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... THE ...

American Philatelist

(VOL. XI.)

AND

Year Book of the American Philatelic Association.



November, 1897.

PUBLISHED BY
THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION,

Under the Direction of the Official Board.

JOE F. BEARD, Secretary, - - - Muscatine, Iowa.

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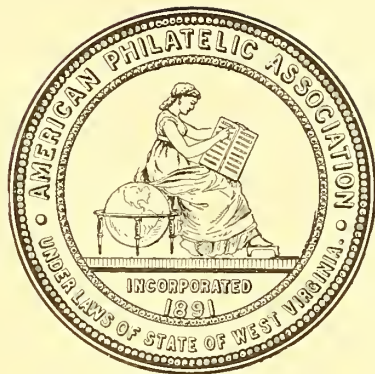
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... THE ...
AMERICAN PHILATELIST.

ANNUAL NUMBER, NOVEMBER, 1897.

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Hist (Phil)

BY-LAWS

OF THE

AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION,

As adopted at the Seventh Annual Convention, August 15th, 16th and 17th, 1892, and amended at the Twelfth Annual Convention, August 24-26, 1897.

ARTICLE I.—*Capital Stock.*

SECTION 1. Every certificate of stock issued by this Association shall be for a single share only, and shall be subject to the following terms and conditions, which shall be expressed upon its face: That the holder thereof has agreed with the Association and has accepted the said certificate with the understanding that it can be issued or transferred only to a person who has been duly elected a member of the Association in the manner provided by its By-Laws, and who is not the holder of any other share or certificate of its capital stock. That no transfer of said stock or the certificate thereof shall be valid unless made upon the books of the Association and signed by the member transferring the same, or his lawful attorney, and attested by the Secretary, and upon return of the outstanding certificate, which shall be canceled and filed by the Secretary. That the holder is liable for the payment to the Association of the annual dues provided for by the By-Laws, until the said stock and certificate is surrendered to the Association, and is not entitled to vote said stock so long as he is in any manner indebted to the Association. That the Association has a first lien on the said stock and all increments thereof for all indebtedness of the holder to the Association and that no transfer thereof shall be

permitted so long as the holder is so indebted to the Association; and that the possession of said certificate shall not be regarded as evidence of the ownership of the holder, or his right to participate as a stockholder, unless it appears upon the books of the Association that all said conditions have been duly complied with. That the ownership of said stock shall at all times be subject to the provisions of the By-Laws.

SEC. 2. Every certificate of stock shall be signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary, and sealed with the corporate seal of the Association, and shall be duly numbered and entered in the stock book to be kept by the Secretary for that purpose.

ARTICLE II.—*Membership.*

SECTION 1. Any person may become a member of this Association by filing with its General Secretary an application in the form prescribed from time to time, signed by at least two members of the Association, and accompanied by the sum of one dollar, for a certificate of stock, and the amount of the dues for the remainder of the fiscal year (ending Aug. 31), the whole to be refunded if admission is refused; and if the applicant has not attained the age of twenty-one years he must accompany his application with a bond signed by some

responsible person obligating himself for the proper fulfillment of the applicant's promises and obligations to the Association, in case the applicant is admitted. The General Secretary shall cause the name and address of each applicant, his references and bondsmen, to be published in the next Official Journal sent to members, and if no objection to his admission shall be received by the Board of Vice-Presidents within one month after such publication, the applicant shall be considered elected. In case the Board of Vice-Presidents shall receive any objections to the admission of any applicant, they shall notify the General Secretary thereof, and proceed to investigate the case, and accept or reject the applicant, in their discretion, and shall certify their decision to the General Secretary, who shall thereupon proceed accordingly.

SEC. 2. As it is important to the well-being and prosperity of this Association that all members thereof should be persons of good repute, every person applying for admission thereto agrees to become subject to such rules of discipline as may be provided by the By-Laws from time to time. All charges of improper conduct on the part of any member of the Association shall be addressed in writing, accompanied by affidavit to the truth of the charges, and all obtainable proof, to the Board of Vice-Presidents, who shall investigate and determine the same under such rules as they may prescribe; and they may, in their judgment, suspend or expel such member and require him to surrender his stock, if he be a stockholder, and their action shall be final and binding on all parties. Should the Board of Vice-Presidents deem it advisable, they may, however, certify the case for consideration to the next Convention of the Association, giving notice of their intention to do so in the Official Journal, and such Convention shall have the same powers in the case as the Board of Vice-Presidents.

SEC. 3. The dues of all stockholders shall be one dollar and twenty cents per annum, payable annually in advance, on the first day of September, when the fiscal year shall commence. New members shall pay dues for the remainder of the year only, computed from the beginning of the month in which they shall have been elected. No other assessment or dues shall be exacted of any stockholder, except by the amendment of this section of the By-Laws in Convention or other general meeting.

SEC. 4. In case any member fails to pay the annual dues or accounts due the Association or the Sales and Purchasing Department within thirty days from the time the same are due, the Treasurer shall notify such delinquent member, and unless such dues or debts are paid, or the stockholder presents his resignation and surrenders his

certificate of stock within thirty days thereafter, and pays amounts due, the Treasurer shall notify the Secretary, by whom his name shall be stricken from the rolls, and his stock shall be declared forfeited to the Association, and his name shall be omitted from the Year Book. The Secretary shall notify the Superintendent of the Sales and Purchasing Department to debar from the privileges of that Department any member whose name shall have been dropped from the rolls. Any stockholder whose name shall have been stricken from the rolls for non-payment of dues, or debt to the Association or Sales and Purchasing Department, may, on payment to the Treasurer (who shall notify the Secretary) of all amounts due, be reinstated and have his stock reissued to him by and at the discretion of the Secretary, who shall, however, refer any case of doubt to the Board of Vice-Presidents, whose decision shall be final in the matter.

SEC. 5. Any stockholder in good standing may at any time tender his resignation to the Secretary, and surrender his stock certificate to the Association. All resignations received by the Secretary shall be published in the next Official Journal, and if no objections are received within one month of the date of the publication, they shall be duly accepted by him, to take effect from the date of their receipt, but no stockholder will be permitted to resign while indebted to the Association. In case the Secretary is in doubt as to the advisability of accepting the resignation of any stockholder, he shall refer the matter to the Board of Vice-Presidents, who shall have power to decide the case, and, if they deem advisable, to prescribe conditions on which the resignation shall be accepted.

SEC. 6. No stockholder of the Association who has not attained the age of twenty-one years shall be eligible to any office.

ARTICLE III.—*Meetings.*

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the stockholders of this Association, to be designated as the Annual Convention, shall be held each year at such date and at such place, within or without the State of Minnesota as may have been selected by the last preceding Annual Convention, and the publication in the Official Journal of the proceedings of the Convention, naming such time and place, shall be deemed sufficient notice of such meeting; but the President shall also cause a call for the Annual Convention, stating the time and locality of the convening thereof, to be published in the number of the Official Journal issued prior, not less than sixty days, to the holding of such Convention.

SEC. 2. Special meetings of the stockholders of this Association may be called by the Official Board, or by one hundred stockholders of this Association. Notice thereof shall be mailed to each stockholder

at his last known address, at least sixty days before the date fixed for holding said meeting, and a copy of such notice shall be published in the Official Journal, at least one month before the time of holding such meeting.

SEC. 3. If in the opinion of the Board of Directors it should be advisable at any time, or in case one hundred stockholders so request, the President shall call for a general vote of the shareholders upon any desired question. Notice that such call has been issued shall be given in Official Journal, at least one month before the date when the vote is to be counted. The vote should be in the form designated by the President, with the assent of the Board of Vice-Presidents. The call and the form shall each state the time and place at which the count is to take place, and a copy of each shall be mailed to every person appearing upon the books of the Association as entitled to vote as a stockholder thirty days before the vote is to be counted. The vote shall be signed by the stockholder and sent to the Board of Vice-Presidents; and no vote shall be counted unless in the form prescribed at the date when the call was mailed. Any stockholder shall have the right to be present and witness the count. The result shall be certified by the Vice-Presidents to the President, who shall announce the result in the next number of the Official Journal. A majority of the votes cast shall determine the question submitted, but the By-Laws can be amended only as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 4. All stockholders of the Association who are present at any of its meetings shall be entitled to participate in the proceedings; but only those not indebted to the Association shall be entitled to vote in person, or by proxy, at any Annual Convention, at any called meeting, or upon any question submitted to a general vote.

SEC. 5. A quorum for the transaction of business at any convention or special meeting, shall consist of one-half the stockholders there represented in person or by proxy; but the By-Laws can be amended only as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 6. No Director of this Association shall be permitted to act for or vote as proxy for any other stockholder of this Association.

SEC. 7. At all meetings of the Association, all questions of order and parliamentary law shall be determined by reference to Roberts' Rules of Order.

SEC. 8. At the Annual Convention of the Association the President shall appoint the following standing committees, of three members each:

- Committee on Standing Rules,
- Committee on Finance,
- Committee on Library,
- Committee on Sales and Purchasing Department,

Committee on Official Journal,
Committee on Branch Societies,
and a Committee of five members on Credentials, and a Committee of five members, of which the President shall be *ex-officio* Chairman, on the By-Laws. The following shall be the order of business:

1. Call to Order.
2. Report of Committee on Credentials.
3. Roll Call.
4. Appointment of Committees.
5. Reading of Minutes.
6. Reports of Officers.
7. Communications.
8. Unfinished Business.
9. New Business.
10. Reports of Committees.
11. Adjournment.

SEC. 9. At all special meetings of the Association, the President shall appoint such of the foregoing committees as are necessary, and the foregoing Order of Business shall be followed so far as the necessities of the occasion will permit.

ARTICLE IV.—*Directors.*

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors of this Association shall be designated as the Official Board, and shall consist of nine members who shall all be citizens of the United States.

SEC. 2. Each Director shall be a stockholder of the Association, and shall hold his office until the close of the next Annual Convention and until his successor shall have qualified. At least five of their number shall be collectors and not dealers by profession. And at least seven of their number shall be residents of different States. Three of the Directors shall serve as a Board of Vice-Presidents and must reside within a radius of 30 miles, and in case of the three Vice-Presidents being from the same State or locality as another director, the Vice-Presidents will take precedence over the other candidate, even though he have a greater number of votes.

SEC. 3. Immediately after the annual election of Directors, those chosen shall proceed to choose from their number a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and International Secretary, and to select such officers as are required by the By-Laws to be appointed by the Official Board.

SEC. 4. The Board of Directors may meet at such times as they from time to time determine, or whenever called together by the President by a notice addressed to each Director at his last known address, by mail or by telegraph, a sufficient time beforehand to enable him to reach the place of meeting. Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SEC. 5. The objects of this Association requiring that its Directors shall be residents of different States, in order to facilitate the transaction of business and provide

for a rapid decision of questions requiring the action of the Official Board of this Association, the stockholders direct that instead of convening in a meeting, the following proceedings may be had: Whenever any member of the Board shall desire to submit any matter for their action, he shall reduce the same to writing, in the form of a motion, and mail a copy thereof, upon a separate sheet of paper, to each member of the Board. Any comments or observations he may desire to make thereon must be on a different sheet. Upon the reception of such motion each member shall write upon the bottom or back thereof his decision for or against the same, or any correction or amendment thereof he may wish to make, and forward the same by return mail to the President, who shall, in case any amendment shall be offered, forthwith mail, or cause to be mailed, a copy of the motion as amended to each member of the Board, who shall return the same by return mail, with his vote for or against the same, or the expression of his preference for the original motion. The President shall, upon receiving the votes of the other members, certify to the Secretary the result, accompanying the certificate with the original votes. The Secretary shall file the same and record the vote, notifying the other members of the Board of the result.

SEC. 6. The Official Board shall exercise a general supervision over the affairs of the Association and all its officers; may make rules for the conduct of business in the several departments not inconsistent with these By-Laws; may require special reports from any officer from time to time; may remove any officer appointed by them, as provided by statute, fill any vacancy in their own number arising from any cause except removal by stockholders, as provided by statute, and generally manage and control the business of the Association, as provided by law.

ARTICLE V.—*Duties of Directors.*

SECTION 1. *President.*—The President, in addition to the general duties of his office, shall preside at all meetings of the Association, appoint all committees, sign all certificates of stock and all warrants on Treasurer for moneys required by the Association, as well as contracts, deeds, bonds, notes and other obligations entered into by the Association. Prior to each Annual Convention he shall issue the call therefor, as provided for in Article III., Section 1, and shall appoint a Committee of Arrangements to provide suitable rooms and make other preparations for holding said meeting, the expenses incurred by such Committee in the performance of their duties to be defrayed from the General Fund of the Association. At each Annual Convention he shall address the Association

on such matters of interest as he shall determine.

SEC. 2. *Vice-Presidents.*—The three directors elected as Vice-Presidents shall select one of their number to act as First Vice-President, who shall perform all the duties of the President in case of the absence, death or inability of the President. He shall preside over the Board of Vice-Presidents, which shall decide all questions arising as to the admission of applicants for membership, as provided in Article II., Section 1; all questions of discipline, as provided in Article II., Sections 2, 4 and 5, and all other disputes and difficulties between members or officers of the Association, and their decision of all such matters shall be final, subject to the provisos of Article II., Section 2. They shall see that proper notices of all elections, meetings, nominations, forms, etc., are sent to members as provided in these By-Laws. They shall keep a "black list" of all individuals known to have ever dealt in counterfeit stamps, or aided in their production; and it shall be their duty to give any information, in their possession in regard thereto, to any member of the Association who shall ask therefor. The Vice-Presidents shall keep a list of "bad debtors" for the same purpose. They shall charge members fifteen cents for each copy of said list, the amount to be paid for in advance. The Board of Vice-Presidents from time to time and at least every three months, shall make report of their proceedings to the General Secretary for publication in the Official Journal and shall make a full report of their proceedings to the Annual Convention.

They shall keep a minute book of all proceedings and a file of correspondence which they shall turn over to their successors when qualified.

All expenses for postage, stationery, telegrams and registry fees shall be certified by the First Vice-President and after approval by the Official Board be paid from the general fund.

They shall furthermore keep a card catalogue of the names and addresses and history of all members of the Association. They shall elect one of their number to act as Secretary who shall have charge of their records and keep their minutes.

SEC. 3. *Secretary.*—The Secretary, in addition to the ordinary duties of his office, shall keep a true record of all proceedings of the Association and Board of Directors, conduct all correspondence, have the custody of and preserve all documents, have custody of the corporate seal of the Association, seal all documents required to be sealed therewith, keep proper books of issue and transfer of stock certificates, issue all stock certificates and receipts, countersign, register and attest all documents signed by the President. He shall, under the supervision of the President, edit the

official matter published in the Official Journal; *provided*, that if there shall be a disagreement between the President and Secretary as to the advisability of the publication of any matter, such matter shall be submitted to the Official Board. He shall also receive all applications for membership, make publication thereof in the Official Journal, and conduct all correspondence in reference thereto, as provided in Article II., Section 1, and notify applicants of their election. He shall furnish a copy of the Charter and By-Laws and the list of members of the Association to each member in good standing. He shall receive all resignations and applications for reinstatement, etc., as provided in Article II., Sections 4 and 5, and perform all such other duties as are incident to his office. He shall pay all funds collected by him from any source to the Treasurer each month. He shall prepare and present to each Annual Convention, and to any special meeting, when so required by the Official Board, or the stockholders calling the same, the general report of the condition of the Association, required by law to be made by the Directors. He shall cause to be published in each number of the Official Journal, in addition to the list of applications, resignations, etc., of members, a report of all proceedings of the Board of Directors, or of the Association, since his last published report. He shall at all times be subject to the direction of the President or Directors in the performance of his duties. He shall be paid all transportation expenses to and from the Convention, and \$5.00 per day during the session.

SEC. 4. *Treasurer.*—The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all moneys, property and securities of the Association, and shall report to the Secretary monthly the balance in his hands. He shall collect all dues and make monthly reports of his receipts and disbursements, showing balance of cash on hand in each monthly circular. He shall pay out no money except on warrants regularly drawn on him by the President and General Secretary, and shall present to the Annual Convention a complete financial statement of the transactions of his department for the year, accompanied by the proper vouchers. He shall deposit all moneys in some bank, to be designated by the Official Board, to the account of the Association, and shall give bond to the Association in the sum of not less than \$2,000. Said bond to be obtained of some surety company at expense of the Association, to be approved by the Official Board.

SEC. 5. *International Secretary.*—The International Secretary shall conduct all correspondence for the Association or the Official Board, with individuals or societies in foreign countries. He shall, whenever called on to do so, assist the General Secre-

tary, or any other officer of the Association, in their correspondence concerning the business of the Association and their several departments. He shall perform all the duties of the Secretary whenever the latter is absent or temporarily unable to perform his duties. He shall present to the Annual Convention a full report of the proceedings of his department for the year.

He shall report regularly to the *Vertrauliches Korrespondenz-Blatt*, the changes in membership so long as this Association continues interested in its publication. He shall so far as possible report to the Board of Vice-Presidents any publication in foreign journals of items affecting the welfare of this Association or its individual members.

SEC. 6. In case of death or resignation of any member of the Official Board the Board shall fill the vacancy, and all vacancies caused by the removal of a Director shall be filled by election, as provided by the statute of the State of Minnesota.

ARTICLE VI.—*Elections.*

SECTION 1. All elections of Directors shall be conducted under the supervision of the Committee on Credentials, appointed by the President for that purpose, which shall consist of five stockholders. The form of ballot to be used must be uniform and shall be designated by the President and approved by the Official Board. It shall be signed by the stockholder voting and delivered to the Committee on Credentials, and may be sent to the Committee in any manner desired by the stockholder, and at any time before the closing of the polls for that election. At all such elections a plurality of the votes cast shall elect, except as provided in Article IV., Section 2, in regard to Vice-Presidents, but no vote shall be counted that shall not have been received before the closing of the polls, nor shall any stockholder be permitted to vote in any other than the prescribed form, or by proxy, or to change his vote after it has once been received by the committee.

SEC. 2. The polls for the annual election shall close at noon of the day preceding the day appointed for the opening of the Annual Convention, and at all special elections at such time as shall be named in the call for the election.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall cause blank forms for the ballot and proper envelopes for enclosing the same to be mailed to the last known address of each stockholder entitled to vote, at least sixty days before the date fixed for closing the polls, and the form of the ballot shall be designated in all published notices of the election. A sufficient extra quantity of blanks shall be provided at the place the convention is held.

SEC. 4. The special elections to fill vacancies in the Official Board, provided

for by the statute of the State of Minnesota, in the case of the removal of a Director by the stockholders, or in case of the want of a quorum of qualified Directors, shall be conducted, as far as possible in the same manner as other elections; but in case the election is called by the stockholders, they may prescribe and send out the form of ballot, necessary envelopes for enclosing the same, and notice of the election, which shall, however, as far as possible, conform to the ordinary forms in use in the Association.

SEC. 5. All special elections of officers to be elected by the stockholders shall be conducted in the same manner as other elections, but shall be called by the President, and notice thereof shall be mailed to the last known address of each stockholder entitled to vote, at least sixty days prior to the date fixed for the counting of the vote, and shall be accompanied by the form of the ballot to be used, proper envelopes for enclosing the same, and shall designate the time and place of holding the election, the persons who are to act as Committee on Credentials, and such other information as shall facilitate the sending of the vote to the Committee.

SEC. 6. Prior to every annual or special election, nominations for the office or offices to be filled may be sent by any member of the Association to the Secretary, and all such nominations received by him shall be published in the number of the Official Journal nearest to sixty days prior to the date for closing the polls.

SEC. 7. Cumulative voting shall be illegal at any election.

ARTICLE VII.—Officers.

SECTION 1. In addition to the nine Directors, or Official Board, the officers of the Association shall be:

- A Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department,
- A Superintendent of Literary Exchange,
- A Counterfeit Detector,
- An Examiner of Sales Books,
- A Librarian,
- A Collecting Agent,

and such Resident and State Vice-Presidents and Auction Purchasing Agents as the Official Board may appoint.

SEC. 2. All of the officers mentioned in Section 1 of this Article shall be appointed and subject to removal by the Official Board, as provided for by the laws of Minnesota, and shall make a full report of their proceedings to the Annual Convention and to the Official Board or any special meeting of the Association, when called upon so to do. Their terms shall expire when their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. In case any such officer is temporarily prevented by sickness or other cause from performing his duties, the Official Board may, in their discretion,

appoint a substitute, to act during such incapacity. No expense shall be incurred by any officer appointed by the Official Board, except for postal and express charges, until the same is authorized by the Board of Directors.

SEC. 3. *Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department.*—This officer shall conduct the Purchasing and Sales Department of the Association under such rules and regulations as may be approved by the Official Board, the same to be announced by him in the Official Journal. He shall be entitled to a commission of ten per cent. on all sales and purchases, and shall pay all expenses of his department. The Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department shall give bonds to the Association in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to be approved by the Official Board. He shall at the end of every three months submit a full and accurate statement of the affairs of his department to the Board of Vice-Presidents, this statement to be accompanied by a balance sheet taken from his books upon the last day of the three months covered by the above-mentioned statement, *i. e.*, November 30, February 28 (or 29), May 31 and August 31. He shall hold the Association harmless from any losses arising from the management of his department.

SEC. 4. *Superintendent of Literary Exchange.*—The Superintendent of Literary Exchange shall receive lists of such philatelic books and publications as may be desired by members of the Association. He shall also receive lists of such philatelic books and publications belonging to members as they may send him from time to time for sale at fixed prices, and he shall notify any member desiring such publication from whom it can be obtained.

Members making use of this department must defray all incidental expenses.

SEC. 5. *Auction Purchasing Agents.*—The Auction Purchasing Agents shall, in person or by proxy, attend all auction sales of stamps held in their respective vicinities, and shall purchase for members at a commission not to exceed 5 per cent., and subject to such rules and regulations as each may prescribe, such stamps as these members request him to purchase for their account.

SEC. 6. *Counterfeit Detector.*—The Counterfeit Detector shall, when called upon to do so, pronounce upon the genuineness, and, as far as he can, when asked, the value of the specimens sent him by member, charging therefor three cents for each specimen, up to the number of fifty sent to him at one time, and two cents for every additional specimen. For making estimates of the value of collections, etc., he may make an agreement as to terms with the owner. Postage or expense of carriage must be in all cases defrayed by members.

SEC. 7. *Examiner of Sales Books.*—The Examiner of Sales Books shall pass upon the genuineness of all stamps, etc., that may be sent to the Superintendent of Sales, before such stamps, etc., are put upon the exchange circuits.

All stamps, etc., considered counterfeit or reprint (with the exception of reprints sold by the governments originally issuing them, and receivable for postage at the time of their sale) by the Superintendent or the Examiner of Sales Books, shall be removed from the sheets and placed in separate envelopes, marked with the price or prices placed thereon and the name of the owner, and shall not be circulated, but returned by the Superintendent, and on the square on the sheet or place provided on the cover he shall stamp the words "Specimen Removed."

When a government reprint, receivable for postage at the time of its issue, is found on a sheet or a cover, he shall stamp the word "*reprint*" below the square on the sheet or the place provided on the cover for the specimen.

SEC. 8. *Librarian.*—The Librarian shall keep a list of all works, etc., in his possession, and a record of the same.

