probably yield such a large profit that the rates will again be lowered and we can send our letters at a low rate of one cent each.

The dark vermilion shade is the rarest of the shades of the Department stamps—

THE NUTMEG
STATE PHILATELIST.

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Editorial.

The first number of the NUTMEG STATE PHILATELIST is before

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*

In our next issue we will
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Dealers
Should try an
adv in the
N. S. P.

A Good Find.

One would suppose that by this time stamp collecting had become so general, and there were so many collectors scattered over our own as well as foreign lands, that one would no longer make any great finds of old stamps, but in spite of this it is a fact that not a month ago a collector chanced to find in a small Post Office somewhere out in Illinois about thirty uncancelled 9c stamps of the souvenir issue of 1857. These he purchased from the Postmaster at the face value of 90c. He offered them for sale and I understand they are finding a ready market at the price of Thirty Dollars (\$30) each which he has placed upon them. So you see he made a pretty good strike, all of which goes to show that it pays in our line, as well as in other lines of business to keep your eyes always open and your wits about you.

STAMP NOTES

Deep purple of the Justice Department, and rich green of the State Department are the shades. Water is very apt to be used on the War and Navy stamps.

The latest men uphold that the persons who buy stamps in preference to the cheaper grade are in this they are st.

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