SEC. 9. *Resident Vice-Presidents.*—A Resident Vice-President shall be appointed for any locality upon the request of ten or more members of the Association residing therein, and for such foreign States and countries as the Official Board may deem advisable. Each Resident Vice-President shall exercise a general supervision over the section in which he resides. He shall examine the case of all applicants for membership in his vicinity and shall advise the Board of Vice-Presidents of any reason that may exist for rejecting the application, or any conduct on the part of any member in his vicinity, that might render such person unworthy of membership in the Association, and make an annual report to the Convention.

He shall call a meeting of the members in his district at least four times a year for the discussion of matters of interest to the Association and cause a report of such meetings to be published in the Official Journal.

SEC. 10. *Collection Department.*—The Collecting Agent shall organize a department for the collection and settlement of any claims that may be sent him by members of this Association against any persons whatsoever, or the recovery of any stamps, etc., that they are unable to secure the return of. It shall also be his duty, when so ordered by the Official Board, to see that proper steps are taken and the proper authorities notified to secure the prosecution of any manufacturer of or dealer in forged stamps, etc.

He may charge for his services all actual disbursements for postage, stationery, etc.,

and 10 per cent. of all amounts recovered, *provided*, that in case of collections made for the Association he shall charge only actual disbursements, but no commission.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Sales Department.*

SECTION 1. This Association cannot and does not guarantee any member from loss sustained in the usual and customary manner, in exchange of stamps among members through the department of the Association, except in such cases where loss accrues to a member through such gross negligence or dishonesty of an officer as would render him liable under his bond in the Association for the amount of the loss; neither does the Association guarantee its members against such losses as are commonly incident to the business of buying, selling and exchanging stamps. Any loss accruing to members from unavoidable accidents or the dishonesty of a fellow member which could not reasonably have been foreseen and prevented by the officer in charge of the transaction must be borne by the member and does not constitute a claim against the Association.

SEC. 2. A report shall be rendered to all members whose books are not returned and settled for within three months from date of receipt.

SEC. 3. Members are allowed to keep Sales Circuits three days, a fine of two cents per day for each book must be collected from members who disregard this rule. Upon the failure of any member to pay such fine he shall be dropped from circuit lists and reported to the Board of Vice-Presidents.

SEC. 4. An insurance fund shall be maintained by the Superintendent of Sales and Purchasing Department who shall collect a premium of one per cent. of the value of all stamps sent in for circulation.

This rule shall apply to all stamps in circulation at the date of its adoption.

From this fund all losses shall be paid of whatever nature, except those arising from substitutions.

Should losses occur greater than the amount of the Insurance Fund in hand they shall stand as a liability against the fund, to be paid when the amount of premiums collected will satisfy same.

ARTICLE IX.—*Official Journal.*

SECTION 1. *The Weekly Philatelic Era* shall be known as the Official Journal of the Association.

This paper will be sent to all members regularly, and the Association shall pay the publishers twenty-five cents per year from the general fund for each member.

The publishers to pay postage on all copies mailed to members in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

ARTICLE X.—*Annual Publication.*

SECTION 1. *The American Philatelist*

shall be published annually in November and shall contain a copy of the Charter and the By-Laws as last amended, a list of all active members, arranged alphabetically and by residence, a full report of the last Annual Convention, the rules of all Departments which may not be included in the general By-Laws, a list of all Branch Societies and affiliated societies, a list of the names and addresses of all officers of the Association and of the publishers of the Official Journal. The *American Philatelist* shall be edited by the General Secretary and approved by the President before publication. Advertisements of responsible firms may be accepted by the Secretary upon terms satisfactory and profitable to the Association, and the proceeds turned into the general fund. One copy shall be mailed free to each member of the Association and ten copies to each Director and ten copies to the Librarian. Copies to the public or extra copies for members will be sold by the Secretary at twenty-five cents per copy, and the proceeds turned into the Treasury. The expense of publishing it shall be paid from the general fund.

ARTICLE XI.—*Branch Societies.*

SECTION 1. Whenever ten or more stockholders resident in the same locality, or twenty-five stockholders resident in the same State, shall notify the Official Board that they have associated themselves together as a branch society, adopted a name and rules for their government, and have selected one of their number as a Resident or State Vice-President, and shall have submitted a copy of their rules and list of members to the Official Board, the Official Board, if satisfied that the formation of such branch would be advantageous to the Association, and that said rules are not inconsistent with the Charter and By-Laws of the Association, shall issue a charter or certificate, under the seal of the corporation, to said stockholders that they have become a Branch or State Society, as the case may be, and shall appoint the member selected a Resident or State Vice-President, as the case may be. Such local and State Branches shall be numbered in regular order in separate series, and each society shall be known by its number, in addition to the name selected by it, *provided* that the name of a State Branch shall include the name of the State for which it is chartered. Any existing local society having the requisite number of stockholders among its members may become a branch society upon the same conditions.

SEC. 2. Branch societies so organized shall admit to membership only persons who are stockholders of the Association or who shall have made application for admission as such.

The Resident and State Vice-Presidents shall make to the Official Board, from time

to time, and to each Annual Convention, suggestions as to any matters that they may consider advisable for official consideration, and shall file with the Secretary of the Association a report of each of their meetings.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of each Branch Society shall send to the Treasurer on the 1st of July each year a complete list of the members in good standing upon that date.

SEC. 4. Any branch society so organized may from time to time, if it so elect, subscribe for, acquire and hold, in the name of such branch, one share of the capital stock of this Association for every ten stockholders who are members of such branch, and not already included in the number who may have acquired stock in the name of some other branch society, and shall vote the same by proxy, duly instructed, or through their Resident Vice-President.

ARTICLE XII.—*Property.*

SECTION 1. All officers shall, at the expiration of their terms of office, deliver to their successors all books, papers, moneys, and other property in their possession, belonging to the Association, and they shall not be relieved from their bonds or obligations until this requirement be complied with.

SEC. 2. The records of the Board of Vice-Presidents and of the Official Board shall be turned over to the Librarian for safe keeping after two years have elapsed from the final adjustment of the subject of such records. These records shall be obtainable from the Librarian at any time that reference to them is necessary, upon written request of the Board in which they originated.

ARTICLE XIII.—*Amendments.*

SECTION 1. The By-Laws of this Association may be altered or amended only by the consent of two-thirds of the stockholders voting on such alteration or amendment, and providing that such two-thirds shall constitute a third of all the members of the Association entitled to vote. Amendments may be made at the Annual Convention, any special meeting, or by a general vote, as provided for in Article III., Section 3, and the action of the Annual Convention or special meeting in amending the By-Laws shall be final, if such proposed amendment shall have been published in the Official Journal at least thirty days prior to the date of such Convention or meeting. But any amendment to the By-Laws adopted by any convention or special meeting which was not so published, and any Rules or By-Laws passed by the Board of Directors shall be submitted to a general vote, as provided by Article III., Section 3, in case one hundred stockholders entitled to vote shall so request of the President within sixty days from the publication of the same in the Official Journal.

TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

—OF THE—

American Philatelic Association.

The twelfth annual convention of the American Philatelic Association was held at Boston, Mass., on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, August 24–26, 1897.

The following stockholders were present:

- Olney, Frank F., President Providence, R. I.
- Abbott, Chas. E., M. D. Andover, Mass.
- Adenaw, J. New York City.
- Albrecht, R. F. New York City.
- Althen, Edward C. Elgin, Ills.
- Andreini, J. M. New York City.
- Bacon, D. H. Derby, Conn.
- Batchelder, Albert W. Boston, Mass.
- Beard, Joe F. Muscatine, Ia.
- Belden, F. S. Chicago, Ills.
- Bescher, F. J. Kansas City, Mo.
- Bogert, R. R. New York City.
- Bowen, C. W. Providence, R. I.
- Brodstone, L. T. Superior, Neb.
- Brown, Frank P. Boston, Mass.
- Bruce, W. H. Hartford, Conn.
- Bruner, P. F. New York City.
- Burns, R. F. Arlington, Mass.
- Burt, Frank H. Boston, Mass.
- Carpenter, Ernest M. Salem, Mass.
- Cassidy, W. M. Hopkinton, Mass.
- Chapin, F. N. Springfield, Mass.
- Cobe, Nathan Waltham, Mass.
- Coburn, W. E. Everett, Mass.
- Collins, John J. Cambridge, Mass.
- Conant, Fred. O. Portland, Me.
- Deats, H. E. Flemington, N. J.
- Doebelin, E. Pittsburg, Pa.
- Drew, Charles DeWitt New York City.

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| Forehand, Frederic | Worcester, Mass. |
| Gilmore, George L. | Lexington, Mass. |
| Goerner, W. F. | Providence, R. I. |
| Green, L. L. | Medford, Mass. |
| Gregory, George | Clarendon, Ills. |
| Gregory, W. F. | New York City. |
| Hall, Edward H. | Fort Collins, Colo. |
| Harris, Howard P. | Salem, Mass. |
| Holton, E. A. | Boston, Mass. |
| Howe, William N. | Portland, Me. |
| Humphey, Henry D. | Dedham, Mass. |
| Hussman, C. E. | St. Louis, Mo. |
| Ireland, Gordon | Springfield, Mass. |
| Jewett, W. W. | Portland, Me. |
| Johnson, J. F. | Boston, Mass. |
| Kennedy, Gardner R. | Boston, Mass. |
| Kilbon, Rev. John Luther | Boston, Mass. |
| Kimball, F. R. | Waltham, Mass. |
| Kirtland, A. M. | Mount Vernon, N. Y. |
| Lewis, C. C. | Northampton, Mass. |
| Luff, John N. | New York City. |
| Lyons, J. H. | Boston, Mass. |
| Mason, H. R. | Newton, Mass. |
| Muir, W. E. | Montreal, Canada. |
| Nessner, John, Jr. | Allegheny, Pa. |
| Page, William H. | Haverhill, Mass. |
| Parker, E. T. | Bethlehem, Pa. |
| Patterson, W. R. | Chicago, Ills. |
| Perrin, Albert | New York City. |
| Peters, George E. | West Newton, Mass. |
| Pinkham, F. H. | Newmarket, N. H. |
| Pitman, Fred. H. | Somerville, Mass. |
| Richardson, F. P. | Salem, Mass. |
| Robie, Lewis | Highland Park, Ills. |
| Rothfuchs, C. F. | Washington, D. C. |
| Sanderson, H. K. | Lynn, Mass. |
| Scott, John W. | New York City. |
| Sebbens, Charles E. | Worcester, Mass. |
| Smith, Fred. S. | Boston, Mass. |
| Snow, Frank W. | Newburyport, Mass. |
| Stimpsom, Frank E. | Worcester, Mass. |
| Stone, William C. | Springfield, Mass. |
| Suydam, W. H. | San Francisco, Cal. |
| Toppa, George L. | Boston, Mass. |
| Trifet, F. | Boston, Mass. |
| Tuttle, A. E. | Philadelphia, Pa. |
| Tuttle, George R. | New York City. |
| Van Derlip, Willard C. | Boston, Mass. |
| Vincent, F. P. | Chatham, N. Y. |
| Wainwright, J. Arthur | Northampton, Mass. |
| Waite, Mrs. J. Gilman | Medford, Mass. |
| Witherby, J. B. | Philadelphia, Pa. |
| Wolsieffer, P. M. | Chicago, Ills. |
| Woodin, E. B. | Springfield, Mass. |

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| Wylie, Duncan Stark | New York. |
| Number of stockholders present | 84 |
| Represented by proxy | 417 |
| Total | 501 |

There were also in attendance the following guests :

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| Adams, Thomas E. | Lowell, Mass. |
| Albrecht, Mrs. R. F. | Staten Island, N. Y. |
| Albrecht, Miss Catherine C. | Staten Island, N. Y. |
| Batchelder, Mrs. A. W. | Salem, Mass. |
| Breck, Walter W. | Somerville, Mass. |
| Carpenter, Mrs. E. M. | Salem, Mass. |
| Cousins, Frank | Salem, Mass. |
| Drew, B. L. | Boston, Mass. |
| Edson, Charles E. | Lowell, Mass. |
| Edson, Maud A. | Lowell, Mass. |
| Gauss, John D. H. | Salem, Mass. |
| Gregory, Mrs. George | Clarendon, Ills. |
| Hale, Charles H. | Lowell, Mass. |
| Hale, William B. | Williamsville, Mass. |
| Jenkins, H. F. | Boston Herald. |
| Kiddér, Henry A. | Arlington, Mass. |
| Kingdon, S. S. | Boston Transcript. |
| Martin, Jacob S. | Providence, R. I. |
| Massoth, F. N. | Chicago, Ills. |
| Metcalf, C. F. | Lowell, Mass. |
| Nevins, Winfield S. | Salem, Mass. |
| Nevins, Mrs. Winfield S. | Salem, Mass. |
| Newell, Mrs. Frank F. | Salem, Mass. |
| Parker, Mrs. E. T. | Bethlehem, Pa. |
| Prevost, John W. | Springfield, Mass. |
| Quinn, Rev. Dr. J. C. | Mason City, Iowa. |
| Roper, Miss B. H. | Cambridge, Mass. |
| Rothfuchs, Annie M. | Washington, D. C. |
| Sebbens, Catherine H. | Worcester, Mass. |
| Shepard, George H. | Salem, Mass. |
| Smiley, Edmund L. | Boston, Mass. |
| Smith, M. Helen | Auburn, Me. |
| Stimpson, Emily G. | Worcester, Mass. |
| Thayer, Edwin F. | Attleboro, Mass. |

The Committee of Arrangements, appointed by President Olney prior to the convention, consisted of A. W. Batchelder, Rev. John Luther Kilbon and Frank H. Burt. An executive committee of fifteen, appointed by Boston Branch No. 13, had charge of the arrangements for the entertainment of the members and their friends and guests.

The order of the business sessions of the convention and the excursions arranged by the Entertainment Committee was as follows :

FIRST DAY.—Tuesday, August 24.

10.00 A. M.—First session of convention ; annual address of the President ; appointment of committees ; reports of officers.

1:52 P. M.—Second session ; report of Board of Vice-Presidents.

3:00 P. M.—Excursion to Bunker Hill monument and Boston Public Library.

SECOND DAY.—Wednesday, August 25.

9.30 A. M.—The members and guests left by steamer for Salem Willows, arriving

there at 11.30, when light refreshments were served. Special trolley cars were taken for Salem and the company left the cars at the Public Library, where they were joined by a number of ladies and gentlemen, residents of Salem, who assisted in escorting the visitors to the many points of historic interest in the city. After visiting the so-called "Witch House," the Essex County Court House, the Peabody and East India museums, the Essex Institute, and the old First Church, and viewing many of the ancient churches and residences, the party returned to the Willows to partake of a fish dinner. The steamer was taken to Boston at 5 P. M.

THIRD DAY.—Thursday, August 26.

9 A. M.—Third session; report of Committee on Credentials and announcement of result of election; reports of other committees; communications; New York selected as place of next convention; miscellaneous business.

2.10 P. M.—Fourth session reports of committees; *The Weekly Philatelic Era* designated official journal; report of Committee on By-Laws; miscellaneous business; organization of Official Board; adjournment.

During the noon intermission a party of members visited the State House, Court House, old State House, and other points of interest. The ladies accompanying members in attendance were entertained by a trolley ride of Franklin Park and a drive about the park in the forenoon, and in the afternoon visited the Newton Boulevard and Norumbega Park.

PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST SESSION.--Tuesday Morning, Aug. 24.

The convention met in Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield street, Boston, and was called to order at eight minutes past ten o'clock by the President, Col. Frank F. Olney, who proceeded to deliver the following address:

Annual Address of the President.

Members of the American Philatelic Association:

Before formally calling you together to enter upon the business of the Convention, allow me to first extend to you a cordial New England greeting, and then to offer you this expression of my appreciation of the honor you conferred upon me a year ago in electing me President of this Association.

It is eminently fitting that this our twelfth annual meeting should be held in Boston, this centre of culture, and I think I may say the home of stamp collectors. In this city, I believe, you will find some of the rarest collections of stamps to be found in the country, and the most enthusiastic and careful collectors.

Nearly everybody collects stamps nowadays; it has grown to be an enormous business, and young and old seem to be alike fascinated with it. Once a person becomes interested in the collection of a few stamps it is surprising the educational influence it awakens, stimulates his mind and he soon learns to become familiarly acquainted with the geographical location and advantages of different countries, as well as to study the lives and character of their rulers.

It is an agreeable and at the same time an instructive occupation and serves to refresh the mind after all the other elements that enter into our busy life have failed. It shows us the progress and development of civilization all over the globe and puts us in close touch with all of the nations of the earth and gives the imagination full sway, while a ponderous historical book would only serve to confuse and then fail to satisfy us as a bright little stamp is sure to do.

Gentlemen: It affords me unusual pleasure to greet you on this occasion, and I trust that the deliberations of this Association will not only broaden our influence and usefulness

as an association, but it must also result in making us better and more zealous citizens for the upbuilding of our great and glorious country.

The President: I now declare the convention open and ready for business.

The first business is the appointment of committees. I appoint the following committees:

Committee on Credentials—William C. Stone, Hiram E. Deats and Philip M. Wolsieffer.

Standing Rules—F. Trifet, L. T. Brodstone and R. F. Albrecht.

By-Laws—The President ex-officio, W. C. Van Derlip, John N. Luff, W. H. Suydam and John W. Scott.

Finance—Charles W. Bowen, J. M. Andreini and E. A. Holton.

Library—R. R. Bogert, John Nessner, Jr., and Lewis Robie.

Sales and Purchasing Department—George L. Toppan, Charles E. Abbott and W. N. Taylor.

Official Circular—H. K. Sanderson, George Gregory and Henry D. Humphrey.

Branch Societies—F. S. Belden, W. W. Jewett and Frank H. Burt.

Upon inquiry being made by the President, it appeared that a majority of the members named on each committee were present.

The President: The polls for the election of directors close at twelve o'clock. I now declare them open.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, it would facilitate business if the members would pass in their proxies to either Mr. Deats, Mr. Wolsieffer or myself, so that we may get as many of them as possible in before the last minute. Your proxies and your ballots. The Secretary, Mr. Beard, has plenty of blank ballots for those that are not provided.

The President: There will be a book here for all your signatures. We would like to have every one present, ladies and gentlemen, sign this book before leaving. There is another matter here which should be attended to—the appointment of official stenographer.

On motion of Mr. Beard, Frank H. Burt was elected official stenographer.

The Secretary: I wish each member present would be sure and register in this book. It will be the only list we shall have, and it is important that it should be signed. We will have it at this table in a very few moments.

Program of Entertainment.

Mr. Albert W. Batchelder: *Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:* On behalf of the local committee I wish to say first that we are glad that you are here and sorry that you are not several times multiplied. We hope there are many more in the city who will appear later. We have arranged our program of entertainment in such a way that we shall not in any way interfere with that for which you come together, the work of the convention. We had felt that this morning and with a short session this afternoon you would be able to do all the work that you could do until your committees had reported. Therefore, we have arranged for this afternoon an excursion to Bunker Hill Monument and the Charleston Navy Yard. Now the weather, if the rain continues, will interfere somewhat with that program. But we have ordered closed cars, which will be on Tremont street just at the head of Bromfield street, labelled "Special Car," at 3 P. M. If you take your umbrellas you can go with very little inconvenience to Bunker Hill Monument and also to the Navy Yard. To-morrow we have arranged to have an all-day excursion, going by steamer down Boston Harbor and along Massachusetts Bay to Salem Willows. The boat leaves Pearson's Wharf on Atlantic avenue at 9:30 A. M.

Mr. R. F. Albrecht: Some of the boys can't get up so early.

Mr. Batchelder: The night owls, at Mr. Albrecht's suggestion, will have to go to bed a little earlier to-night. The boat leaves at 9:30, and we would like to have everybody take that boat who can. Mr. Sanderson has the tickets and will be at the wharf in

plenty of season to provide all who go. You are expected not only to go yourselves, but to take your lady friends, of course.

Mr. E. Doeblin: Will you show me one?

Mr. Batchelder: The committee to provide ladies has not yet been appointed, but will be selected by the President—that is right, isn't it?—(laughter)—the President being a connoisseur. At Salem we take you into the city from the Willows and visit the points of interest, and in the afternoon we have a shore dinner, after which we are to return to Boston, arriving here about seven o'clock. On Thursday it was suggested that business would take up the entire day of those who have come to attend the convention itself, but ample provision will be made for the ladies and such others as wish to go to various points of interest with some of our local members in charge of the party. We have made provision for two or three or more times as many as are here, and we do not care how many you succeed in scaring up from all directions—the more the better. (Applause.)

Communication.

A communication from N. W. Chandler, Treasurer, in regard to amendments to the By-Laws, was received and referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

Marking of Ballots.

The President: The chairman of the Committee on Credentials wishes me to state that a ballot marked with lead pencil will not be counted.

Mr. Stone: All ballots must be marked in ink. It says so in the instructions at the bottom of the ballot.

Mr. Beard: A great many ballots have been sent in by members who can not be here to mark them in ink, and if they are marked in pencil I do not think that they should be thrown out on that account, as the members are entitled to a vote. I would therefore move that ballots marked with lead pencil and sent in by members at a distance be counted.

The motion was seconded by several members and carried unanimously.

Welcome From the B. P. S.

The President: There is a committee here from the Boston Philatelic Society and they have some remarks to make to you.

Mr. S. R. Sircom: Mr. President, Mr. Holland and Mr. Wright (who is not present at this moment) and myself have been appointed a committee by the Boston Philatelic Society to tender to the officers and members of the American Philatelic Association a hearty welcome to Boston, so often styled the Hub of the Universe. We express a hearty wish that the occasion will be a pleasant one to you. The program has already been given by Mr. Batchelder and we hope you will have a pleasant time. We greatly regret that the elements are against us, but that can not be avoided. We hope, however, that the rain will hold up and the weather prove favorable. As regards the convention, we trust it will be a harmonious one and that it will result in advancement to our fad. (Applause).

The President: In behalf of the convention now in session I extend thanks to you, sir, and through you to the Boston Philatelic Society.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, it has been customary at our past conventions to invite the public at large to attend our meetings, and I move that the courtesies be extended at this convention and that all our sessions be thrown open to the public.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Batchelder: Mr. President, I am sorry to be obliged to announce that Mr. Kilbon, one of your Vice-Presidents, is confined to his home with illness, but he has sent his compliments in the shape of a Souvenir of the City of Boston, which has just been brought in, copies of which are for distribution, and I hope that every visitor will take one.

Mr. Beard: Mr. President, I would make a motion that we now adjourn until 2 P. M., so as to give the members a chance to cast their ballots.

The motion being seconded, the President put the question and was about to declare the vote.

Mr. Burt: Mr. President, I do not think it would be in order for the convention to separate until after the casting of the ballots is concluded. We might take a recess while the election is proceeding, but the President should be in the chair at 12 o'clock to declare the polls closed.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, it seems to me that we could save time by having the reports of officers read at this session and referred to the proper committees. No action is necessary on them.

The President: The vote has been passed, but the Chair has not declared the recess.

Mr. Albrecht moved to reconsider the vote to take a recess. The motion was seconded and put to vote.

The President: The ayes have it and the convention will remain in session. We will listen to the report of the Secretary.

The Secretary read the following report:

Report of the Secretary.

Mr. President and Brother Members:

One year ago I was chosen by the members of this Association to act in the capacity of one of the directors, nine in number, and recommended to the office of Secretary. Upon a called ballot by mail I was elected to that position (Secretary), and I can assure you that since that time I have worked in season and out of season for the good of our Society. Have in no case slighted the least request of anyone, but have answered every letter received since I have held the office.

While the duty of Secretary of this Association is an arduous one, and at times looks as though it is a thankless one, it has given me great pleasure to use my best endeavors to fill the office as it should be filled. Owing to lapse of time from the time of the last election before an organization of the Board was made, and official papers, books, etc., turned over from one Secretary to another, and the apparent upsidedownness of the office to one who was just taking hold and not being posted in the least as to his duties and the means he had at hand, it seemed at first as though all things were going wrong, but after a little order had been made in the running of the machinery the clouds began to lift and the working has been more pleasant and easier of accomplishment.

The year just passed has been one of exceeding backwardness, and the showing that we make to-day in the membership of the Association is one that I think deserves great credit, taking into consideration the advancement of dues, hard times, and the loss of confidence in many cases by the members in workings of some of the branches. In the Secretary's Report for the 10th Annual Meeting, 308 applications were reported; at the 11th Annual Convention 260 applications were reported; while in the present year only 95 applications for membership have been made. It is not the fault of the Secretary that more applications have not been made, but the blame will have to lie at the door of hard times, and the few efforts made by members to secure others, but I fully believe that of the members proposed this year and elected, 94 in all, that you have secured members who have the interest of Philately at heart, and that have come well endorsed by brother members of our Association who have been very particular in endorsing for new membership.

Our membership at last meeting as reported by the Secretary was 1,049. In the past year we have had 112 resignations; dropped for non-payment of dues, 141; expelled, 7; deceased, 6; and the number of new members, 94; leaving our present membership 879, a loss of membership from last report of 170.

The following is a list of members deceased during the past year. Their names are entered in order of deaths as reported:

JAMES B. NEWLIN, Bellevue, Del.
 W. A. BICKET, Sibley, Ill.
 JOHN K. TIFFANY, St. Louis, Mo.
 J. A. SCHIEDT, Philadelphia, Pa.
 WILLIAM T. CURTIS, Boston, Mass.
 J. REINHART, Butte, Mont.

I would suggest that a Committee on Obituaries be appointed to report suitable sketches and resolutions to the convention for publication in our Year Book.

All matters pertaining to actions of officers of the Association, and all reports have been published regularly as received. Would recommend that the matter of weekly

reports be continued the same as they have in this past year, as members have been enabled to know at once of all actions that were taken by the Directors, and of all resignations, applications, etc., whereas where monthly reports were made happenings would frequently be seven weeks old before known by members.

Of the papers, books, official records, etc., turned over to me by my predecessor, I found that there were quite a number of books, etc., that should not be sent around the country from Secretary to Secretary, entailing a large expense for expressage and risks of loss, and I applied to the Board of Directors for permission to send in all belongings of the Association that were not needed by the Secretary for his present use. They granted same, and the boxes of stuff were forwarded to our Librarian for safe keeping and acknowledged by him as having been received.

At the present time I have a file of the Official Proceedings of the Association from the start to the present time: stock certificate register; all stock certificates that I have been able to have returned from resigning members, and a few that were turned over to me; all applications that have been made by parties joining the Association; with last year's and this year's correspondence of the Secretaries from members, and copies of all letters that I have written as Secretary this year to members; seal; stationery, etc.

I would like to suggest to the Association the matter of only publishing the names in good standing in the Year Book; that the dues be payable and collectable September 1st, the Financial Secretary notifying the members to pay their dues in 30 days or names to be dropped from the roll, and that the names of all persons not paid up by the middle of October be omitted from the Year Book for the current year. In this way it will save the Association considerable expense; it will give the members a better interest in the Association if they see that they are prompt in the affairs of the Association; and should the Association furnish each member the Official Organ it will be a saving of considerable money not to pay for those who intend to drop out, or will drop out the latter part of the year, as this year we have had to pay for 141 old members of the Association at the rate of 25 cents apiece, they also secured a Year Book, making this expense for them 25 cents apiece for the Year Book, and then have them drop out of the Association for non-payment of dues. The matter of paying dues should be compulsory in the first three months of the year, and should they be dropped out then it is easy enough for them to be reinstated by payment of back dues, and the Association will be saved costs of carrying them should they not want to be reinstated.

Branch Societies.

At our last annual meeting only two or three of the Branch Societies made a report through the Secretary. I have endeavored to secure a report from each one, but have failed in a number of cases, and can only report the following:

Branch No. 2, New York Branch. Organized in June, 1895. Charter dated August 14, 1895. They own four shares of stock. Number of members July 1, 1897, 36. Meetings held in last year, 4, being quarterly on second Tuesday of June, September, December and March. O. H. Williams, 35 East Seventeenth street, is Secretary, and W. F. Gregory Resident Vice-President.

Branch No. 3, Pacific Philatelic Society, was organized January 10, 1889. Number of members July 1, 1897, 24. Twelve meetings were held during the year on the third Tuesday of each month, at various places, average attendance being 8. The Secretary is Robert E. Cowan and William E. Loy Resident Vice-President.

Branch No. 5, Pittsburg Branch. Organized August 1, 1892. Members July 1, 1897, 20. They have had twelve meetings during the year, meeting monthly. Adam E. Daum, 326 Thirty-ninth street, is Secretary and E. Doebelin Resident Vice-President.

Branch No. 9 is the Pomeroy Philatelic Society of Toledo, Ohio. Organized August 14, 1894. Number of members July 1, 1897, 9. Number of meetings held during the year, 8, being once a month with the exception of July and August. P. J. Kranz, Gardner Block, Toledo, Ohio, is Secretary; P. E. Rood Resident Vice-President. This Branch lost in membership on account of hard times, but all the advance collectors still remain and uphold the Society.

Branch No. 11 is the Portland (Maine) Philatelic Association. Organized October 30, 1894, chartered as a Branch December 1, 1894. Members July 1, 1897, 23. Number of meetings held during the year, 5, being at the call of the President. Sterling T. Dow, 48 State street, Portland, Me., is Secretary.

Branch No. 13, being Boston Branch of our Association, was organized May 19, 1896, and the charter was issued about June 1, 1896. They own three shares of stock, and July, 1887, there were 22 members. Number of meetings held during the year, 4, being quarterly. Frank H. Burt is Secretary, and J. F. Johnson Resident Vice-President.

Most of the members of this Branch are also connected with the Boston Philatelic Society, and the meetings are held on the same evenings and in the same place as the meetings of the latter organization, at an earlier hour.

It has been the principal function of the Branch to foster interest in the American Philatelic Association among the local members, and to keep them in touch with the workings of the parent organization.

Branch No. 14, Reading Branch, one of our new Branches, was organized May, 1896; charter given in August, 1896. Number of members July 1, 1897, 6. They have held 12 meetings during the year, being on the first Tuesday of each month. C. W. Kissinger, 18 N. 11th street, Reading, Pa., acting as Secretary. He is also Res. Vice-President. Several members of this Society have withdrawn owing to the increase of dues to the Association, saying that \$1.80 was entirely too much.

Branch No. 15, St. Paul Branch, our infant, was organized Dec. 10, 1895, and charter was not received by them before Jan. 2d, 1897. Number of members July 1, 1897, 17. They have held 12 meetings during the year on the second Tuesday of each month. C. E. N. Howard, 656 Summit avenue, St. Paul, Minn., is Secretary, and C. L. Annan Resident Vice-President.

The Colorado Branch surrendered its charter owing to membership having fallen off to such an extent they were no longer entitled to carry same, it being a State Branch.

In closing I wish to thank the membership of the Association one and all for the courteous manner in which I have been treated, and for the assistance given me, in times when I was most pressed for information for members, by all to whom I applied. I have tried to do my duty and trust that my intentions will be received as they were intended. Again thanking you,

Respectfully submitted,

JOE F. BEARD, Secretary.

The report was referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

The Secretary read the Treasurer's report, as follows:

Treasurer's Report.

To the President and Directors of the American Philatelic Association:

I present my annual report for the fiscal year closing July 31st, 1897.

GENERAL FUND—Receipts.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1896—August, Dues Collected | \$ 19.99 |
| September, " " | 327.35 |
| October, " " | 550.67 |
| November, " " | 131.88 |
| December, " " | 130.55 |
| 1897—January, " " | 125.45 |
| February, " " | 53.75 |
| March, " " | 61.40 |
| April, " " | 54.25 |
| May, " " | 46.78 |
| June, " " | 15.40 |
| July, " " | 8.90 |
| Total | \$1526.37 |
| 1896—November, Literary Board, Theo. Buhl & Co. | \$ 1.38 |
| " " " Ketcheson | .40 |
| January, 1 copy Year Book | .25 |
| February, I. F. Beard, Secretary, advertising American Philatelist | 60.00 |
| " " " Literary Board, Theo. Buhl & Co., final dividend | .16 |
| Total | \$1588.56 |

Expenditures.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1896. | |
| July 31, Balance due Treasurer | \$ 317.27 |
| Bd. Trustees '95-96 Expenses | 4.80 |
| October, J. F. Beard, Secretary, Expense Printing Ballots, Proxies and Enve- | |
| lopes for Election '96 | 10.90 |
| Postage for same | 9.04 |
| Printing annual bills for dues, and receipts for '96-97 | 11.25 |
| Postage and envelopes for collection of dues and returning receipts | 48.90 |
| C. W. Kissinger, Secretary, Expenses to Sept. 1, '96 | 21.58 |
| Notary Fees, Ketcheson account | .50 |
| J. F. Beard, Secretary, Expenses for October | 11.65 |
| 500 copes By-Laws | 12.50 |
| C. W. Kissinger, Secretary, mileage and attendance at convention at | |
| Lake Minnetonka | 99.33 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| November, | H. B. Phillips, Assistant Secretary, Letter Heads | 2.00 |
| | Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, Postage on Official Circular to foreign members for September and October, '96 | 9.09 |
| | Board of Vice-Presidents, Expense Account | 11.70 |
| | E. S. Martin, Report of Convention of '96 | 19.00 |
| | C. W. Kissinger, Secretary, Expenses en route to and from convention | 19.85 |
| December, | Dues returned, Applications declined | 1.65 |
| | Treasurer's Expense Account to November 30 | 20.63 |
| | Rent of Room for meeting of Directors in Boston | 3.00 |
| | 500 Stamped Envelopes for Treasurer | 11.00 |
| January, | Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, <i>Weekly News</i> , September to February | 125.00 |
| | Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, <i>American Philatelist</i> | 248.35 |
| | J. F. Beard, Secretary, Expense Account for November and December and Postage <i>American Philatelist</i> | 49.43 |
| | American Surety Company Bond for Treasurer | 20.00 |
| March, | J. F. Beard, Secretary, Expenses January to February | 17.02 |
| | G. L. Toppan, Expenses to St. Louis and Muscatine and return. | 107.81 |
| | Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, Subscriptions <i>Weekly March</i> to August, '97. | 125.00 |
| April, | State of West Virginia Annual Tax. | 10.00 |
| May, | E. Doebelin, International Secretary, Subscription <i>Ver.-Kor. Blatt</i> | 6.50 |
| | J. F. Beard, Secretary, Expenses March and April. | 5.45 |
| | Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, Postage <i>Weekly News</i> for foreign members, November to March | 22.81 |
| June, | I. A. Mekeel Postage <i>News</i> for foreign members April and May | 10.58 |
| | N. W. Adjustment Company, Expenses and Fees for incidentals of the American Philatelic Society | 25.00 |
| | Treasurer's Expense Account December, '96, to June, '97 | 14.65 |
| July, | J. F. Beard, Secretary, Ballots, Proxies and Postage for Election, '97 | 30.03 |
| | Balance due Association July 31, '97 | 103.49 |
| | Total | \$1588.56 |

The total expenditure for the expense of the year has been \$1,166.15.

The percentage is about as follows:

| | | |
|--|------------|------|
| Official Circular | \$ 292.48 | 25.1 |
| Collection of Dues | 68.25 | 5.9 |
| General Expenses. | 349.26 | 30 |
| Annual Report | 19.00 | 26.3 |
| <i>American Philatelist</i> | 287.85 | |
| Vice-President's Expense Account | 124.31 | 10.6 |
| Re-incorporation | 25.00 | 2.1 |
| | \$1,166.15 | 100 |

Stock Fund.

| | |
|---|------------|
| 1896—July 31, Balance on hand | \$1,343.00 |
| Received August, 1896, to July, 1897, inclusive | 96.00 |
| | \$1,439.00 |
| Less returned applications declined | 1.00 |
| Amount at credit July 31, 1897 | \$1,438.00 |

Interest Fund.

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|--|----------|
| 1896—July 31, Amount at credit | \$168.25 |
| Interest credited for year 1896-7. | 60.48 |
| Amount at credit July 31, 1897 | \$228.73 |

Entertainment Fund.

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1896—July 31, Amount at credit | \$100.84 |
| September 11, Cash of Entertainment Committee for 1896 | 25.05 |
| Amount at credit July 31, 1897 | \$125.89 |

Insurance Fund for Sales Department.

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1896—July 31, Cash from Superintendent Sales Department | \$3.45 |
|---|--------|

As in former years, the American Philatelist with the Official Report of the Convention holds the lead as the largest item in the Association expense account, being nearly one-half of the total expense, although in the year just closed the cost has been very materially reduced. The debates at Minnetonka were less extended than in the previous year and the stenographer being also employed by other parties to report the proceedings, materially reduced the expenses of the report. Several pages of advertisements were inserted, realizing, net, \$60.00, reducing the total cost \$246.30, about half the cost of the previous number, which contained about double the number of pages.

The miscellaneous expenses for about 1,000 members appear to be nearly the same one year with another, the years 1894, 1895 and 1896 being respectively \$342.39; \$361.86; and \$349.26.

This year the correspondence with members was almost entirely conducted under sealed covers, instead of postal cards as hitherto.

The expenses of collecting dues might be materially reduced if all of the members would remit in response to the first notice sent them; as it is, several notifications have to be sent in many instances. In round numbers, 500 remittances were received in September and October, and the balance of the collections being made during the remainder of the year, almost to the hour of the closing of this report. The number dropped for the non-payment of dues the last year is 140, of which five have since remitted and been re-instated. The year previous, 198 were dropped for the same cause, and forty-six re-instated.

While there has been some complaint of the increase made last year in the dues, it has been apparently recognized by nearly all the members that it was for a special purpose as then stated, and would be reduced at the present Convention. It is possible that the offering of a rebate to those members who remit during the months of September and October might produce a beneficial influence in this respect. I believe Section 4 of Article II. of the By-Laws, which gives members 30 days in which to remit, should be amended to read 60 days.

Our year commences September 1st, and as it is not always practicable for the Treasurer to prepare and send out bills before that date, a vacation or a change of Treasurers may cause delay and so prevent mailing of the bills until quite late in the month.

During the year 1895 and 1896 small payments amounting to \$3.45 were made to the Sales Department Insurance Fund. As the Sales Department now collects insurance on all books sent in for sale, I recommended that the Treasurer be directed to transfer this amount to the general fund.

The recommendation of the Treasurer in his report to the last Convention that the Treasurer's bond be placed at \$2,000, subject to increase by the Official Board, and that it be procured of a Surety Company at the expense of the Association, was adopted, and the bond was obtained at a cost of \$20. I believe this should be continued permanently. Personal bonds, while they may cost nothing in the beginning, are sometimes quite expensive at the end, and frequently place the employee or official under obligations that he does not always wish to reciprocate.

In view of the large expense required to conduct the affairs of the Association, it may be advisable to adopt a less expensive means of communication with the stockholders. In the earlier years of the Association the dues were \$2.00 or \$2.50 per year, including the supplying of the monthly issue of the *American Philatelist* to members. The action of the Chicago convention in 1893 to sustain this publication and to accept the proposition of the publishers of the *Philatelic Journal of America* to publish the official matter therein and to supply a copy in circular form to each stockholder, free of expense further than postage, was continued by the Convention of 1894 at Niagara Falls. The Convention of 1895, at Clayton, N. Y., ordered a practical continuation of this arrangement for the years 1895 and 1896 by the publication of a monthly circular as a supplement to the *Stamp News* (the *Philatelic Journal of America* having suspended publication), at 12 cents per year, including postage, this rate being made to avoid a question with the Post Office Department as to second-class rates. The Convention at Lake Minnetonka in 1896 authorized a weekly, instead of a monthly, publication in the *Stamp News* for 25 cents a year and postage on the copies sent to stockholders in foreign countries, this dating from September 1, 1896. Payment was made to the publishers on the basis of 1,000 copies being required weekly. On the completion of the year ending August 31, an adjustment will be made for the actual number of copies furnished, based on the number of members shown in the weekly reports of the Secretary, which may slightly change the sum advanced.

And now in closing this report, as this may be the last time your Treasurer may address you in that capacity, or if you otherwise decide, it may, in the expected course of events, be but once more, he desires to say that business and social affiliations, have not influenced his official action, but the only question has been, which course will be best to adopt for the general good of the Association, the individual, either friend or other, being

lost sight of in the endeavor to do what would be best for the general welfare. "He has not been unmindful that he held the office as a gift of the members, that it was not a reward, however great an honor, but a trust not to be thoughtlessly accepted or carelessly refused, and that at each new election it was a new gift not to be sought or rejected at pleasure."

Collinsville, Ills., July 31, 1897.

N. W. CHANDLER,
Treasurer.

The report was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The President read the following report of the International Secretary:

International Secretary's Report.

PITTSBURG, August 18, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the American Philatelic Association:

GENTLEMEN:—It is an old and true saying that every dog has his day, and so, once a year, your poor overworked and underpaid International Secretary is allowed to cease from his labors and report upon his works. The consciousness of a difficult task well performed renders this a proud day for me when I can lay before you the results of my stewardship. You have no doubt observed in the daily press that our beloved country has been on the point of being embroiled in war with Spain on account of Cuba, with England on account of Venezuela, with Japan on account of Hawaii and with Canada on account of Klondyke. By skillful management I have kept this Association aloof from all of these moot questions and our Spanish, English, Japanese and Canadian members still maintain their allegiance to the Association. None of the nations named have given us philatelic cause of offence nor have their citizens become "*personæ non gratae*" to this Association. It is true that Canada has quite recently entered upon a questionable course in issuing a highly speculative series of stamps and surrounding their sale with conditions that are offensive to many of our members; I hope, however, to be able to have the matter submitted to peaceful arbitration and do not anticipate the outbreak of a philatelic war.

Among the more important philatelic events of international interest during my term of office have been the holding of the Congress of the Universal Postal Union at Washington and the opening of the London Philatelic Exhibition by the Duke of York. Dr. Diena was appointed by the Italian government to take charge of the philatelic department of the government museum.

Less encouraging events were the closing and breaking up of the Friedl museum and the exposure of Herrman Decker in dishonest practices.

The spring of 1897 was a cruel one in robbing us of prominent philatelists. John K. Tiffany died March 3, William Theodore Curtis died on March 30, and Dr. Heinrich von Steffan died April 8. I leave it to more eloquent pens than mine to express our sense of the weight of such losses.

The new tariff has retained "foreign postage stamps, used or unused" on the free list and a lively exchange between American and foreign collectors has sprung up since stamps were placed on the free list, and we are now practically in free touch with the collectors of the world.

In the field of philatelic literature there are no important appearances to note, but there is a steadily growing stream of good literature flowing for the benefit of the collector thirsting for knowledge. The increasing competition between stamp dealers is leading to the publication of catalogues which are veritable handbooks of information. If it be not invidious to name a few out of many, I would especially praise the catalogue of the stamps of Europe by Paul Kohl, Herrick's most excellent catalogue of the rural stamps of Russia and L'Estrange Ewen's catalogue of the stamps of the United Kingdom. Collin and Calman's great catalogue for advance collectors has advanced steadily during the year and is now occupying Turkey, thus proving that the Yankees are better than the Greeks.

Prices of stamps have suffered in the United States and Canada from the general business depression but have held their own in the greater markets of Europe, and many a good stamp from American collections has crossed the Atlantic never to return. A notable instance was the sale of an American gentleman's collection to the leading London house for \$250,000.

The Association has gained only four new members from abroad during the year, which is not as encouraging as I could have hoped for. In view of the activity of many of the foreign societies our Association has little to offer a foreigner, and we must expect but small foreign additions until we are more vigorously at work and can offer greater inducements to new members.

Some complaints from foreign members have been received and turned over to the Board of Vice-Presidents or adjusted direct when this course was feasible. I succeeded in

recovering, for a foreign dealer, stamps to the value of 2,000 marks or about \$500, which would probably have been a total loss had it not been for our Association organization.

The management of the *Vertrauliches Korrespondenz-Blatt* passed into the hands of the Baden Philatelic Society of Pforzheim at the last German Congress of Philatelic Societies, and is still pursuing its good work.

I would again urge upon this Association the importance of retaining our connection with the publication and giving it material aid to help to continue its life and usefulness for the collectors of all countries. We need contact with our foreign brothers to widen our Association and to extend its field and influence until collectors of the whole world shall stand together in defense of their common interests.

Inspired by the classic atmosphere of this center of American learning, I recall the almost forgotten classical tongue of my schoolboy days and close with the quotation, "*Alterum alterius auxilio eget.*" Very respectfully,

E. DOEBLIN,

International Secretary.

Referred to Committee on Sales and Purchasing Department.

Mr. George Gregory: Mr. President, I should like to have Mr. Doebelin Americanize some of those remarks. It seems to me it is unjust to expect everybody to understand Latin.

The President: It is a little weighty, I must confess.

The report of the Resident Vice-President for Allegheny County, Pa., was read by the Secretary, as follows:

Report of Resident Vice-President for Allegheny County.

To the President and Members American Philatelic Association:

GENTLEMEN:—As Resident Vice-President of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, I regret to report that the year ending was not as gratifying as was predicted by me when making my last report.

During the year I signed a fairly good number of applications, a few of which were from Allegheny County.

The Pittsburgh Branch reports that the year has been a very discouraging one, six members having withdrawn and six members having allowed themselves to be suspended for non-payment of dues, for the reason that they would not pay the increased amount for annual dues. Three new names were added to their roll, leaving the net membership twenty, or a loss for the year of nine members.

Notwithstanding the discouraging report of the Branch, the local society, the Twin City Philatelic Society, presents a more cheerful report, they having added many new names of good and active collectors to their roll.

The Exchange Departments of both the Branch and local society report that during the year the sales through their departments were greater than during any year heretofore. Many local auctions were held, at which a large quantity of stamps were sold, realizing fairly good prices. Literature has not failed; many interesting papers were prepared by various members, touching on philately, and read before the meetings.

Should any change be made in adjusting the annual dues to a more liberal amount, I have been assured that the Branch will regain some of the members lost during the past year, and that from the new members of the Twin City Philatelic Society we will secure a number of new members for the Association.

Yours respectfully,

E. DOEBLIN,

Resident Vice-President for Allegheny County.

Pittsburgh, Pa., August 20, 1897.

Referred to the Committee on Branch Societies.

The Secretary read the annual report of Branch No. 6, Staten Island Philatelic Society, from which it appeared that the society was organized March 19, 1884; its branch charter is not dated; it does not own a share of A. P. A. stock; number of members July 1, 92, of whom 28 are A. P. A. members; twelve meetings held during the year, on third Thursday of each month, at Loescher's Hotel, Stapleton, with average attendance of 20 members; Robert S. Lehman is Secretary, 210 East 35th street, and R. F. Albrecht Resident Vice-President. Referred to Committee on Branch Societies.

The following report was read and referred to the Committee on By-Laws:

Report of the Assistant Secretary.

Mr. President and Members of the American Philatelic Association:

The duties of your Assistant Secretary in line with his official station have been

nearly nominal the past year, not having been called upon by your Secretary. Such services as he may have rendered have been general in character and of an advisory nature.

Standing as the representative, on the Official Board, of the Pacific States, he can report that the interest in the Association has been maintained in his section during the past year, and there has been a conservative and healthy growth of membership; that resignations have been comparatively few and not more than might have been expected in the ordinary course of events; that with the exception of the speculative element, the interest in stamp collecting has been fully maintained, and is at the present moment in a healthy condition.

The total expenses of his office for the past year have been \$2.00, which will appear in the account of the General Secretary. Respectfully submitted,

H. B. PHILLIPS,
Assistant Secretary.

The following report of the Librarian was read and referred to the Committee on Library:

Report of the Librarian.

GENTLEMEN:—During the past year the Library has been less used than formerly. There were twenty-three applications for the loan of books, but in a majority of cases the things asked for were not in the Library. I have been able to report but twelve donations within the year.

My views in regard to the future management of the Library are incorporated in the report of the Special Committee on Permanent Location of the Library, so they need not be repeated here.

H. E. DEATS,
Librarian.

Rules of the Library of the American Philatelic Association.

1. Members desiring the loan of anything from the Library shall first inquire of the Librarian whether the desired book or periodical is in the Library and the amount of postage required to forward the same.
2. They shall then send to the Librarian the required postage, stating the length of time they desire the loan of the book or periodical.
3. They shall return books and periodicals promptly at the time agreed.
4. Members may draw no more than four volumes at a time.

The following report was read and referred to the Committee on Finance:

Report of the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the World's Fair Philatelic Exhibit of the American Philatelic Association.

GENTLEMEN:—Since my last report there has been but little for me to do officially, except to pay bills for storage and insurance. The cases were advertised for sale on Tuesday, June 10, 1897, and were sold for \$105. The accompanying statement shows a balance of \$290.79 due the Secretary for money advanced.

A scrapbook containing documents relative to the work of the Committee is submitted as a part of this, my final report.

I hope that this Convention will take measures to enable this Committee to finish up their work and be discharged.

H. E. DEATS,
Secretary of the Executive Committee.

World's Fair Philatelic Exhibit Executive Committee.

H. E. DEATS, Secretary.

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| Insurance on cases while stored in New York City | \$ 10 20 |
| Carting in New York City | 10 00 |
| Freight on cases New York to Flemington | 30 00 |
| Carting in Flemington | 3 50 |
| Labor (no voucher) | 1 00 |
| Storage on cases in New York City, John B. Hobby's Son & Co. | 287 88 |
| Storage at Flemington from July 16, 1895, to June 1, 1897 | 50 00 |
| Advertising auction sale of cases | 4 16 |
| Insurance at Flemington, two years | 12 00 |
| Total | \$408 74 |

| | | |
|--|-----|----------|
| | DR. | |
| Cash received from G. H. Watson, Treasurer | | 12 95 |
| Cases sold | | 105 00 |
| Total | | \$117 95 |
| Balance due H. E. Deats for cash advanced | | \$290 79 |

The following report was read and referred to the Committee on Library:

Report of Committee on Permanent Location of Library.

To the President and Members of the American Philatelic Association:

GENTLEMEN:—At the eleventh annual convention of your Association, held at Minnetonka in August last, your Committee was appointed to investigate and consider the possibility and advisability of locating the Association Library in a permanent home in some large city. As individuals the members of the Committee had previously considered the general question and to some extent possible locations. It was found difficult to interest the older libraries, which had already formulated their tendencies and objectives. The local societies of Pittsburg, Pa., consisting of Branch No. 5 of this Association, the Twin City Philatelic Society and the Pittsburg Philatelic Club, had already appointed a joint committee to consult with the Librarian and Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library, which had just completed its magnificent building, and had received assurances that the question of maintaining a philatelic department would receive careful attention. The Joint Committee consisted of C. P. Krauth, Chairman, representing Branch No. 5; G. W. Rode, representing the Twin City Society, and Dr. P. J. Eaton, representing the Pittsburg Philatelic Club. The Twin City society voted to donate its collection of philatelic literature to the Carnegie Library, and all of the Pittsburg local societies voted to use their influence in endeavoring to have the Association Library transferred permanently to the custody of the Carnegie Library and to maintain a permanent joint committee to facilitate the use of the Library by non-resident members. In August, 1896, a meeting of the Committee of the Association was held at which the Chairman and Mr. Krauth were present, and the details of the proposed plan were fully presented to the Librarian of the Carnegie Library. October 16 he advised us that the Library Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library had accepted our plan for establishing a philatelic collection. The letters which passed are attached to this report and cover many details. A number of books and papers on philately have already been presented to the Carnegie Library by various persons, and the officers of that Institution continue to show great interest in our proposed plans and have written to us on the subject. The Pittsburg Committee has been very active, and proposes, in the event of our locating the Association Library at Pittsburg, to extend its efforts to procure material for the Library to all parts of the world. A copy of their proposed circular to philatelic authors and publishers is attached.

After the most unfortunate death of our fellow committeeman, Mr. Tiffany, Mr. Severn was appointed as a third member of the Committee, and has taken up the work where it dropped from the hand that so long guided the destinies of your Association.

Your Committee, after careful consideration, beg to recommend the following action to the Association at this Convention:

1st. That the Library of the Association, and all future donations to it, be placed in the keeping of the Trustees of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburg, Pa.

2nd. That the Librarian of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburg, Pa., shall be considered *ex-officio* a member of this Association and Chairman of the Library Committee.

3rd. That the cost of stock certificate and annual dues of the Librarian shall be paid from the Treasury of the Association.

4th. That the offer of the Pittsburg Societies to appoint a permanent Joint Committee, to attend to procuring and forwarding philatelic literature from the Carnegie Library to members of the Association not resident in Pittsburg, be accepted.

5th. That the Association shall guarantee to this Joint Committee any expense for lost books or papers, fines for undue detentions and express or postage charges which the Committee may not be able to collect from the member in whose behalf the expense was incurred.

6th. That this Association concur with the Pittsburg Societies in their efforts to make the Carnegie Library one of the great centers of philatelic literature of the world.

7th. That the incurring of a reasonable charge for legal advice and assistance in drawing up and executing the necessary papers for transferring the Library of the Association to the Trustees of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburg, Pa., is hereby approved.

Your committee would further explain that while the contemplated transfer of the Library is to be a permanent one, yet the identity of the Association Library shall not be lost. The Carnegie Library agrees to purchase and add to the collection from time to

time such philatelic books, etc., as may be needed and to expend on this department an amount proportionate to the importance of the subject, so far as their means will permit.

Your Committee feels that the proposed disposal of the Library is a happy one. At present it is a source of anxiety and expense, with no provision made for housing, displaying or caring for it. It is of practically no use to anyone except the Librarian, and even of little use to him, unless he possesses room far in excess of that available in most private residences. We would further suggest that your Committee be continued or a new one appointed to collaborate with the Pittsburg Committee, if this report be accepted by the Association.

H. E. DEATS, Chairman,
C. P. KRAUTH,
C. E. SEVERN.

The President: Gentlemen, I want to announce that the polls close at 12 o'clock. If any have not voted they have a little over half an hour to do it.

Mr. Stone: The committee are ready to receive ballots and proxies any time.

The Secretary: I have been requested to ask all present who have received railroad certificates to hand them in to Mr. Burt as soon as possible.

The following communication was read and referred to the Committee on By-Laws:

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 15, 1897.

Mr. Joe F. Beard, Secretary, Boston, Mass.:

DEAR SIR:—At a meeting of the St. Paul Philatelic Society, Branch No 15, A. P. A., it was *Resolved*, That inasmuch as the name of this Society has been changed by re-incorporation, and that the same was done under the authority of the unanimous vote of the last convention, we hereby protest against any further action or vote on the adoption or rejection of the same by this convention.

Yours truly,

C. E. N. HOWARD,
Secretary St. Paul Philatelic Society.

The Secretary read a letter from L. B. Tuthill, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, relative to the latter's being dropped from membership; also a letter from the Treasurer on the same matter. Referred to the Official Board.

The President: Gentlemen, the polls close in fifteen minutes.

The business of the convention was suspended during the quarter of an hour remaining before 12 o'clock.

At 11:55 A. M. the President announced, "The polls close in five minutes," and at 11:57 A. M. he gave notice that the polls would close in three minutes.

At 12 M. the convention was again called to order, and—

The President said: The polls are closed.

The Committee on Standing Rules submitted the following report:

BOSTON, August 24, 1897.

The Committee on Standing Rules recommend the adoption of the standing rules of the last convention as the rules for the government of the twelfth annual convention.

F. TRIFET,
R. F. ALBRECHT,
L. T. BRODSTONE.

On motion, the report was received and accepted, and the recommendation adopted.

On motion of Mr. Albrecht, the convention voted to take a recess until half past one.

SECOND SESSION.--Tuesday Afternoon, August 24.

The convention reassembled at 1:52 P. M., President Olney in the chair and a quorum present.

The President: The annual report of the Board of Vice-Presidents is in order. Mr. Toppan will read the report in behalf of the Board in the absence of Mr. Van Derlip.

Mr. Toppan read the following report:

Report of the Board of Vice-Presidents.

BOSTON, Mass., August 24, 1897.

To the Members of the American Philatelic Association :

The Board of Vice-Presidents would respectfully submit the following report as to the various matters which have come before it during the past year.

Eight meetings have been held. The organization of the Board was effected by the choice of W. C. Van Derlip as First Vice-President, John Luther Kilbon as Second Vice-President and Secretary of the Board, and George L. Toppan as Third Vice-President. We are pleased to be able to say that the Board has been entirely harmonious in its proceedings during the year and no dissension among the members has appeared.

The votes passed by the Board of general interest are as follows :

It was voted that members of the Association be advised that the Board requires copies of all correspondence submitted in connection with any case for preservation in its files.

The matter regarding the incorporation which was referred to this Board by the Directors was settled by the passing of the following vote :

Voted, that authority be given the Northwestern Adjustment Company of Minneapolis to act as agents for the re-incorporation of the Association in the State of Minnesota, provided, that in case it be found necessary to have any or all of the incorporators residents of the State, that fact shall be reported to us before any further steps are taken, and provided, further, that the fee of said company shall be twenty-five dollars, (\$25), said fee to cover all expenses in connection with the re-incorporation, as per their offer addressed to N. W. Chandler under date of January 8th, 1897.

This latter vote was not carried out precisely, the agents selected having taken upon themselves to select the incorporators resident in the State of Minnesota, but no objection was made to their action and the articles of incorporation were adopted by the six incorporators under authority. The report of the Directors will be presented to you during this convention. In this connection it will be well for us to call attention to a vote passed by our predecessors, the last Board of Trustees, which has never been sent in. That vote was to the effect that the Board would not undertake to collect bills for or from any members of the Association resident in the United States, that work being believed to be within the province of the collecting agent. Several thought, in cases where the collecting agent, after due effort, had failed to secure the payment of such claims, that they might be brought to the attention of the Board as a basis for charges against the member in question.

The Board has been somewhat more fortunate than its predecessor in regard to complaints against its members of a nature to come properly before it. The greatest number of complaints made to us have been against the Superintendent of the Purchasing and Sales Department, and we are glad to be able to report that in the great majority of these cases the action or non-action of the Superintendent, regarding which complaint was made, has proved to be unavoidable and necessary. In one case, that of the former collecting agent, Mr. J. Arthur Wainwright, against the Department, the Board felt that Mr. Wainwright was technically justified in the charges that he made and that he must be held to have a just claim against the Superintendent.

As to other matters, the Board has felt obliged, upon evidence presented, to reject one application for membership and to expel from membership two others, J. S. Smith, of Chicago, for obtaining stamps with which he left his home so that he could not be found, and S. B. Bradt, also of Chicago, for failure to settle for a large and valuable consignment of stamps received several years ago from a prominent London stamp dealer. We regret to say that charges of a very serious nature are now pending against certain members of the Association, but we hope that the charges can be settled without serious loss.

Several of the cases left unsettled by our predecessors have been brought to a close. Noteworthy among them were charges by Henry Gremmel against C. W. Kissinger, claim of Georges Carion, of San Francisco, against the Association for certain supposed stamps held by the officers in the prosecution of an inquiry into their genuineness, and a number of cases of minor importance, most of which were only technically open.

One case, however, is still to be regarded as unsettled. It is a long standing case, entitled on the files of the Board, "*Calman v. Lost Circuits.*" This had to do with two circuits of lost stamps, one of which was lost between E. H. Remington, of Brockton, Mass., and William B. Hale, of Williamsville, Mass., and the other of which was lost while in the possession of Mr. John K. Tiffany, our former President. By vote of the convention of 1895, settlement has been made out of the funds of the Association for both these circuits. In the case of the first one referred to, which was of considerable less value than the other, the Board is of the opinion that unless some new evidence comes to light from any source it will be impossible to form a case by which a collection might be

made from either of the members who might prove to be responsible for the loss of the circuit. The other case, however, is somewhat different. The books were sent to the St. Louis Branch in care of George Kahle, who was at the time, when they started from Mr. Calman, Superintendent of Exchange of the St. Louis Branch. Before the stamps reached St. Louis, however, Mr. Kahle had left the city and the stamps were given, as were some of the others under similar circumstances, into the care of Mr. Tiffany. Mr. Tiffany had a distinct impression of having sent them to San Francisco to W. E. Loy, who was at that time Exchange Manager of that city. Mr. Loy has been able to prove, to the complete satisfaction of the Board, that no such circuit of stamps was ever received by him, and Mr. Tiffany was never able to find an express receipt or other means of proof that the circuit had left his hands in good order. Mr. Toppan of our Board discovered last spring that there was on file in Mr. Calman's office a report from Mr. Tiffany making returns for stamps taken from this circuit. There is no question in the minds of this Board, nor was there any in the minds of its predecessors, that Mr. Tiffany was both morally and legally responsible for the stamps just lost. With this view the Secretary addressed to Mr. Tiffany's brother, Dexter Tiffany, who we had been informed was executor of Mr. John K. Tiffany's estate, the following letter :

BOSTON, MASS., April 12, 1897.

Dexter Tiffany, Esq., St. Louis, Mo. :

DEAR SIR :—Having been informed that you are administering the estate of your brother, Mr. John K. Tiffany, I write by direction of the Board of which I am Secretary to present a claim on behalf of the American Philatelic Association of \$122.30. The grounds on which we make the claim are as follows :

On June 6, 1891, two circuits of stamps, numbered 6 and 23 respectively, were sent from Cleveland to St. Louis for circulation among the members of the American Philatelic Association resident in that city. They were addressed to one George H. Kahle, but he had retired from the management of the exchanges of the Branch at St. Louis, and the stamps were turned over to your brother. Circuit No. 23 went on in time to San Francisco and other cities and finally was returned to its starting point from New York. Circuit 6, on the other hand, was never heard from again. Your brother was addressed about the matter, but he had no memoranda to which he could refer. He thought that the circuit must have been sent to San Francisco. If it was so sent, however, it must have been sent to Mr. William E. Loy, and he has full record of all such packages sent to him which shows that Circuit No. 6 never reached San Francisco.

This state of affairs led the officers who have the matter in charge to feel that they had a valid claim against your brother for the stamps thus lost. He constantly denied, however, that the Association had any just claim in the matter.

In February, however, Mr. Toppan, a member of our Board, received from a former manager of the Exchange Department some papers relating to the matter which had not up to that time been in the hands of the officers who had the matter in charge. Among them was a report written and signed by your brother in which account was given of stamps taken from the missing circuit. In this way for the first time perfectly clear proof was given that the stamps had been in your brother's hands and had never been received elsewhere. Mr. Toppan was in St. Louis for a week in February and called several times on your brother, hoping to make the matter clear by a few minutes' conversation. Friends of his in St. Louis told him they were sure that, in view of the new evidence, your brother would no longer refuse to make payment for the stamps. He was unable to see him, however, and had just reached home when the news came of your brother's death. We have had no opportunity, therefore, to present the claim to him in the form in which it now lies, and so have thought best to present it to you as administrator of his estate.

When the stamps were placed on circuit their value was \$174.15. Sales were reported and settled for to the amount of \$51.85. The balance due, therefore, is \$122.30. This amount has already been paid out of the Treasury of the Association to the owners of the stamps which were lost.

We have not thought it best to present any claim for interest, inasmuch as the case was never presented to your brother fully. Yours truly,

(Signed) JOHN LUTHER KILBON,
Sec'y Board of Vice-Presidents.

To this letter we received the following reply :

ST. LOUIS, April 22, 1897.

John Luther Kilbon, Esq. :

DEAR SIR :—Yours, misdirected, to me has been received. The matter to which you refer is one concerning which I have heard my brother at times somewhat indignantly comment. As you say, he never considered himself under the least obligation to your Society in the matter. He had no duty to perform in referenee to the matter. He was

in no way obligated to keep track of or take care of your "circuits." You seem to wish to fasten some liability on him because a certain Mr. Loy avers that he never received a certain "circuit."

My brother, I believe, sent forward to its apparent destination every package which ever strayed into his possession, though, as I understand the matter, he was under no obligation to do so. Had he left Mr. Kahle's packages in the waste basket of his old office, he would have undoubtedly saved himself much annoyance and, I believe, have performed all the duties rightly required of him. I can not see why the friendly act of forwarding the package by express to some person having some duty in regard to them should be regarded as making him responsible for the safety of every package about which he may be shown to have had any knowledge.

That none of the packages remained in my brother's possession I feel certain. If they were lost, or strayed, or were stolen from the express, or from the office of some person on their rounds, I can not see how my brother was responsible. If my brother made the report to which you refer he must have known what was in it, and if knowing its contents he "constantly denied that the Association had any just claim in the matter." I can not see why you should wish to make against the widow and orphan a claim which the Association had not the confidence to press against his constant denial.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) DEXTER TIFFANY,

Att'y for Admx.

P. S.—Should any such package ever appear among his possessions, by any chance, it will, of course, be restored to the Association, but nothing of the kind has been discovered so far.

The Board feels that it has now done all that it is possible for it to do in this matter. As we have already said, we believe that the Association has a good claim, both morally and legally, against the estate of Mr. Tiffany. In view of his great services to the Association, however, and of the expense of undertaking such a suit as will be necessary, we have not felt inclined to take any action upon our own responsibility. We should be pleased, however, to have the Association give the incoming Board instructions by vote as to whether the claim should be prosecuted or dropped.

The Board has no recommendations to make as a Board regarding any matter which has been before us or which is likely to come before the Association.

We congratulate the Association upon what has been, from our standpoint, a prosperous year, and assure the members of our most earnest wish for its welfare.

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------|------------|---------|
| (Signed) | W. C. VAN DERLIP, | } Board of | |
| | GEO. L. TOPPAN, | | } Vice- |
| | JOHN LUTHER KILBON, | | |

The President: Gentlemen, you hear the report of the Board of Vice-Presidents. What action will you take in regard to it?

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. Chairman, I move that the report be accepted and placed on our files, and that action on it be postponed until we hear the report of the Committee on Credentials.

The President: Would it not be better to refer it to the Committee on Finance?

The Secretary: Yes.

Mr. Wainwright: I do not see what the Finance Committee would have to do with it, as it is nothing specially connected with the finances. Of course they make certain statements of what they have done, but it does not seem to me the Finance Committee has any more right over it than the Association.

The Secretary: Mr. President, I move it be referred to the Committee on Finance as the proper place for it.

Mr. Doebelin: I second the motion.

The President: You hear the motion, gentlemen. Was your motion seconded, Mr. Wainwright?

Mr. Wainwright: It was not seconded. I would suggest in addition to that—to which I suppose Mr. Beard would assent—that it be referred to the Committee on Finance if they are to report during this present convention.

The Secretary: All committees are to report to this convention.

The President: Certainly, they will report. You hear the motion, gentlemen.

The motion was carried and the report referred accordingly to the Committee on Finance.

The President: The Superintendent of Sales and Purchasing Department—is there any report from that department?

The Secretary: Did Mr. Kilbon receive anything?

Mr. Toppa: Mr. President, there is quite a bulky package from St. Louis which came in care of Mr. Kilbon this morning, marked "Personal,"—I do not know whether it is the report or what it is,—a very large, bulky package with over thirty cents postage on it, and we have not felt at liberty to open it, as it was marked "Personal." It may contain the report.

The President: How is Mr. Kilbon?

Mr. Toppa: I presume he will be in to-morrow or next day.

F. J. Bescher's Ballots.

Mr. F. J. Bescher: Mr. President, I was delayed in getting here this morning, having been detained by a wreck ten hours and twenty minutes, which brought me to the depot here at 20 minutes of 12, the train being due here at 10:20, and I arrived here too late to sign the ballots and cast them, and I would like permission to cast them now. I was in the committee room before the ballot closed.

Mr. Doebelin: Before the ballot closed? Before 12?

Mr. Bescher: Before 12, yes. I did not have them signed.

Mr. Doebelin: Did not have them signed till after 12?

Mr. Bescher: No. I had some of them signed. I was in here five minutes after 12.

Mr. Bogert: Can the convention do that?

Mr. Doebelin: It was an accident on the railroad.

Mr. Bescher: It was an accident.

Mr. Doebelin: We can make an exception.

The President: I do not see how we can receive the ballots unless we amend the By-Laws.

Mr. Bogert: That is what I thought. It is one of those unfortunate things—

The President read Article XIII. of the By-Laws, relating to amendments, and said: I do not see how, according to that, we can amend the By-Laws to cover this case. This matter might be referred to the Committee on Credentials and let them consider it.

Mr. Doebelin: Did they take the ballots that you had signed?

Mr. Bescher: No, I did not offer them. I offered them all, but it was too late.

The President: Didn't you hear the notice at half past 11 and quarter of 12—

Mr. Bescher: No, I was not here.

The President (continuing): Quarter of 12, five minutes of 12 and three minutes of 12, when notice was given by the Chair?

Mr. Doebelin: He was in the committee room arranging the proxies.

The President: They could hear in there very plainly. He was busy, probably.

Mr. Doebelin: There was too much noise, Mr. President.

The President: I do not see as there is any way that we can amend the By-Laws, except by a—

Mr. Bogert: We can amend them here, of course, but it would be too late.

The President: Thirty days' notice.

Mr. Bogert: That does not apply to an amendment in the convention.

The President: Yes, sir, the By-Laws require the polls to close at 12 o'clock. If there is no objection Mr. Bescher can make a statement to the Committee on Credentials,—the whole matter can be referred to the Committee on Credentials with the consent of the convention.

Mr. Toppa: Mr. President, I object strenuously. The By-Laws are explicit. They say the polls shall close at 12 o'clock. It has been published everywhere. It is a hard case, but at the same time I do not believe in whipping the devil around the stump to help a hard case. We cannot do it without violating the By-Laws, and I shall object to it to the end.

Mr. C. W. Bowen: It establishes a very dangerous precedent to amend the By-

Laws at so short notice. As Mr. Toppan says, it is a hard case, but I think it would be establishing a very bad precedent.

The President: There is no motion before the house. The suggestion was that Mr. Bescher's request be referred to the Committee on Credentials. That is only a suggestion.

Mr. Bescher: The delay was unavoidable, I assure you.

Mr. Doebelin: Mr. President, just think of the work that man had to get forty-six proxies together; then an accident happens on the railroad, he can not get here in time, and all his votes are destroyed.

The President: I know it is a hard case, but we are not responsible for it.

Mr. Doebelin: Isn't it hard? I would weep if it was me. (Laughter).

The President: Is there any objection to having the case referred to the Committee on Credentials.

Mr. Toppan: Mr. President, I object to that also. I do not think the Committee on Credentials have anything to do with it. We are bound by the by-laws.

The President: Well, let them send it back, then, and say so.

Mr. Toppan: I do not see as it is germane to the question, referring it to them. It is a matter to be settled here.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President, I was out when this matter came up. What is the question now before the house, or the suggestion?

The President: Well, there is no question; it is a suggestion by the Chair. Mr. Bescher has a number of proxies and he arrived here, owing to a railroad accident, at ten minutes of 12. He states that he did not hear the call of the Chair announcing the fact that the polls would be closed at 12, and he now asks that he be allowed to cast these ballots. The by-law says that the polls shall be open till 12 o'clock. At 12 o'clock they were closed.

Mr. Wainwright: I agree with Mr. Toppan in the matter. I do not see how, after the polls are closed, anybody can vote, no matter what accidents happen. If the train was late and the accident happened on the railroad, I suggest he sue the railroad.

The President: There is no motion before the house, gentlemen; this conversation is irregular, but the Chair allows it to proceed. If any one wishes to make a motion in regard to the matter the Chair will entertain it. If not, we will proceed to business, if there is any.

Mr. Doebelin: We ought to give Mr. Bescher a chance to give them to the Committee on Credentials. They are old hands and will know very well what to do. We should give him that chance.

The President: You make that motion, do you?

Mr. Doebelin: I make the motion to give Mr. Bescher a chance to hand his ballots to the Committee on Credentials and let them say what should be done. They will know what to do. The same committee have served for years. Let us see what they think of it; give him a chance at it.

Mr. Bogert: I second the motion, Mr. President.

The President: The motion is made and seconded. I think, Mr. Doebelin, it will be better to say "that Mr. Bescher have leave to appear before the Committee on Credentials," because he can not cast the votes.

Mr. Doebelin: No, no, he shall just appear before them.

The President: You hear the motion, gentlemen. Any remarks?

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President, I rise to a point of order. After the ballot is duly closed by the President in accordance with the by-laws the Committee on Credentials can not hear or entertain any motion for the receipt of any more ballots, and it is beyond their power to either hear or discuss the question.

The President: That is a question for the Committee on Credentials to decide. He is not depositing the ballots; he goes before them to make a statement; consequently I declare the motion in order. Are there any further remarks?

No further remarks being made, the President put the question, and the motion was rejected by a rising vote,—yes, 8; no, 13.

Mr. George Gregory: Mr. President, I just came in; I did not hear the discussion of this motion which has just been voted down. I know it was lost, but I would like to have the question stated.

The President: It was on the motion of Mr. Doebelin that Mr. Bescher be allowed to appear before the Committee on Credentials and make a statement. He arrived here too late, he claimed, to cast his ballots, and he wished to appear before the Committee on Credentials, and the question was decided in the negative.

Mr. George Gregory: Well, that seems to be a star chamber proceeding, doesn't it?

The President: Not here. We are in open convention; this is no star chamber.

Mr. George Gregory: When a man comes late and it is not his fault, why his vote should be rejected I cannot understand.

Mr. Toppa: Mr. President, I rise to a point of order. The gentleman is out of order. There is no question before the house.

The President: The gentleman is out of order.

Announcement of Excursions.

Mr. Burt: I move that we take a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded.

The President: The motion is made that we take a recess subject to the call of the Chair. It may be till to-morrow and it may be till the next day.

Mr. Batchelder: The boat for Salem Willows leaves the wharf at 9-30 A. M.

The President: Weather permitting?

Mr. Batchelder: Weather permitting. Well, as to that, the weather will permit, of course, but if we find the weather is not favorable for going by boat we think we had better go by train. Salem is as pleasant a place as you can find to enjoy yourselves if the weather is favorable.

The President: Are you in with the clerk of the weather?

Mr. Batchelder: I had that all arranged. Unfortunately, when I arranged to have a pleasant day to-morrow I never thought of such a thing as to-day not being pleasant.

The President: What time would you like to have the meeting Thursday morning?

Mr. Batchelder: I suppose early. I don't know whether the Secretary will be able to get up early Thursday morning, but I suppose the others will be in a fair condition.

The Secretary: If you will keep the crowd away from me to-night I shall be all right.

Mr. Scott: Some of the New Yorkers wish to go to the Park Theatre this evening. I have been down there and taken six tickets—

Mr. Doebtin: What is it, Mr. Scott?

Mr. Scott: It is "Coney Island," or something of that sort. What I was going to say was that I have bought six tickets and I have engaged that sixteen tickets are to remain unsold for one hour, so that if any of you gentlemen wish to go with us you can secure seats.

Mr. Batchelder: With regard to this afternoon, unless it should stop raining the committee felt that instead of going to Bunker Hill Monument it would be wiser to go to the Public Library, where there is plenty to see and enjoy indoors, and of course, anywhere outside to-day it would be rather disagreeable. It is simply for our guests to say, and I would like to hear some expression as to where the majority would prefer to go. Mr. Smiley has just suggested that the Art Museum is also in Copley Square, directly opposite the Public Library, and will be very pleasant to visit. I would like to ask those who would prefer to go to Bunker Hill Monument even in the rain to rise. (Five members rose). Those who would prefer to go to the Public Library this afternoon will please rise. (Four members rose). Am I to understand by that that the great majority would prefer to stay here?

Mr. Doebtin: No.

Mr. Batchelder: Now I wish you would all vote one way or the other. Those who would prefer to go to Bunker Hill Monument even in the rain will please rise.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. Batchelder, I would like to ask if you have made any observations as to how far we can see if we go to the top of Bunker Hill Monument to-day?

Mr. Batchelder: Probably to the bottom. (Laughter). That is as far as you can see, as far as any distance is concerned. Of course there is another day coming, and the day after to-morrow (Friday) will probably be pleasant, so you could go there on that day. Those who would prefer to go to the Public Library will please rise. (Several members rose). So far as there is any majority you say the Public Library, but most of you do not say anything.

Mr. Doebelin: Ask them if they will go to Keith's Theatre.

Mr. Batchelder: Well, we shall have to wait and see what the weather is and do the best we can.

The President: What time shall we meet Thursday morning, gentlemen?

Several Voices: Nine o'clock.

Mr. Doebelin: I think we ought to have a meeting to-morrow.

The President: We can have a meeting on the boat subject to the call of the Chair. But I want you to thoroughly understand that there will be a meeting here Thursday morning, whether there is one to-morrow or not. If we did not happen to have a meeting to-morrow there would be no means of notifying you. But there will be a meeting here Thursday morning and the President will call it to order at 9 o'clock.

Mr. Doebelin: Mr. President, I think it will be advisable for Mr. Batchelder to give instructions to all strangers where to meet to-morrow morning or where to go. We do not know where Atlantic avenue is.

The President: Pearsons' Wharf, Atlantic avenue.

Mr. Batchelder: I was just about to say that perhaps it will be pleasant for most of you to meet here at 9 o'clock sharp to-morrow morning. The boat leaves at 9:30 and it is about ten minutes' walk from here to the boat, so we should like to have everybody here promptly at 9 to-morrow morning. The wharf is at 398 Atlantic avenue and we take one of the boats of the Morrison Steamboat Co., running to Salem Willows; but if you come here we will all go down together at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Mr. Doebelin: I make the motion that we meet here to-morrow morning and go from here.

Mr. Bogert: I second the motion.

The President: There is a motion before the house. The motion before the house is that we take a recess to the call of the Chair. Will the gentleman who made the motion accept the amendment to meet here to-morrow morning?

Mr. Burt: I accept the amendment.

The President: The motion is that we take a recess until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning at this place. Are you ready for the question? (Putting the question.) The ayes have it. We will take a recess till 9 o'clock sharp to-morrow morning at this place.

At 3 P. M., the rain having somewhat subsided, special cars were taken for Bunker Hill Monument, the ascent of which was made by the entire party. It was the intention of the committee to take the visitors to the Charleston Navy Yard, but upon leaving the Monument, the weather being found unfavorable, a visit was made instead to the Boston Public Library, where special facilities were afforded by the librarian for viewing the institution throughout.

On Wednesday morning the members and their friends gathered at the convention hall at 9 A. M. No formal session was held, but the company proceeded at once, under escort of the committee of arrangements, to Pearsons' Wharf, where they embarked for Salem Willows. The details of the day's outing are given on pages 13-14.

THIRD SESSION.--Thursday Morning, August 26.

The convention met in Wesleyan Hall at 9:10 A. M., President Olney in the chair and a quorum present.

The President: The convention will come to order. Owing to the absence of gentlemen on the Committee on Sales and Purchasing Department I have made two new appointments to that committee, which will now consist of George L. Toppan, John W. Scott and P. M. Wolsieffer.

The first business is the report of the Committee on Credentials.

Mr. Stone, for the Committee on Credentials, read the following report:

Report of Committee on Credentials.

Your Committee have carefully compared the proxies sent in to them with the membership list and would report that the following members are entitled to the number of votes set against their respective names in addition to their individual votes, viz:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| H. E. Deats | 56 | C. H. Mekeel | 4 |
| R. R. Bogert | 74 | C. W. Bowen | 5 |
| J. N. Luff | 36 | A. E. Tuttle | 5 |
| A. W. Batchelder | 34 | G. R. Tuttle | 2 |
| L. T. Brodstone | 40 | E. C. Althen | 3 |
| P. M. Wolsieffer | 52 | W. F. Gregory | 7 |
| W. C. Stone | 21 | Nathan Cobe | 1 |
| W. W. Jewett | 11 | F. H. Burt | 1 |
| F. P. Brown | 11 | F. Forehand | 2 |
| J. W. Scott | 10 | F. J. Bescher | 42 |
| Total | | 417 | |

The number of votes cast for the different candidates for the Board of Directors was as follows:

| | Cumulated. | Part cum. | Single. | Total |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| F. F. Olney | 234 | 127 | 68 | 429 |
| W. C. Van Derlip | | 13 | 65 | 78 |
| J. L. Kilbon | | 24 | 63 | 87 |
| G. L. Toppan | | 11 | 57 | 68 |
| C. P. Krauth | | 22 | 18 | 40 |
| J. F. Beard | 504 | 110 | 66 | 680 |
| C. E. N. Howard | 117 | 24 | 5 | 146 |
| H. B. Phillips | 405 | 31 | 48 | 484 |
| Frank Koenig | | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| E. Doebelin | 423 | 86 | 64 | 573 |
| W. H. Mitchell | | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| N. W. Chandler | 171 | 57 | 32 | 260 |
| H. G. Smith | 459 | 132 | 41 | 632 |
| G. W. Achard | 9 | | 2 | 11 |
| F. J. Bescher | | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| G. R. Tuttle | 585 | 47 | 58 | 690 |
| G. D. Mekeel | | 4 | | 4 |
| C. W. Kissinger | | | 2 | 2 |
| C. E. Severn | | | 1 | 1 |

The By-Laws of the Association provide for the choice of three members of the Board of Directors who shall reside within a radius of thirty miles, and Messrs. Van Derlip, Kilbon and Toppan, being the only candidates voted for who come under that provision, are consequently elected, and the six other members are the following, who have received the largest number of votes as above shown: Messrs. Olney, Beard, Phillips, Doebelin, Smith and Tuttle, who will constitute the Board of Directors, together with Messrs. Kilbon, Van Derlip and Toppan before mentioned.

Seventy-six ballots were rejected for the following reasons: Illegal marking, 11; non-members, 7; proxy ballots superceded by personal votes, 58; 35 proxy ballots were not accompanied by proxies.

Your committee would repeat the recommendation of the committee of last year that the polls be closed a sufficient time before the convention to enable the committee to present a report at the first day's session. The immense amount of detail work in connection with the counting of the ballots and checking the list of nearly one thousand members and preparing a list of proxies and proxy holders suitable for ready reference, makes it abso-

lutely necessary that some action be taken in order that the convention, which cannot proceed to business until the report is presented, shall not be unduly prolonged.

The suggestion made last year that all the ballots and proxy blanks be made of uniform size is also approved by this committee, as its labors this year have been materially lightened by the improvements which were carried out this year in those forms. They would, however, suggest that a form of transfer be printed on the proxy blanks so as to facilitate transfers of proxies.

In order to make the above suggestions mandatory the committee would suggest their being incorporated in the By-Laws, and would also advise the insertion of a section prohibiting wholesale proxies and ballots.

[SIGNED]

W. C. STONE, Chairman,
H. E. DEATS,
P. M. WOLSIEFFER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Suffolk, ss., August 26, 1897.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of August, 1897.

Attest:

J. ARTHUR WAINWRIGHT,
Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(Notarial Seal affixed.)

Mr. Stone: With respect to the proxy ballots which the committee rejected because they were not accompanied by proxies, I should say that the powers of attorney were sent to a member of the Association, not to the Committee on Credentials, and did not reach us until after the polls had closed, and we could take no action whatever on them.

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, I would like to say with regard to these ballots which we rejected by reason of there being no proxy with them, that if they had been counted it would not have changed the order in which the various candidates stood; it would simply have made a larger number of votes for two different candidates, but would not have changed their order in the least.

Mr. Bescher: Mr. President, I demand that the ballots which I could not cast be accepted by the committee and enter a protest if they are not accepted.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, the Committee on Credentials know of no ballots having been offered them after the polls were closed, with the exception of three or four that came by mail, which were included among these which we spoke of as having been rejected. There have been no ballots offered us. I judge Mr. Bescher alludes to the ballots which he brought himself. He has tendered no ballots to the committee.

The President: There is no objection to those proxies being received.

Mr. Stone: The proxies are accounted for in the list.

The President: Because they have a right to vote on any question except upon the election. You hear the report of the Committee on Credentials. What is your wish in regard to the same?

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President, I move that the report of the Committee on Credentials be accepted and adopted by this convention.

Mr. Luff: I second the motion.

Mr. Kilbon: Mr. President, I would like to inquire if the adoption of the report under that motion would involve the putting into the By-Laws of the changes which the committee ask for. It does not seem to me that that portion ought to be put in in that form; it ought to be referred to the Committee on By-Laws and a proper draft made of the necessary changes.

Mr. Stone: Some of those recommendations were made to the convention last year and the report was accepted, but this year we recommend that they be incorporated in the By-Laws in the proper form.

Mr. Kilbon: It is to be understood that I do not in any way oppose the putting in of those changes into the By-Laws. I simply desire to have them put in in proper form.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President, I would change the motion a little. I move that the report, so far as it relates to proxies and ballots, be accepted and adopted, and that so far as it relates to changes in the By-Laws it be referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Excursions.

Mr. Batchelder: Mr. President, I would like to interrupt the proceedings just to say that in a few moments Mr. Lyons will take a party of ladies to Franklin Park. This afternoon at 2 o'clock Mr. Carpenter will take a party from here to Norumbega Park via the Newton Boulevard. Mr. Toppan will make an announcement later about to-morrow.

The President: The President has received the following report of the Superintendent of Sales and Purchasing Department:

Report of the Superintendent of the Sales and Purchasing Department.

St. Louis, August 15, 1897.

Herewith I beg to submit my annual report:

Sales Department.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Value of stamps in circulation, beginning August 1st, 1896. | \$40,062.33 |
| Received during the year, 832 books, value | 31,879.05 |

\$71,941.38

All of which are retired from circulation except ten books to the value of \$582.22, which were sent to Denver, Colorado, in February and were detained at the hands of E. A. Stigeler, against whom legal action is being taken for their recovery, or his punishment, if he fails to return the stamps or make a cash settlement for them.

Since September, 1893, (my term of office) this Department has received from the members for circulation 4,834 books, value \$151,534.20, sales from which have been \$33,485.79, an average of 22 per cent.

I have on hand 1,086 sheets of Control Stamps Nos. 2874-3969 and 924 blank books, representing a selling value of \$201.

Necessary books for keeping the records of this Department in a similar manner to that which my experience has found most suitable are ready with stationery, etc., to turn over to my successor upon payment of their cost.

Insurance Fund.

| | |
|---|----------|
| For insurance on stamps in actual circulation on September 1st, Insurance Account was credited. | \$216.56 |
| One per cent on value of books received during the year | 318.79 |
| By sale of stamps against account of G. B. Tuthill | 5.00 |
| Other small credits. | 1.06 |

\$542.01

| | |
|--|--------|
| Loss items as reported June 21st | 196.04 |
|--|--------|

Total now at credit of Insurance Fund \$345.97

Purchasing Department.

This Department was, by mutual consent of the Official Board, discontinued on account of insufficient support from the membership.

Regretting much my inability to meet with you and personally present this report,

It is respectfully submitted to the President,

G. D. MEKEEL.

The report was referred to the Committee on Sales and Purchasing Department.

On account of the absence of members of the Committee on By-Laws the President announced that the Committee would consist of the President *ex-officio*, Mr. Scott, Mr. Luff, Mr. Pitman and Mr. Van Derlip. The Committee withdrew for consideration of business referred to them.

Communications.

The Secretary: I have received the following telegram:

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Aug. 23.

The Members of the American Philatelic Association, Boston, Mass.—Greeting:

How I wish I were eating pork and beans with you. Sudden business prevents attendance. Committee on Credentials please record six votes Beard, three Smith, How's that for anti-Mekeel?

EBEN S. MARTIN.

The President: There is a communication from Georges Carion, of San Francisco, which, if there is no objection, the Secretary will read.

Mr. Albrecht: Is he a member?

Mr. Doebtin: No.

The President: He is not a member, sir. Out of courtesy we might read it.

Mr. Albrecht: I object to the reading of it, Mr. President. We can not receive here communications from outsiders.

The President: We can by unanimous consent, of course. Objection being made, it will be laid on the table.

The Secretary: It is with reference to a matter which transpired last year, when he was a member of the Association.

Mr. Doebtin: He has not been a member for two years.

Mr. Stone: Yes, he has.

Mr. Doebtin: He was suspended two years ago.

The President: It is objected to by Mr. Albrecht. Mr. Jewett, are you ready to report for the Committee on Branch Societies?

Mr. Jewett: The Chairman of the Committee, being obliged to leave the city yesterday afternoon, called upon me as the second member of the Committee to present the report which we had drawn up. (Reading).

Report of Committee on Branch Societies.

Your Committee on Branch Societies, to whom was referred the reports of the several Branches and the Resident Vice-Presidents, have considered the same and report as follows:

We are informed by the Secretary that there are fifteen branch societies of the American Philatelic Association, of which only nine have reported as required by Section 3, Article XI. of our By-Laws. These are:—

| | |
|---|------------------|
| No. 2, New York | with 36 members. |
| No. 3, Pacific, of San Francisco, Cal | " 24 " |
| No. 5, Pittsburg, Penn | " 20 " |
| No. 9, Pomeroy, of Toledo, Ohio | " 9 " |
| No. 11, Portland, Maine | " 23 " |
| No. 13, Boston, Mass | " 22 " |
| No. 14, Reading, Penn. | " 6 " |
| No. 15, St. Paul, Minn | " 17 " |
| No. 6, Staten Island, N. Y. | " 92 " |

Total, 9 societies with a membership July 1, 1897, of 249 "

Most of these appear to be in a prosperous condition, holding regular meetings and with considerable interest manifested.

The number of members belonging to Nos. 9 and 14, however, is less than what is required by our By-Laws, and we earnestly hope that their next annual report will show large additions to their membership rolls.

The Staten Island Branch reports a total membership of 92, of which only 28 are members of this Association; and we trust that our Secretary will receive many applications for membership from this branch at an early date.

We regret that we have been unable to procure any information about the six branch societies from which no reports have been received.

It is true that several branch societies are not filling any very useful functions and that their organization is of a somewhat perfunctory character. It also appears that among the most active and best known societies are those which are not made up wholly of members of the American Philatelic Association. This is not the condition which the By-Laws contemplate. It is intended that the branch should be an active, working society, and should help to bring new members to the parent society. The expediency of admitting non-members to the branches has been discussed at former conventions, and the sentiment has been strongly against it; hence the present by-law forbidding the same. In theory, the rule is all right, that a branch society should be made up of members of the greater society; but how has it worked in practice? It has not been a means of strengthening our organization. Strong societies like the Boston Philatelic Society can not now become branches. A formal organization without fraternal spirit and natural cohesive strength can not help the Association. There is no need of two local societies in

any but the larger cities. We believe that this Association would gain in influence by providing that any society among whose members are ten or more stockholders of this Association may become a branch society. We recommend that it be left optional with the local societies whether membership in the national society shall be compulsory upon their members; also that an annual assessment of ten cents for each non-Association member be paid to the Association by every branch society admitting such members. Non-Association members should not be allowed to vote on Association matters.

It is evident that there are some changes needed in the present system of establishment and government of our branches. The time, however, of this convention will hardly allow of much attention being given to this matter. Nevertheless we feel that some steps should be taken to cause the branches to become more distinctively such. The collection of dues should be by the local officers and paid to the Association as a per capita tax.

Complaints are made in many quarters regarding the amount of the Association dues, and a desire to have them reduced is expressed in at least one branch report. It is claimed that the present dues, in connection with those of the branches necessary for their actual running expenses, is the cause of the loss of membership. Your Committee recommend that the Finance Committee consider the advisability of reducing the annual dues.

We recommend that the ballots cast by branches be signed by the President and Secretary in each case and be accompanied by a list of paid-up stockholders.

The charters of several branches are not dated. When the charter of the Staten Island Branch was issued, no number was given to it. We recommend that your Official Board be requested to supply these that are omitted.

Respectively submitted,

F. S. BELDEN,
W. W. JEWETT, } Committee.
FRANK H. BURT. }

The report was referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

The Secretary read the following report :

Report of Committee on Library.

To the President and Members of the American Philatelic Association :

GENTLEMEN :—The Library Committee has carefully considered the report of the special committee appointed by the Association last year to consider a permanent location of the Association Library, and recommends the acceptance of that report as it stands. It further recommends a continuance of a special committee, to include the present Librarian and two resident members in Pittsburg, to have charge and care of the transfer and arrangement of the Library.

During the existence of the Association there has necessarily accumulated a large quantity of printed matter, viz : Reports of Committees, Directors, etc.

There is no need for this matter to be placed in the Library for general reference and circulation, but it should be preserved and placed in the care of a competent person and accessible only through an order of the Board of Trustees.

Your committee therefore recommends an appointed office of Recorder or Assistant Librarian, to have this matter in charge, and suggests Mr. H. E. Deats as the most available and competent person for the office.

Respectfully submitted,

R. R. BOGERT,
JOHN NEESNER,
LEWIS ROBIE,
Committee.

Boston, Mass., August 26, 1897.

Mr. Bowen read the following report :

Report of the Committee on Finance.

The Finance Committee beg leave to report that they have examined the Treasurer's reports of general and special funds and find the entries and footings to agree with the books, but find no evidence of the several amounts shown to belong to the Association, aggregating eighteen hundred ninety-nine 56-100 (\$1,899.56) dollars.

C. W. BOWEN,
J. M. ANDREINI,
E. A. HOLTON,
Finance Committee.

Boston, August 24, 1897.

The President: You hear the report of the Committee on Finance. I do not see how this committee can be discharged unless they get proper vouchers that the sum of money mentioned in their report is deposited somewhere. If no objection—

Mr. Conant: Mr. President, I did not understand what the result of the report of the committee was. What was the summary of it—that they found the money, or that they did not?

The President: It shows that—

Mr. Bowen: Mr. President, if I may explain—

The President: Mr. Bowen.

Mr. Bowen: The books and vouchers appear to be correct. There are vouchers for all amounts credited to cash, but we find no certificate or evidence of the deposits—no bank books, no stock certificate books, and nothing to show the possession of the funds by the Association.

Mr. Conant: That is what I wanted to get at.

The President: If no objection, the committee will be continued—the report will be received and the committee continued. They can make the report to the Official Board as to the funds. Is that your wish, gentlemen? (Putting the question) The report is received and the committee continued.

The following communications were read and referred to the Committee on Official Circular:

To the American Philatelic Association:

I hereby offer the services of *The Weekly Philatelic Era* as official organ for the coming fiscal year at twenty-five cents per year per member and the postage on foreign members additional.

Respectfully submitted,
W. W. JEWETT, Publisher.

NEW OXFORD, Penn., August 24, 1897.

Mr. Joe F. Beard, Secretary American Philatelic Association, Boston, Mass.:

DEAR SIR:—I herewith submit for the consideration of the American Philatelic Association the following proposition:

I will agree to furnish official reports of the Association printed in the style of the copy of the *Columbian Philatelist* herewith attached, for one year, similar paper and cover (color of cover to be selected by the Association) and mail such to each member of the Association within seven days of receipt of reports from the officers of the Association at a cost of one cent per copy furnished. It is agreed that no reading matter whatever in addition to official reports, unless approved by the Secretary, shall be printed therein, and no advertisements from parties not members of the Association unless same are approved by the Secretary of the Association. The cost named is for a monthly issue of reports. If desired semi-monthly, I agree to furnish same at four-fifths of one cent (.008) per copy for each copy furnished members of the Association. A bond of satisfactory amount will be furnished for the faithful performance of the contract.

J. F. DODGE.

NEW OXFORD, Penn., August 24, 1897.

Joe F. Beard, Esq., Secretary American Philatelic Association, Boston, Mass.:

DEAR SIR:—I hereby offer to print the official reports of the American Philatelic Association monthly in the *American Collector* in eight-point type, similar to first page of sample submitted herewith, and mail same regularly to each member for one year at a cost of one cent per copy furnished, and if the offer is accepted a suitable bond for the faithful performance will be furnished.

Respectfully submitted,
J. F. DODGE.

Mr. Albrecht: Mr. President, I am authorized by Mr. John Walter Scott to state that he offers the *Metropolitan Philatelist* as the official organ and is willing to mail the paper to every member during one year for the lump sum of \$100.

The President: Have you any objection to putting the proposition in writing?

The Secretary: That proposition should be handed in, or else the committee will have nothing to work on.

The President: The next business is the determination of the place of meeting of our convention for next year. I will ask if some gentleman will notify the Committee on

By-Laws, who are holding a meeting in the next room, as they may wish to be present at the discussion. Mr. Doebelin will act as committee of one.

Railroad Certificates.

Mr. Burt: Mr. President, the Committee of Arrangements regret to announce that less than one hundred certificates of the purchase of railroad tickets have been handed in by members in attendance, and that therefore we shall not be granted the return rate of one-third the regular fare, as was anticipated. If any members wish to retain their certificates as souvenirs I shall be happy to return them at the intermission, but they will be of no value for any other purpose.

Place of Convention of 1898.

The members of the Committee on By-Laws having returned to the convention hall,—

The President said: The following communication has been received, which the secretary will please read:

DETROIT, August 23, 1897.

Frank F. Olney, Esq., Boston, Mass.:

DEAR SIR:—It was my intention to have been with you this week at the meeting of the American Philatelic Association, but on account of business it will be impossible for me to do so. I have longed to be present at one of these annual meetings for two reasons, and it is a great disappointment that I cannot be present. The first reason, and one of prime importance, is my desire to meet those who have taken an interest in collecting stamps. The second is, it was my intention to make every effort to have the convention meet here in Detroit in 1898. We think there is only one city in the United States that is capable of holding a convention, and that is Detroit. Aside from its location, which is equally convenient for the East as well as for the West, we have the means for entertaining delegates such as few locations have. My object in writing you is to induce you to use your influence in having the next convention held in Detroit.

Wishing you a very pleasant time, I am

Sincerely yours,
JOHN KAY.

The Secretary: I have received the following letter, addressed to Mr. C. W. Kissinger, Secretary of the American Philatelic Association, and sent to me by Mr. Kissinger:

DETROIT, MICH., Aug. 12, 1897.

Mr. C. W. Kissinger, Secretary American Philatelic Association:

MY DEAR SIR:—On behalf of the business and commercial organizations of Detroit I desire to extend an invitation to your honorable body to hold its convention of 1898 within our midst. Of the general convention facilities of Detroit most of your members are undoubtedly well aware, but the hospitality of Detroit citizens to her convention visitors you must witness to appreciate. If you come here the Convention League will exert its every effort to make the meeting not only pleasing but successful.

Furthermore, I have the hearty assurance of the Detroit Association, which is a member of your honorable body, that it will greatly appreciate your coming to this city.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,
DETROIT CONVENTION LEAGUE,
MILTON CARMICHAEL, Secretary.

Invitation to Tennessee Centennial.

The Secretary: I have received invitations from the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, by A. J. Harris, President, and A. W. Wills, Secretary; William M. McCarthy, Mayor, and the Nashville City Council, by H. S. Williams, President; from the Nashville *American*, *Banner* and *Sun*, three of the leading papers of that city, and from E. C. Lewis, Director General of the Tennessee Centennial.

The Secretary read the first letter of invitation, which proved to be an invitation to the members of the convention to visit the Tennessee Centennial Exposition upon the adjournment of this convention.

The Secretary: I don't see as we are going down there now. I thought it was an invitation for next year, but it is an invitation to visit them now.

Mr. Doebelin: That is proper: the Boston Society will take us down.

Mr. Scott: I move that be laid on the table.

The President: We should take official notice of it.

Mr. Albrecht: Mr. President, I move that the Secretary be instructed to acknowledge the invitation as received, expressing the thanks of the Association, and that it be recommended to each member individually to visit the Exposition if possible.

Mr. Luff: I second the motion, Mr. President.

Mr. Wainwright: I second the motion, Mr. President, and also move that the various papers be referred to the Committee on Autographs.

The President: The gentleman is out of order; there is no Committee on Autographs. Gentlemen, it seems to me that this is a very important invitation—not only from the Mayor of the city, but from the Chamber of Commerce of Nashville, Tenn., and if no objection is made the Secretary will acknowledge the same and extend thanks for the invitation. (Putting the question). The ayes have it. It is a unanimous vote. That is this year, is it not?

The Secretary: Yes, it is now.

Mr. Scott: To go there at their own expense.

Place of Convention of 1898.

The President: Are there any propositions as to the place of next year's convention?

The Secretary: Has New York a proposition?

Mr. Luff: Mr. President, on behalf of the village of New York, especially the Collector's Club of the City of New York, I desire to extend an invitation to the American Philatelic Association to hold their convention of 1898 in the City of New York. We think we have a few facilities for the entertainment and amusement of collectors in the way of sight-seeing, and various other attentions we can show them. We are provided with an excellent place for meeting in the Collector's Club, free of all expense, with ample room for the meetings of the convention, rooms for the committees, and rooms where cold tea and similar condiments will be provided if necessary. We think that we can entertain the convention pleasantly and suitably. We shall be very happy to have you meet with us next year. (Applause).

Mr. Albrecht: I wish to second the invitation of Mr. Luff, at the same time extending the invitation in behalf of the Staten Island Philatelic Society. At present we are not New Yorkers, but on January 1 of the coming year we become citizens of Greater New York; and, as very likely all members of the American Philatelic Association have heard of the little society we have at Staten Island, I am authorized to speak for the Staten Island Society and to extend the heartiest invitation to visit us in New York. If the invitation is accepted I can vouch for a very pleasant time on the island, which, I think, to most of the members is so far unknown.

Mr. Bogert: Mr. President, I have been instructed as one of the delegates of New York Branch No. 2 to extend an invitation also to visit the city next year, and to cast my vote for that city. I also take leave to express the wishes of the National Philatelic Society, which is one of the oldest societies in the country, having been established in 1874. I am sure that although I am not specially instructed to present the invitation of that society, they will be pleased to have you there and to entertain you.

The President: Any further offers?

Mr. Scott: I might add a few words to that invitation. We have had the pleasure of entertaining this Association once, and I think everyone was fairly well satisfied.

Mr. Albrecht: Three times.

Mr. Scott: Well, the first time was at the inception of the Association; but the last time I think all who came enjoyed themselves, and we open the doors of the metropolis of New York on behalf of the Philatelic Society. The other associations are very closely connected, and the welcome will be unanimous from every New York collector. I think we

can raise a fair sum of money to entertain you properly, and we shall be very pleased to have you meet there.

Mr. Doebelin: Mr. President, as delegate of Pittsburg Branch No. 5, I have for the sixth time, to my sorrow, to name Put-in Bay as the next meeting place of the convention.

The President: The invitation will be received. Any further?

Mr. L. T. Brodstone: Our state society promises you a hearty welcome to Nebraska if you accept our invitation to hold your convention of 1898 at Omaha. On account of the exposition which is to be held there next year, you will have railroad rates no doubt cheaper than to Boston, and no certificate plan. We have one of the finest cities in the West to show you, and we guarantee you a good time. We have already started an entertainment committee. Philately is flourishing in Omaha, and the local membership of this Association will no doubt be largely increased if the Association is held in that city. Even the daily papers have stamp men on their staff, and no doubt will help awaken interest in the convention. It is a splendid opportunity for everyone to come and take in the big show, which is to be the largest exposition since the World's Fair, and the first great fair held west of the Missouri. Give the members at large an opportunity to enjoy the many attractions which will then be offered by holding your convention of 1898 at Omaha.

Mr. Beard: Mr. President, I want to second that invitation from Omaha. The speaker forgot to mention that there are two large places out there. Should Omaha be overcrowded by the many people attending that international exposition, we can go across the river to Council Bluffs, which is but a short distance from Omaha and easily accessible by street car or rail. Omaha has a population of over 140,000 and has very many interesting places to visit. You will certainly be well entertained should you go there, and you are assured that you will not have to pay but one fare for the round trip. They have already started to raise a fund for the purpose of entertaining the Association should you come and I doubt not that you will find just as fine an entertainment there as you have ever received anywhere should you accept that place for your meeting in 1898, and I trust that every one of you, even those from New York, will vote for Omaha. As New York has had it three times, they ought to be satisfied. (Applause.)

Rev. Dr. J. C. Quinn: Mr. President, I rise to say, if you will allow me to speak, that there are a great many collectors in the West who are working in this line, and I think it will be a great help to have the convention in Omaha. I have been in Omaha years ago and know all about it.

Mr. Doebelin: I think we ought to go there; the West has wanted the convention for a long time.

Mr. Beard: The gentleman who just spoke (Rev. Dr. Quinn) is one of our new candidates and will be a member of the Association in a short time, as soon as I can send him a certificate.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, I hope the members will not overlook the attractions of Klondike when they come to vote.

Mr. Beard: He always wants to put a chill on anything.

Mr. Luff: No, there is a fever up there, Mr. Beard.

The President: You must not forget at the same time, gentlemen, there is a little place down in Rhode Island called Providence. (Applause.)

Mr. Stone: What's the matter with the clams?

Mr. Luff: They're all right.

The President: If at any time you gentleman wish and a majority of you say Providence, all you have to do is to send a notice to the President, who resides there, and he will see that your convention is well taken care of. (Applause.) Now, gentlemen, there are nominations for five places: Detroit, New York, Put-in Bay, Omaha, and Providence, R. I. You will prepare your ballots,—

The Secretary: And Klondike—

The President: The nomination is out of order because the delegates could not reach there in time if they started now. (Laughter).

Mr. Stone: We speak for '99.

The President: Prepare your ballots, gentlemen.

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, it has been customary to call the roll because the proxies are supposed to count on this vote. The Secretary calls the roll; one of the members of the Committee on Credentials informs any members who do not know how many proxies they hold, how many they are entitled to vote, and two other persons check off as the members announce their preference.

The President: Not having attended a convention before, gentlemen, you will excuse me if I make slight errors or mistakes. The roll will be called.

The Secretary: I would suggest that you appoint parties to check off.

The President: I appoint Mr. Deats and Mr. Stone to check off the vote. Who is the other gentleman on the committee?

The Secretary: Mr. Wolsieffer.

The President: Mr. Wolsieffer. Gentlemen, we are about to proceed to ballot.

The Secretary called the roll, and the members responded as follows:

Mr. R. F. Albrecht: New York.

Mr. E. C. Althen: Four for New York.

Mr. J. M. Andreini: I do not desire to vote.

Mr. D. H. Bacon: New York.

Mr. Joe F. Beard: One for Omaha.

Mr. F. J. Bescher: Forty-three for Omaha.

Mr. R. R. Bogert: I cast 75 votes for New York.

Mr. C. W. Bowen: Six votes for Providence.

Mr. L. T. Brodstone: Forty-one for Omaha.

Mr. P. F. Bruner: Omaha.

Mr. F. H. Burt: Thirty-seven for New York. (I vote on Mr. Batchelder's proxies, which he has transferred to me).

Mr. Nathan Cobe: Two for Omaha.

Mr. Fred O. Conant: One vote for Providence.

Mr. H. E. Deats: Fifteen for Put-in-Bay, 43 for New York.

Mr. E. Doebtin: One-half for Providence and one-half for New York. (Laughter).

The Secretary: Where is Put-in-Bay? Aren't you going to support that?

Mr. Doebtin: I hadn't any to vote for Put-in-Bay. I vote personally here. Mr. Deats has my proxies.

Mr. Wolsieffer: We have no fractional votes here.

Mr. Doebtin: Then my whole vote for Providence. (Laughter).

Mr. Charles DeWitt Drew: One for New York.

Mr. George Gregory: One for Providence.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: St. Louis.

Mr. H. D. Humphrey: One for Providence.

Mr. C. E. Hussman: One for Providence.

Mr. Gordon Ireland: One for New York.

Mr. W. W. Jewett: Seven for New York, 5 for Omaha.

Rev. John Luther Kilbon: One for Providence.

Mr. A. M. Kirtland: One for New York.

Mr. John N. Luff: Thirty-seven for New York.

The Secretary: You fellows don't want much, do you? (Laughter).

Mr. Stone: No, they have got it now.

Mr. Luff: We intend to have it.

Mr. F. F. Olney: One for Providence.

Mr. E. T. Parker: Omaha.

Mr. Albert Perrin: One for New York.

Mr. F. H. Pinkham: One for New York.

Mr. F. H. Pitman: New York, 1.

Mr. Lewis Robie: Two for Put-in-Bay.

The Secretary: Is there any water to cross to get to Put-in-Bay? If so, I wouldn't have it.

Mr. Stone: Yes.

Mr. J. W. Scott: Eleven for New York.

Mr. Charles E. Sebbens: Omaha.

Mr. F. S. Smith: One for New York.

Mr. W. P. Stone: New York, 23.

Mr. Frank W. Snow: One, New York.

Mr. George L. Toppan: Providence, 1.

Mr. George R. Tuttle: Three for Omaha.

Mr. J. A. Wainwright: One for Omaha.

Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer: Providence, 1; Omaha, 30; New York, 22.

Mr. Frederic Forehand: Three for New York.

Mr. C. C. Lewis: One for Providence.

Mr. William M. Howe: One for Providence.

Mr. Duncan S. Wylie: My name has not been called.

Mr. Deats: Mr. Wylie has given his proxy to some other member, who has voted it.

Mr. Wylie: That is a nice idea.

Mr. William H. Page: Providence.

The Secretary: Are there any others whose names are not on the list? We want them all. (No response).

The President: The polls are closed.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, the result of the ballot is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Whole number of votes cast | 436 |
| Necessary for a choice | 219 |
| Put-in-Bay has received | 17 |
| Providence | 18 |
| Omaha | 129 |
| New York City | 272 |

The President: Gentlemen, I am very sorry that you have not put your trust in Providence,—Rhode Island. (Laughter). I think it would be a good thing now to make that vote unanimous.

Proposition for Official Journal.

The Secretary read the following proposition, which was referred to the Committee on Official Circular:

"I hereby offer to publish the official reports and such other matters as may be necessary for the information of the members of the American Philatelic Association and mail a copy of the paper for one year to all members at the rate of 10 cents per member in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, or for the lump sum of \$100 per year. J. W. SCOTT."

The business of the convention was suspended at this point for a few minutes.

The President: Gentlemen, please come to order. Some doubts having arisen in the minds of the members in regard to the vote by which New York was selected as the place of the next convention, I hereby declare that at New York City, in the State of New York, the United States of America, is to be held the next convention of this Association. (Applause).

Vote of Thanks.

Mr. Toppan: Mr. President, I move that we take a recess for a little while, subject to the call of the Chair.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. Chairman, before that is done, I have a motion I would like to offer. I don't know as the phraseology is just right, but the spirit is there:

Voted, That the thanks of this Association be given to Winfield S. Nevins, Esq.,

Mrs. W. S. Nevins, Hon. John D. H. Gauss, Frank Cousins and George H. Shepard for their courtesy in making our visit to the City of Salem one long to be remembered by all of us.

Mr. Doebelin: I second the motion.

The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote and the Secretary was instructed to transmit the thanks of the Association accordingly.

Report of Committee on Finance.

Mr. Bowen: The Committee on Finance, to whom the report of the Board of Vice-Presidents was referred, have no action to recommend.

The President: If there is no objection the partial report of the Committee on Finance will be received. I hear no objection and it is so received.

Mr. Robie's Revenue Stamps.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President. I notice in this morning's *Boston Globe* a very grave charge against one of our members. The following is what I refer to.

The President: Is it sworn testimony that you now present?

Mr. Wainwright: It is public print, and it seems to me requires some attention.

The President: All right, sir.

Mr. Wainwright: In telling of our journey to Salem yesterday they say as follows:

"G. F. Robie, of Chicago, distributed a novel card among the delegates and guests. It was a fac simile of the one dollar United States internal revenue stamps used on cases of proprietary medicines. On the reverse side were Mr. Robie's initials."

That is a very grave charge against one of our most excellent members, that he has been printing fac similes of United States revenue stamps. I think it should be corrected. What Mr. Robie did was to distribute to some of the fortunate ones yesterday a four-cent internal revenue stamp, genuine, on the old paper, if I am not mistaken, catalogued at one dollar, and I am happy to say that his initials are on the back, and I have one of them.

Mr. Robie: I still have one or two of them and I will sell them at 25 off to anybody that wants them. (Laughter).

The President: A recess will be taken subject to the call of the Chair.

After a short intermission the convention was again called to order.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, in order to give the Committee on By-Laws plenty of time, as well as the other committees, I move that we take a recess until 2 o'clock this afternoon. Then there will be ample time for the committees to confer and for the members to see the town a little.

The motion was seconded and carried, and a recess was accordingly taken at 10:47 A. M.

FOURTH SESSION.--Thursday Afternoon, August 26.

The convention reassembled in Wesleyan Hall at 2:10 P. M., President Olney in the chair and a quorum present.

The President: The convention will come to order. The Committee on Sales and Purchasing Department is ready to report.

Mr. Toppan read the following report:

Report of Committee on Sales and Purchasing Department.

BOSTON, Mass., August 26, 1897.

Mr. President and Members of the American Philatelic Association:

GENTLEMEN:—Your Committee beg to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the Superintendent of Sales and Purchasing Department, which shows a balance of \$582.22

which is in litigation in Denver. The report does not state that the exchange books have been returned to the owners, or that they have paid for the sales made therefrom.

The late Superintendent also makes a claim for the cost price (amount not stated) for control stamps and blank exchange books said to be of the selling value of \$201.00, for which he asks payment before turning over the same to his successor; by Article I., Section 7 of the By-Laws the above mentioned articles are required to be paid for by the Superintendent of Sales out of the ten per cent commission allowed as compensation to the incumbent of said office.

We also find that the control stamps have already been paid for by the Treasurer of the Association in compliance with a vote of the last convention.

Your Committee are of the opinion that all books used by the officers of the Association are the property of the Association and must be delivered to the properly designated officers upon demand.

The report fails to show any funds on hand to meet any claims against the Sales and Purchasing Department.

Your Committee regret their inability to accept the report upon the information furnished and, therefore, would advise that a permanent committee of three be appointed by the President, said committee to have full powers to take such action as they may deem necessary to wind up the affairs of the late Superintendent and to see that the property of the Association is turned over to duly elected officer.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. L. TOPPAN, Chairman,
JOHN W. SCOTT,
P. M. WOLSIEFFER.

The President: You hear the report of the Committee, gentlemen. If there is no objection, the report will be received. In regard to the recommendations, what do you wish done?

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President, I move the recommendations be adopted by this Association.

Mr. Stone: I second the motion.

The motion was carried.

The President: The Chair will appoint George L. Toppan, John W. Scott and P. M. Wolsieffer a committee of three to act in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.

Obituary Committee.

The President: Gentlemen, it seems to me it would be proper to appoint an Obituary Committee. There have been several deaths in our Association during the last year, and we ought to take some notice of them. If there is no objection, I will appoint a committee of three for that purpose. Is there any objection? As there is no objection I will appoint W. C. Stone, John L. Kilbon and P. M. Wolsieffer a Committee on Obituaries.

Invitation to Visit Postoffice.

Mr. Pitman: Mr. President, I have been requested to state that an invitation has been received from the authorities at the postoffice, and it was hoped that a party could have gone there, but the ladies have gone to Franklin Park and the men are here, and I think it is doubtful if they can receive us now. But if any of the members remain and can go with me to-morrow morning, I shall be glad to take a party.

Report of Committee on Finance.

Mr. Bowen: Mr. President, the Committee on Finance have examined the report of the Executive Committee on the World's Fair Philatelic Exhibit, and find the same to be correct and properly vouched.

The President: If no objection, the report will be received. I hear no objection, and it is so received.

Railroad Certificates.

Mr. Burt: Mr. President, the agent of the railroad associations is present and desires to make a list of the certificates which have been issued to members. It will

oblige him if all members holding certificates will hand them to him, and I will ask those gentlemen to whom I have returned their certificates to show them to the agent.

Mr. Wolsieffer: Mr. President, inasmuch as the representative of the railroad is here, I would like to state for the benefit of the members present who are disappointed in not having the required number of certificates presented to secure the reduced rates, that the reason is that those certificates grant no privileges whatever. They give us no stop-over privileges, we have to come and go at a certain time, and we are limited to the same route going and coming, and we would much prefer to pay straight rates than to take advantage of the conditions that they give us on these certificates. It may do for people who are close by, but people who are far away can not use them to any advantage.

Report of Committee on Official Circular.

The President: Mr. Sanderson, is your Committee ready to report?

Mr. Sanderson: It is.

The President: Come right up here, Mr. Sanderson, where we can see and hear you.

Mr. Sanderson: Before reading you our report, let me say that the Committee have gone over the matter very carefully as to whether we should adopt a monthly or a weekly. We have received offers from eight different papers: the *Post Office*, the *Boston Stamp Book*, the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, the *Columbian Philatelist*, the *American Collector*, the *Weekly Era*, *Mekeel's Weekly*, and a special paper to be published by one of the members. Perhaps it would be well to let the convention know exactly the offers that have come in. Is that all right, Mr. President?

The President: Yes, sir.

Mr. Sanderson: The offers received by the Association have been from the *Post Office* to publish a monthly edition, sending it to each of the members at 20 cents per capita, making \$176 as the cost to the Association. The *Boston Stamp Book* does the same thing for \$285 a year. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* does it for \$100 a year. The *Columbian Philatelist* and the *American Collector*, which are published by Mr. J. F. Dodge, both offer to do it at about \$105 a year. A special paper has been suggested, which would cost \$43.80 a number, twelve numbers being \$525. That ends the monthly papers. The *Weekly Era* offers to furnish to each member of the Association a copy at 25 cents per capita, or \$220 a year. The offer which we have received from *Mekeel's Weekly* is rather an informal offer written to the Secretary, in which Mr. Mekeel says that he will continue publishing the reports of the Association for nothing, members to subscribe if they like; or an arrangement, I think, can be entered into by which they would take the subscription at 25 cents per year.

Mr. Beard: No, 50 cents for each member who subscribes.

Mr. Sanderson: Then each member who subscribes would pay 50 cents?

Mr. Beard: Yes.

Mr. Sanderson: Mr. Mekeel says in his letter:

"I will say to you informally that the *Weekly* is willing to serve the Association as its official organ another year and print its official matter free. Members will be at liberty to subscribe or not as they choose."

Mr. Beard: Fifty cents a year for subscriptions?

Mr. Sanderson: Well, at that rate the *Weekly* would cost \$440 a year if we subscribe for each member. The Committee have considered all these offers, and we have come to the unanimous conclusion that a weekly would be the best. Of course it is for you to decide, but this is our report:

"To the Officers and Members of the American Philatelic Association:

"Your Committee on Official Circular have considered the propositions of eight different papers and would respectfully report that they are unanimously in favor of a weekly paper, and recommend that the *Weekly Era*, of Portland, Maine, be adopted as the official organ, at the price offered, of 25 cents a year for each member.

"HOWARD K. SANDERSON,

"HENRY D. HUMPHREY,

"GEORGE GREGORY."

The President: Gentlemen, you hear the report of the Committee.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, I move that the report be accepted and the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Doebelin: Mr. President, I heard this morning the proposition from Mr. Jewett, and it was somewhat different from what is stated in the report. I understood that the Association was to pay extra for the postage to foreign members. I did not hear anything in the report about that. Did Mr. Jewett drop that, or is it included?

Mr. Jewett: The postage will cost me 52 cents on each foreign member, and that will be a considerable loss.

Mr. Doebelin: I did not hear anything about it in the report.

Mr. Beard: Read Mr. Jewett's proposition, so that there will be no misunderstanding.

Mr. Jewett: It is very brief; I thought it was clear.

The President read Mr. Jewett's proposition (page 39).

Mr. George Gregory: Mr. President, we took it for granted that it would be understood that the same arrangement would be in force as last year. We were to pay Mekeel for the postage.

Mr. Stone: It is so stated in the By-Laws.

Mr. Doebelin: I understood it was in the proposition, but I did not hear it in the report.

Mr. Sanderson: I think that was simply an oversight on the part of the Committee. The Committee understood that foreign postage would be charged for.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: I move that the report of the Committee be returned to them for amendment in that particular.

The President: You will have to reconsider your vote.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: Well, to reconsider the vote, then, if that be the first move,

Mr. Burt: I second the motion.

The motion to reconsider was carried.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: Now, Mr. President, I think it is in order to move that the report of the Committee be returned to them for amendment, in order that those few words in regard to foreign postage be inserted.

Mr. Stone: I second the motion.

The motion was carried, and the report returned to the Committee, who subsequently submitted it again, with the addition of the words: "Postage on copies to foreign members extra."

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, I believe the name of the paper is *The Weekly Philatelic Era*. I would suggest that the report be corrected in that particular.

The President: Well, the Chair will rule, as there is only one paper there, that this would cover the whole ground.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, I will renew my motion to accept the report and adopt the recommendation of the Committee.

Mr. Wainwright: I second the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Report of Committee on By-Laws.

The President: Are the Committee on By-Laws ready to report?

Mr. Luff stepped to the platform.

The President: Please give your attention. This is a very important matter.

Mr. Luff: Mr. President, your Committee beg to report the following amendments to the By-Laws:

Article II., Section 3: To strike out from the second line of the Section the amount of \$1.80 and substitute for it \$1.20 as the amount of the annual dues.

The President: You hear the proposed amendment. The amendment to the By-Laws will stand if there is no objection. That makes the dues \$1.20 instead of \$1.80.

No objection. Mr. Luff will read the sections that are amended, and also the proposed amendments, and if there is any objection as he proceeds, please make it known at the time he finishes the section that he is reading.

Mr. Luff: Art. II., Sec. 4:

"In case any member fails to pay the annual dues or accounts due *the Association or*"—

The last three words are inserted—

"the Sales and Purchasing Department within 30 days from the time the same are due, the Treasurer shall notify such delinquent member, and unless such dues or debts are paid, or the stockholder presents his resignation and surrenders his certificate of stock within 30 days thereafter and pays amounts due, *the Treasurer shall notify the Secretary, by whom* his name shall be stricken from the rolls, and his stock *shall be* declared forfeited to the Association, *and his name shall be omitted from the Year Book.*"

(Words in italics inserted by the Committee.)

This, gentlemen, is intended to prevent carrying deadwood as receivers of the Year Book and as receivers of the official journal and getting credit for being members of the Association when they are not. (Reading.)

"*The Secretary shall notify the Superintendent of the Sales and Purchasing Department to debar from the privileges of that department any member whose name shall have been dropped from the rolls.* Any stockholder whose name shall have been stricken from the rolls for non-payment of dues, or debt to the *Association or* Sales and Purchasing Department, may, on the payment to *the Treasurer (who shall notify the Secretary)* of all amounts due, be re-instated and have his stock re-issued to him *by and* at the discretion of the Secretary, who shall, however, refer any case of doubt to the Board of Vice-Presidents, whose decision shall be final in the matter."

No objection was made to the amendment.

Mr. Luff: Mr. President, following Sec. 5 is a paragraph without number, to which your Committee have prefixed the number, Sec. 6.

The President: There is no objection.

Mr. Luff: Art. III., Sec. 8: At the end of the fourth line, to strike out the word "credentials," and following the words "and a committee of five members," insert "on credentials, and a committee of five members," the rest of the sentence to stand as it now reads—"of which the President shall be *ex-officio* chairman, on the By-Laws."

The President: That gives the Committee on Credentials five members instead of three. The Committee on Credentials is one of the hard-working committees, and it has become necessary, now that the number of ballots is so large, that they have assistance. If no objection, we will proceed with the reading of the report.

Mr. Luff: Art. IV., Sec. 3: In the fifth line strike out the words "Assistant Secretary," and also strike out the words "Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department," and insert between "Treasurer" and "International Secretary" the word "and."

The President: By that it is proposed to have the Sales Superintendent appointed by the Directors. They can then have full charge of this department and see that it is well taken care of, and all complaints relative to it should be made straight to the Official Board.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: There will be then seven members of the Board of Directors.

The President: Yes, sir.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: Will it not be necessary, then, to correct Section 1?

The President: There is no necessity of every Director having an office outside of his position as Director.

Mr. Stone: Will Mr. Luff read the section as it will read when amended.

Mr. Luff: (Reading).

"SEC. 3. Immediately after the annual election of Directors, those chosen shall proceed to choose from their number a President, Secretary, Treasurer and International Secretary, and to select such officers as are required by the By-Laws to be appointed by the Official Board."

The President: That is a question for you, gentlemen, whether you want that—

Mr. Doebelin: Where will mine come in, Mr. President?

Mr. Luff: That is there in this section.

The President: It is all right, Mr. Doebelin; you are there. (Laughter).

Mr. Kilbon: Mr. President, I do not know whether the Committee on By-Laws at some future stage of the proceedings this afternoon is going to report the matter which I am about to speak of. If so, Mr. Luff can tell me, and I will shut up. But the matter is this: It seems to me, and to a good many other members of the Association with whom I have talked about the matter, wise that the appointment of the Superintendent of Sales and Exchange, which, of course, is now to be made an appointive office, should be confined to some person who is not a member of the Board of Directors, so that that office may be absolutely and distinctively under the control of the Directors at all times, as I understand that is the object of this change in making it an appointive rather than an elective office. It seems to me that later on these appointive offices should not be held by any member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, as I understand it, these changes will not take effect till next year; is that it?

The President: They will take effect as soon as they are adopted—just as soon as they are voted on. This is a convention of the whole body. I can not see any objection to a member of the Board of Directors holding an office.

Mr. Luff: Mr. President, I scarcely think we can act on this occasion in good faith on the motion of Mr. Kilbon, because we have elected one of our Directors with the distinct understanding that he was to occupy the position of Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales.

Mr. Beard: If he holds that you will have to declare his office vacated as Director and elect a new Director.

Mr. Luff: No, not necessarily, unless Mr. Kilbon makes that as a motion and it is seconded and carried by the convention. He only asked it as a matter of information.

Mr. Bogert: What is the objection to a Director's holding office? I should not think it would make any difference.

Mr. Luff: From the fact that we are trying to make this an appointive office and not an elective office.

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, I do not like the idea of having this change go into effect now, because, as has been said, we have elected one man, Mr. Tuttle, on the supposition that he would have that position of Superintendent of Sales and Purchasing Department, and I feel that it is not just to him or to the other members who are not here in person to make that change now. It may be that it will be a good thing. I hesitated when we made the Sales Superintendent a member of the Board of Directors, and have always felt that it was of questionable expediency. But I fail to see the advisability of a change now when we have just held an election and have elected a Director with the understanding that he should hold that office.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: It seems to me that it might be possibly practicable and perhaps advisable to have this amendment take effect at the next annual election, and at the proper time a motion can be made that the amendment to this Article shall not have force until the election in 1898. That would relieve the present newly elected Board from any embarrassment in that connection.

The President: The supposition was that this gentleman was going to be appointed to that office anyway. We have held an election and we have in fact, we may say, elected him as the Superintendent of that department, and there is no doubt that the Official Board will appoint him to that office unless Mr. Kilbon's motion prevails.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: I think Mr. Kilbon's motion is made with a good intent and is very desirable, as he says, in that it gives the Board of Directors absolute control over their appointee; but if he is a member, they do not have absolute control over him,

because if they should be evenly divided he would have the casting vote and they would stand five to four in his favor.

Mr. Kilbon: I may be pardoned for speaking pretty freely and frankly about this matter and using Mr. Tuttle's name. Mr. Tuttle has been elected, to my entire satisfaction and with my cordial support, and I anticipate a great improvement in the Sales Department under his control. But at the same time I think this matter should be looked at from the standpoint of theory and not from that of Mr. Tuttle's personality or of any other man's personality; and if it is desirable on general principles that the Superintendent of the Sales and Purchasing Department should be an appointive officer strictly, and that the appointive officers should not be taken from among the Directory but from the other members of the Association, that that change should go into effect now and that Mr. Tuttle should resign the office of Director to which he has been elected and some other gentleman be substituted in his place. I do not think there is any question at all that Mr. Tuttle will be appointed Superintendent of the Sales and Purchasing Department by the Board of Directors, although I am only one of the Directors. I can only guess, and I think I guess right when I say there is no doubt whatever that Mr. Tuttle will be appointed to that position.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. Chairman, under this Section 3 as amended there is nothing whatever in the section that requires the Official Board to appoint to the appointive offices anybody outside of their own body; they may find a man who is eminently qualified in the Board of Directors. Now while it is perfectly true in theory, as Mr. Kilbon says, that you want to have control over your Purchasing and Sales Department and over the Superintendent of that department, I cannot see very well why, unless there is an actual division in the Board themselves and the Superintendent is able to carry four men with him as against four men against him—which would show that at least he was carrying on the department to the satisfaction of half of the Board of Directors—there should be any trouble whatever. I do not see as there is any necessity for Mr. Tuttle to resign his office, as we could not elect a Director to take his place at this time very well—

The President: Oh, yes, we could.

Mr. Wainwright: As the polls have been closed.—

Mr. Beard: It makes no difference.

Mr. Wainwright: It seems to me, Mr. President, that in such a case as this there is no real trouble about it. When the next election comes around we can manage it, but I do not see any reason why Mr. Tuttle should resign the position. I do not see why Mr. Tuttle should be out of the Board of Directors, when he has been elected to that position with full knowledge of the By-Laws as they stand to-day. I cannot see any inhibition in this section against the Official Board appointing to an appointive office anybody they choose, and I do not see why they fail to have control over the Purchasing and Sales Department for the simple reason that the Superintendent is a member of the Board of Directors. I do not see why they have not had full control over the present Superintendent of the Sales and Purchasing Department as far as anybody could have control over him and keep him within reasonable bounds. He would have been just as bad if he was not on the Board of Directors as he was on.

The President: There is no trouble about filling any vacancy, you know.

Mr. Wainwright: I do not see that there is any special reason for the postponement of the effect of this section. I see every reason why it should remain just as it is, leaving in the Board the discretion to fill any appointive office with any man they see fit to put in. There is no inhibition on them as to whom they shall appoint. There is an indirect inhibition on them as far as the President, Secretary, Treasurer and International Secretary are concerned; they must be in the Board of Directors.

Mr. Van Dertip: I rise to a point of order. I do not see as there is anything before the body.

The President: The question of the By-Law as read by Mr. Luff. The By-Laws

are being amended. The question before the house was in regard to the amendment of Article—what article was it, Mr. Luff?

Mr. Luff: Art. IV., Sec. 3.

Mr. Toppa: Mr. President, at the same time that was not put in the form of a motion, and therefore was not before the house for discussion.

The President: The Chair made the statement at the beginning of the session that if there was no objection we would proceed with the reading of the By-Laws; if there was objection, they would be taken up by sections; and there has been no objection made until the present section.

Mr. Kilbon: The matter about which we are talking is a matter which comes up properly under a later By-Law, and I move that we proceed with the report of the Committee and take this up later.

The President: If there is no objection, we will proceed.

Mr. Beard: I think the whole body would have a better understanding by my making one statement. I do not know whether any of the other members of the Board got such a letter from Mr. Mekeel as I did or not. An exception was taken to some work that was done in the Exchange Department. Mr. Mekeel wrote me a letter and stated that he was elected by the members of the American Philatelic Association, the Board had nothing to do with him, he was an elective officer. And this is just the reason why we would like to have this under the supervision of the Board in case of another trouble like that of Mr. Mekeel. I think it is a very good suggestion.

Mr. Toppa: Mr. President, as it has gone so far, I would like to have one more word now, and that is that the point on which that By-Law was based is that, according to the By-Laws as they read now, the Board cannot for any cause whatever take an office away from a man who is a member of the Board—they have no control over him; he is elected for a year, and he stays there. In the past we have had many occasions where we would have kicked the whole outfit out bodily if they had been appointive officers and we could have done it. That is where the whole thing hinges. I am not speaking of the present, but it will come up next year the same way. All amendments have to be acted upon this year and they take effect this year; we cannot put them off a year.

Mr. Wainwright: May I make one further suggestion, which I should have made when I was talking before, and that is that inasmuch as this section provides that the Directors "shall proceed to choose from their number a President, Secretary," etc., when a man is elected to such an office he cannot be put out. But where there is an appointive officer, a man who is appointed by the Board, he can be removed by the same power that appoints him, and if Mr. Tuttle was appointed to this office, he could be removed the same way he was appointed. If he was, however, elected by the Board to fill the office to which the By-Laws say the Board shall elect him, then he could not be removed. Mr. Mekeel's position to a certain extent was true. The members never elected him to that position. They did not appoint, they elected him. There is a difference. Now in this case the Directors appoint, and where they appoint they can remove. There is no trouble whatever. The only thing that Mr. Tuttle could do would be to vote as a Director against his own removal in case he was derelict as the past Superintendent has been. That is all he could do. He could simply vote against his own removal, but he could be removed by a majority of the Board. But if he was elected by the Board to fill a position, as the Secretary or the Treasurer or the International Secretary or the President is, he could not be removed except by the Association itself. And therefore, there is no trouble. An appointive officer is under the control of the power that appoints him; an elective officer is not.

Mr. Albrecht: Sec. 3 does not state that the Directors elect one of their number to hold a certain office; it simply states here "shall proceed to choose from their number." That does not mean elect. They can choose afterwards to remove him and put another one of the nine members in his place. I think Mr. Wainwright was mistaken when he says that it states that they elect them from their number. It simply states, "shall pro-

ceed to choose from their number a President, Secretary, Treasurer," etc. So I take it that the Superintendent of Sales is an appointive officer.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: I think that Mr. Albrecht is using a Teutonic construction of the word "choose." I think "choose" is synonymous with "elect" in this case.

Mr. Deals: I move that the consideration of this section be postponed and considered at the same time that the corresponding section among the appointive officers is considered, because we cannot arrive at the meaning of the Committee on this unless we consider them both together. I move that we skip this and go ahead.

Mr. Albrecht: What is the motion?

The President: The motion is that this section be postponed and considered with a kindred section.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The President: Please proceed, omitting that section, Mr. Luff.

Mr. Luff: Art. V. : To omit from this Article Secs. 4 and 7 as they now stand.

Mr. Deals: That hinges on the other.

Mr. Luff: That hinges on this same thing that we are now discussing and have to discuss.

The President: Well, we are ready to take that up.

Mr. Luff: Not for a moment, if you please, Mr. President.

The President: Well, the motion was made that it was to come up——

Mr. Luff: Well, I will reach it in a moment.

Mr. Deals: It all hinges on that one idea.

The President: All right, go ahead. Is there anything more?

Mr. Luff: To insert under Art. VIII a new section, to be known as Sec. 3. This, gentlemen, is merely a correction of old Sec. 7, Article V., but put under a different Article.

"Sec. 3. *Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department.*—This officer shall conduct the Purchasing and Sales Department of the Association under such rules and regulations as may be approved by the Official Board, the same to be announced by him in the official journal. He shall be entitled to a commission of 10 per cent. on all sales and purchases, and *shall* pay all (his) expenses *of his department.* The Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department shall give bonds to the Association in the sum of \$20,000, to be approved by the Official Board. *He shall, at the end of every three months, submit a full and accurate statement of the affairs of his department to the Board of Vice-Presidents, this statement to be accompanied by a balance sheet taken from his books upon the last day of the month covered by the above-mentioned statement, i. e., November 30, February 28 (or 29), May 31 and August 31.* He shall hold the Association harmless from any losses arising from the management of his department."

(One word to be stricken out is enclosed in parentheses; words inserted by the Committee are in italics.)

The President: Is there any objection to Sec. 7 as amended? Any questions to be asked?

Mr. Forehand: I would like an explanation of that last sentence; I do not quite understand what that means—"shall hold the Association harmless."

Mr. W. F. Gregory: That is in the old By-Law. It is rather ambiguous, I think.

The President: That is in the By-Law; "he shall hold the Association harmless." That was originally there.

Mr. Beard: I would like to know if it has any meaning—if it will hold. I understand that as we are incorporated we are responsible for everything that every officer of this sort does. I do not understand how we can save ourselves from being responsible by such a By-Law.

The President: Why didn't you bring it before the Committee on By-Laws? It was not before them. It is too late now to consider it. There is no motion now. We will proceed. Is there any motion, Mr. Beard?

Mr. Beard: No, I will make no motion.

The President: There is no motion, and we will proceed. Proceed, Mr. Luff.

Mr. Luff: To re-number under Art. V., Secs. 5, 6 and 8 to read Secs. 4, 5 and 6. The old Section 4, relating to the Assistant Secretary, has been stricken out.

The President: Any objection? Proceed, Mr. Luff.

Mr. Luff: To change the numbers of Art. VI. to Art. VIII., Art. VII. to Art. VI., and Art. VIII. to Art. VII. In Art. VII. as it now stands in the By-Laws, the following changes in Sec. 1:

"All elections of Directors shall be conducted under the supervision of the Committee on Credentials, appointed by the President for that purpose, which shall consist of *five* stockholders."

It now reads three.

"The form of ballot to be used *must be uniform and* shall be designated by the President and approved by the Official Board. *It* shall be signed by the stockholder voting and delivered to the Committee on Credentials, and may be sent to the Committee in any manner desired by the stockholder, and at any time before the closing of the polls for that election."

The rest of the article remaining as it now stands.

The President: Is there any objection?

Mr. Luff: To strike out Sec. 2 and insert in its place a new Sec. 2:

"The polls for the annual election shall close at noon of the third day preceding the day appointed for the opening of the annual convention, and at all special elections at such time as shall be named in the call for the election."

The President: That gives more time for the counting of the votes. Are there any remarks?

Mr. Albrecht: But how is the President to appoint the Committee on Credentials three days before the convention takes place?

The President: That would come under another article.

Mr. Jewett: All the ballots would have to be sent by mail; it will be a mail ballot entirely?

The President: Yes.

Mr. Deats: I have fought for three years to have this done; I would like to explain the reasons. At one convention the Committee on Credentials worked for sixty hours, five persons working, and we did not have our work quite right then. Meanwhile the business of the convention was delayed. It was necessary to take some vote wherein the proxy vote was needed, but we did not have the report of the Committee on Credentials ready so that we could know the number of proxies held. It is unjust to expect the members of the Committee on Credentials to come in and work all day and all night in order to hurry off the report and get it ready to present to the convention. A great deal of the unnecessary work we have had in the past has been caused by cumulative voting. Under our incorporation under the laws of Minnesota cumulative voting is abolished. I think it will be much easier under the uniform ballot and without cumulative voting to get the work done, and there certainly can be no objection to having the Committee on Credentials appointed in advance, and let them get to work and do their work before the first session of the convention. The polls will close at 12 o'clock Saturday noon, and the Committee on Credentials can then go to work, and the report can certainly be ready Tuesday at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Forehand: I would like to inquire if, under that arrangement, all the voting is to be done by mail?

The President: No, there will be three days, you know. Let Mr. Luff read that section again as it is proposed to amend it.

Mr. Luff: He is right. (Reading.)

"The polls for the annual election shall close at noon of the third day preceding the day appointed for the opening of the annual convention."

The ballots will all have to be sent in.

Mr. Forehand: We will have to send in our votes beforehand.

Mr. Luff: Send them in three days earlier than you do now.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: They can be sent in by proxy, of course.

Mr. Deats: But they must be all in three days before the opening of the convention.

Mr. Jewett: So as to avoid railroad accidents.

Mr. Kilbon: I am ready to object to the adoption of the By-Law as now read and to maintain that the By-Law as it now stands is preferable.

The President: Objection is made.

Mr. Kilbon: I appreciate the difficulties of the Committee on Credentials, but as Mr. Deats said, the adoption of the uniform ballot and the abolition of cumulative voting has lightened already and is going to lighten still more the work of that Committee. This amendment proposed requires the appointment of a Committee on Credentials, who must be on the ground three days before the convention, in order to get their work done before the convention gathers. It requires, therefore, that some By-Law be adopted other than that which is now standing for the appointment of the Committee on Credentials at the opening of the convention. Furthermore, the time which is allowed is, under any ordinary circumstances, far more than is necessary. It is a principle which ought to be admitted, and I think would be admitted by anyone, that in any election it is desirable to close the polls as late as possible. If any such rule as this is to take effect, I should be strongly in favor of saying one day before the convention rather than three days before, but I do not think that any change at all is necessary.

Mr. Albrecht: I think the objection of Mr. Kilbon is not a good one. Undoubtedly the Committee on Credentials knew very well what they proposed, and I can state from one experience when I was appointed as a member of this Committee, that we had to work nearly two days before we could report. While all our friends had their pleasure trips, we could not see a man, and my family were with me and they were left alone, and I could not do the work satisfactorily and was hurried all the time. So I think the proposition made by the Committee is a very good one, and I would urge Mr. Kilbon to withdraw his objection.

Mr. Deats: The three days is longer than necessary, but as our convention generally begins on Tuesday, and we could not have the polls close on Sunday very well, I suggested the three days. It might be better, perhaps, to have them close one day before, and let them close on Monday. In other words, one day before the opening of the convention.

Mr. Doebelin: That is good.

Mr. Scott: The convention, it seems to me, ought to open earlier and get through its work as early as possible. It should open at 9 o'clock the first day, and if the polls closed at 8 or 9 o'clock the day before, that would give the Committee one clear day. As a member of the Committee on By-Laws I would be quite willing to substitute one day for three, but I think it is a very important improvement to have the election decided before the convention meets.

Mr. Luff: I want to call attention to one mistake which I think Mr. Kilbon made when he stated that the duties of the Committee on Credentials are to be very much reduced by the abolition of cumulative voting. I think it will be quite the contrary. Instead of having blocks of fifty proxies voted solidly for one man, we shall probably have every ballot cast for nine separate men, and each one will have to be carefully counted out. Instead of being able to count four or five hundred votes in a lump for one man, we have got to sit down and do a great deal of figuring.

The President: Any further remarks?

Mr. Bowen: Would it not be more clearly understood by the members if the date and hour were fixed in the by-law instead of mentioning "one day before the opening of the convention,"—that they were required to have their ballots in the hands of this Committee at 9 o'clock on Monday preceding the opening of the convention? Would it not be more clearly understood by them than one day before?

The President: The date of our convention next year has not been settled; when one day before will be we do not know now.

Mr. Bowen: I supposed the By-Laws provided that we meet on Tuesday. I may be wrong.

Mr. Scott: The essential force of that is that the President should nominate the Committee before the meeting of the convention. That is the object.

The President: Yes, and of course in the order of business, where it now reads, "Calling to order; appointment of Committees on Credentials and Standing Rules," the Committee on Credentials will be left out. It will be appointed some time before. Mr. Kilbon made a motion; I do not know whether it was seconded or not. If not, we will proceed. Proceed, Mr. Luff.

Mr. Luff: Well, does that stand three days, Mr. President?

The President: It does unless somebody makes a motion.

Mr. Scott: At any rate we are all agreed, I believe, on one day.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: The Committee may correct their report to that effect, I presume?

Mr. Luff: Then I will read the corrected report.

Mr. Wainwright: I was going to make one suggestion, because I have had more or less experience in counting ballots in regular elections. I see no reason why we should keep the polls open and no votes be counted until 12 o'clock. In our State elections we have the privilege of opening the ballot box and counting the ballots before the election is closed, so that we may get the returns very quickly after the polls are absolutely closed, the law forbidding the precinct officers, under penalty of \$50 fine, to divulge in any way the state of the vote. It seems to me we can keep the polls open until noon of the day of the convention; we can give the Committee on Credentials power to count those ballots as they come in and keep them in tabulated form, and in that way have the ballot fully prepared with very little work after 12 o'clock the day of the convention itself. In that way we give the members time to come to the convention and see how they want to vote. It is not always that a man knows how he wants to vote until the very last minute. The votes are coming in all the time; a great many are sent in by mail; some gather up proxies and know just how they want to vote them; let them be prepared. It is not well to close the polls so long before the convention assembles, but it would be better to let them remain open as they are now till the very day of the convention, and give our Committee on Credentials a little more latitude as to the counting of the ballots, placing them at the same time under a restriction in not divulging in any way the state of the vote.

Mr. Deats: Mr. Wainwright is good in theory but poor in practice. About one hundred ballots came to the Committee on Credentials by mail, and the rest of them were presented to the Committee about ten minutes before the polls closed. It has been so every year.

Mr. Beard: As we are anxious to get through as soon as possible this evening, can't we have our speeches as short as possible?

The President: Are there any further remarks? Mr. Luff, for the Committee, will read the Article as amended by the Committee.

Mr. Luff read the section as modified, as follows:

"Sec. 2. The polls for the annual election shall close at noon of the day preceding the day appointed for the opening of the annual convention, and at all special elections at such time as shall be named in the call for the election."

Mr. Luff: Mr. President, it will be necessary to turn back and amend slightly Sec. 8 of Art. III., making the second division of that section read, under the order of business, "Appointment of Committee on Standing Rules." The Committee on Credentials is elsewhere provided for in the By-Laws.

The President: Any objection?

Mr. Kilbon: Question on that, Mr. President, please.

The President: Question on which? Make a motion.

Mr. Kitbon: I understand that the report of the Committee is a motion, and I want to vote against it.

The President: All right, sir.

Mr. Kilbon: On this Sec. 2 of Art. VII.

The President: A vote on this amendment is in order. (Putting the question).

The ayes have it.

The vote was doubted and a roll call demanded.

The Secretary called the roll, and the amendment was adopted—yes, 394; no, 7—as follows:

Yes—Althen, 6; Beard, 1; Bogert, 73; Bowen, 6; Broadstone, 41; Bruner, 1; Burt, 36; Cobe, 2; Coburn, 1; Conant, 1; Deats, 57; Doebelin, 1; Drew, 1; George Gregory, 1; W. F. Gregory, 8; Humphrey, 1; Jewett, 14; Luff, 37; Lyons, 1; Lewis, 1; Mason, 1; Olney, 1; Parker, 1; Perrin, 1; Pitman, 1; Robie, 2; Scott, 11; Sebbens, 1; Stone, 76; Snow, 1; Toppan, 1; Trifet, 1; G. R. Tuttle, 3; Van Derlip, 1; Wainwright, 1; Witherby, 1.

No—Forehand, 3; Ireland, 1; Kilbon, 1; Kimball, 1; Albrecht, 1.

Mr. Luff: Art. VII., old Art. VIII., to insert in Sec. 1 a correction which will make the section read as follows:

"In addition to the nine Directors, or Official Board, the officers of this Association shall be: *A Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department*, a Superintendent of Literary Exchange,"

and the remainder of the section as it now stands, the words inserted being, "Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department,"

The President: That we must bring up in conjunction with the other section which we laid on the table temporarily. It was voted that those two sections should come up together.

Mr. Luff: Now, with a simple re-numbering, Mr. President, I have finished. To re-number the sections under Art. VII., Secs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 to be Secs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, there having been a new section inserted in that Article.

The President: Have we passed on that section?

Mr. Luff: That is the section which was laid over to be discussed; that is the section on the subject of the Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department.

The President: That is the question before the house. You will please read that section.

Mr. Luff: Sec. 3, to be inserted under Art. VII., old Art. VIII., is old Sec. 7 of Art. V. with some amendments. It has already been read. I will read it again, Mr. President.

Mr. Luff read the section reported by the Committee (page 53.)

The President: The question before the house is on the amendment of the By-Laws in regard to that section.

Mr. Luff: The section I have just read, Sec. 7 of Art. V., it is proposed by your Committee, shall become Sec. 3 of old Art. VIII., or as re-numbered, Art. VII.

The President: Is Sec. 1 of Art. VIII. amended?

Mr. Luff: It stands as it is, with the exception of the insertion of "A Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department" before "A Superintendent of Literary Exchange."

The President: That is where the objection was raised?

Mr. Luff: The objection was raised under Sec. 3 of Art. IV. on the question of making the Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department not an elective but an appointive officer. That and this other amendment were to be discussed together, I believe.

The President: All right. Will you please read Art. IV., Sec. 3, again, and we will place it before the convention.

Mr. Luff: Art. IV., Sec. 3, as amended, will read as follows:

"Immediately after the annual election of Directors, those chosen shall proceed to choose from their number a President, Secretary, Treasurer and International Secretary, and to select such officers as are required by the By-Laws to be appointed by the Official Board."

The Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department was stricken out of that section by your Committee.

The President: If there is no objection, that will stand as read. Now the old Sec. 1 of Art. VIII. is amended to read what?

Mr. Luff: (Reading.)

"In addition to the nine Directors, or Official Board, the officers of this Association shall be: A Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department, a Superintendent of Literary Exchange,"

with the rest of the section as it now stands.

The President: That question is before the convention, gentlemen.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: Mr. President, does not that as read provide for the point which was raised a while ago, that the Superintendent of Purchasing and Sales Department shall not be one of the Directors? It says he shall be appointed "in addition to the nine Directors."

The President: If the gentleman will just wait a minute I will call call his attention to the fact that that was laid on the table temporarily to be discussed later.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: That is it.

The President: Now that the question is before the convention, have you any remarks? The question is, Shall Section 1 of Article VIII. be amended as proposed by the Committee? It provides that the Official Board appoint the Superintendent instead of his being elected.

Mr. Bogert: Mr. President, it does not seem to me that that would necessarily preclude him from being a member of the Official Board.

The President: No, sir, it did not as the Committee read it before.

Mr. Luff: I should like to ask, Mr. President, can none of these other officers by any means be members of the Board of Directors—the Librarian, or the Auction Purchasing Agents? I think they have been before.

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, I was Vice-President and Librarian for a term or two, and at the same time there were other members of the Official Board who held appointive offices. Mr. Scott, I think, was Counterfeit Detector and at the same time held some other office, and there was no difficulty from it. But if we are an Association where everybody wants an office, we had better have it changed.

Mr. Toppin: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the section as amended.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Deats: Art. X. provides that—

"The *American Philatelist* shall be edited by the General Secretary and the Assistant Secretary."

The last four words ought to be stricken out, because the office of Assistant Secretary has been abolished.

On motion, duly seconded, Art. X. was amended as suggested by Mr. Deats.

The President: Art. IX. reads:

"*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* shall be known as the official journal of the Association."

Should not that be amended?

Mr. Deats: I move that Sec. 1 of Art. IX. be amended to read:

"*The Weekly Philatelic Era* shall be known as the official Journal of the Association."

The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Kilbon: In Art. VIII., Sec. 4, one-half of that section is written in the plural number, referring to the Auction Purchasing Agents in general, and the last half of it in the singular number, referring to them as individuals. In the last half of the section the word "he" should be "each," and I move that that be made "each."

The President: "As each may prescribe?"

Mr. Kilbon: Yes.

Seconded and carried.

Mr. Wainwright: In Sec. 9 of Art. VIII., in the latter part, in reference to the Collecting Agent, it provides—

“That in case of collections made for the Association or its departments, he shall charge only actual disbursements, but no commission.”

I understand from those who attended the convention last year that they did not know that this provision was inserted in the By-Laws, but it seems that it was put in. I may state frankly that it was put in by the special action of George D. Mekeel for my special benefit, as I was then the Collecting Agent of the Association, in order to affect a matter wherein I had charged him for work done for him in collecting large amounts for his department. Now I move that the words “or its departments” be eliminated. That is in the third line from the end of the section. It will then read:

“*Provided*, That in case of collections made for the Association”——

leaving out the words “or its departments”——

“he shall charge only actual disbursements.”

The motion was seconded and carried.

The President: Are there any further amendments? If not, we will take a vote upon the By-Laws as a whole.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, there is in our list of committees (Art. III., Sec. 8,) provision for the appointment of a Committee on Official Circular. Art. IX. says “Official Journal.” In order to have those harmonize I move that it be Committee on “Official Journal” instead of “Official Circular.”

The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Bogert: Mr. President, it seems to me some amendments shall be made in Art. III., Sec. 8, in regard to the order of proceedings. It does not read right as it stands.

The President: In what respect, Mr. Bogert?

Mr. Bogert: “No. 3, Opening of the polls.” The polls have closed already. Then it says, “Recess and election.”

After discussion, on motion of Mr. Stone, it was voted that the order of business be as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. Report of Committee on Credentials.
3. Roll call.
4. Appointment of Committees.
5. Reading of minutes.
6. Reports of officers.
7. Communications.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.
10. Reports of Committees.
11. Adjournment.

The President: Now, gentlemen, the question is upon the By-Laws as a whole. Those in favor of the By-Laws as amended will please to say aye. (“Aye.”) Contrary minded will say no. (No response). The ayes have it.

Mr. Kilbon: Mr. President, I do not want to make any trouble, but that can not be done without a roll call under our rule.

The President: Objection having been made, the roll will be called.

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, I do not like to object, but it has been customary, where the vote taken on this matter is unanimous, not to demand a roll call.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President, I rise to a point of order,—that, the vote having been declared by the Chair, and the member not having objected, it is too late to object after the Chair has declared the result.

Mr. Kilbon: Mr. President, I withdraw the objection.

The President: The objection is withdrawn, and the vote stands.

Claims for Lost Circuits.

Mr. Wainwright: Mr. President, in the report of the Vice-Presidents they brought up two matters in regard to lost circuits, and nothing has been done in reference to them, and I think it is the duty of the Association to do something about those two circuits. As the officers have found evidence that our late President received the circuit which he was alleged to have received, and that it never passed, as far as we can learn, from his hands, under the rules and regulations of the Association of which he was then President he was responsible for that circuit. The Association has paid the members for the stamps that were in that circuit, and I think it is nothing but justice that this Association should get the money back that it has paid out. In the other case, that matter was referred to me for a special report, to see wherein the blame lay for the loss of that circuit. A person who was a member at that time, E. H. Remington, of Brockton, who is not now a member, received the circuit, and the next one on the list was William B. Hale, of Williamsville. Mr. Hale informs me that he never received the circuit. I made inquiries in Brockton as to whether that circuit had ever been forwarded from Brockton. The postmaster, in reply to a letter from me, said that he had no record of any registered letter having been sent to Williamsville during the period of time that I mention, covering the period when this circuit was received, and that Mr. Remington was at that time looking up the records to see what he had done with the circuit. I then wrote to the express messenger in the city of Brockton—there being only one express company there—and I asked him if, during the dates I mentioned, which covered the time when this circuit was received and when it should have been sent, any such package had been forwarded, and he states that between those dates no such circuit had ever been sent from Brockton by Remington to William B. Hale. I reported to the trustees, who were then in Pittsburgh, that the circuit was received by E. H. Remington and there was no evidence that he ever sent it out, and that he was responsible. And that is my candid opinion of the fact to-day, that E. H. Remington, of Brockton, is responsible for the circuit and should be made to pay for it if he is in any way financially responsible for a cent. And it seems to me, Mr. President, in reference to the circuit which was traced to our late President's hands and never went out of them as far as we learn, that we should also take steps to secure the value of that circuit. And I move, Mr. President, that the matter of these two lost circuits be placed in the hands of the Collecting Agent, who shall be hereafter appointed, to proceed at law to collect those two accounts if he finds on investigation that the estate of the late President or the financial condition of E. H. Remington will warrant proceedings against them, as I think it is the duty of the Association when they have to pay out the money and have paid it out to the different claimants, to recover it back and not make that a loss on the whole membership where the parties are financially responsible to pay it. Of course I understand if Mr. Remington is not able to pay it, it would be throwing away money to proceed against him. But in the case of our late President, who is said to have been worth a million or more, I think the reference in the attorney's letter to his widow and children is entirely uncalled for when the amount is so small compared with the amount that he left. And I move, as I said before, that these two counts be referred to our Collecting Agent, who shall be hereafter appointed, for him to proceed and collect at law if the collection is advisable after investigation.

Mr. Albrecht: I second that motion, Mr. President.

The motion was carried.

Invitation.

Mr. Toppa: Gentlemen, I do not know whether this invitation which I have here can be availed of or not. I have been putting off reading it as late as I could, hoping that I would know whether we should get through or not. As it is, I will read it:

½ MANTER HALL, Cambridge, August 24, 1897.

Dear Mr. Batchelder:

If any of the delegates to the convention of the American Philatelic Association own

meeting in Boston should care to visit Cambridge and be shown as much of Harvard College as can conveniently be seen out of term time, I shall be glad to escort them around the grounds, museums, and points of interest on any afternoon they may choose. Should any purpose coming I shall esteem it a favor to be informed in advance by mail or telephone that I may be sure to be here to receive them.

Cordially yours, WILLIAM W. NOLEN.

Mr. Nolen is a tutor at Harvard, and undoubtedly you would all have a good time if you could make it convenient to go.

The President: I would suggest if anybody who is going to stop over till to-morrow wishes to go there, that they let Mr. Toppan know, and he will make arrangements. Meanwhile I will ask the Secretary to write Mr. Nolen thanking him for his kindness and courtesy.

Collecting Agent.

Mr. Wainwright: In looking over Section 9 of Article VIII. of the By-Laws, in reference to the Collecting Agent, I see that there is nothing requiring him to make a report to the Association, either monthly or annually. If I am wrong, I wish some member would correct me, but I have read that carefully and do not see anything about it.

Mr. Kilbon: Mr. President, Sec. 2 of Art. VIII. says:

"All of the officers mentioned in Section 1 of this Article . . . shall make a full report of their proceedings to the annual convention and to the Official Board or any special meeting of the Association when called upon so to do."

The President: That governs the case, Mr. Wainwright.

Mr. Wainwright: I see. What I was going to call attention to was, I was going to ask if we had received any report from the Collecting Agent for the past year.

The President: We have called for it.

Mr. Wainwright: I have not seen any monthly reports rendered by him published in our official organ. I have looked for them, but I have not seen a report from him this year.

A Voice: Who is it?

Mr. Wainwright: F. H. Capper, of Detroit, I believe.

Reincorporation.

The President: The Chair is ready for any further business that may come before the convention.

Mr. Van Derlip: Mr. President, I desire to make a very brief report. In pursuance to the instructions of the last convention—

The President: Won't you come up here, Mr. Van Derlip?

Mr. Vanderlip: I have only a few words, thank you. In pursuance of the instructions of the last convention the Board took measures to have the body incorporated, to be called The American Philatelic Society, under the laws of the State of Minnesota. Papers were duly filed and the body is practically incorporated. But it now appears to the Vice-Presidents and Official Board that it would be possibly inexpedient to take advantage of that act of incorporation, and that the Society should retain its original name of American Philatelic Association. I merely make this statement in order to give Mr. Luff an opportunity to make several motions which have been agreed to by the Board in relation to that matter.

Mr. Luff: Mr. President, I move that the American Philatelic Association reject this incorporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota under the name of The American Philatelic Society.

Several Voices: Second the motion.

Mr. Wainwright: Is that all?

Mr. Luff: There is more to follow.

Voices: Question.

The President: Just a minute, gentlemen. You hear the motion, gentlemen.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Luff: Mr. President, I further move that this convention instruct the Official

Board to incorporate this Association under the laws of the State of Minnesota with the name of "American Philatelic Association," using the present code of By-Laws as amended to-day, with the following addition:

"Art. VI., Sec. 7. Cumulative voting shall be illegal at any election."—

and that as soon as incorporated under the laws of Minnesota the Association shall be conducted under the laws of that State.

The motion was seconded.

Mr. Kilbon: There will be one or two other changes necessary, inasmuch as there are references in one or two places in the present By-Laws to the laws of West Virginia, which must be eliminated or altered.

Mr. Luff: I accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President: Mr. Luff, I raise the question whether before we have a corporation we can make the By-Laws of that corporation.

Mr. Luff: I don't know.

The President: Can we, Mr. Van Derlip?

Mr. Van Derlip: Yes, inasmuch as we are going to incorporate under the laws of Minnesota and we have got to supply the proper officials with a copy of our By-Laws. I think it is perfectly proper for this convention to abolish cumulative voting, as it was decided at the last convention, when the vote was passed, that we were to take any measures to abolish it, even to the extent of reincorporating in another State. I think it is the voice of the convention and the wisdom of the convention to abolish it.

The President: I was only thinking of the legal side of the question. If you think it is legal, all right.

Mr. Van Derlip: I do not see any objection to this vote which Mr. Luff suggests, that the change shall go into effect when the incorporation takes place. I understand that is what is intended.

The President: The Chair will put the motion.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Luff: I move that this convention instruct the Official Board to pay ten dollars on or before June 1, 1898, to the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia to keep alive our incorporation in the State of West Virginia for the succeeding year.

Seconded by Mr. Deats and carried.

The President: Anything further, gentlemen? If there is no objection we will take a recess for about ten minutes, and the Board of Directors will, according to law, hold their meeting for organization.

Recess was thereupon taken at 4:14 P. M.

The convention was again called to order at 4:24 P. M.

Officers Elected and Appointed by Official Board.

The President: The Secretary will announce the result of the meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Secretary: The Directors elected met in session in the ante-room. A motion was made that one ballot be cast for each officer, which motion prevailed. Rev. John L. Kilbon was chosen to cast the ballot. The following are the officers chosen:

President, F. F. OLNEY.
 Secretary, JOE F. BEARD.
 International Secretary, E. DOEBLIN.
 Treasurer, H. G. SMITH.

The Vice-Presidents, of course, stand as elected. The remaining offices were filled by the appointment of the following persons:

Superintendent Purchasing and Sales Department, GEORGE R. TUTTLE.
 Superintendent Literary Exchange, W. C. STONE.
 Counterfeit Detector, JOHN W. SCOTT.
 Examiner of Sales Books, R. R. BOGERT.
 Librarian, H. E. DEATS.
 Collecting Agent, J. ARTHUR WAINWRIGHT.

All the Resident and State Vice-Presidents were re-appointed, also the Auction Purchasing Agents, Messrs. Wolsieffer, Batchelder and Gregory.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: Specify which Gregory, please.

The President: Which Gregory?

The Secretary: The one that is now in office.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: Oh, auction?

The Secretary: Yes, auction.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: I did not hear what it was; Auction Purchasing Agent.

The Secretary: Auction Purchasing Agents; the same ones now in office.

Transfer of Special Funds.

Mr. Bowen: The Finance Committee desire to recommend that the following sums now purporting to be in the possession of the Treasurer, be transferred to the general fund, to be made available for current expenses:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Interest fund, amounting to | \$228.73 |
| Entertainment fund | 125.89 |
| Insurance fund | 3.45 |

Mr. Beard: I move the adoption of this report.

Mr. Jewett: I second the motion.

The President: Those in favor will please say aye.

Mr. Deats: Mr. President, I believe you have not called for any remarks. Are remarks in order?

The President: Yes, sir.

Mr. Deats: I am opposed to the transfer of these accounts into one general fund, unless it may be the insurance account, which is a small amount. I believe this is contrary to the previous policy of the Association. I think it is wise policy to gather a nest-egg for some future need. We do not need it at the present time, and I feel sure that the Finance Committee have not looked at it in that light.

Mr. Doebelin: Which fund is that?

Mr. Deats: This fund, as I understand it, is the interest—that is, the interest which has accumulated on the capital stock—and the entertainment fund, which is the balance left over from the Clayton convention, which was turned over to the Association to be saved until some time when the Association met at a place where there was no local society to entertain us, such as Niagara Falls, Clayton or Put-in-Bay.

The President: I would like to hear the views of other members. The question is before the house. Are there any further remarks?

Mr. Beard: Mr. President, interest on the stock fund is accumulating, and as long as we need money for general purposes I do not see why that fund should be carried. The stock fund itself cannot be touched—that is one dollar for each stock certificate issued—but this interest should go along towards paying running expenses and help us pay for these bonds that we get for the Treasurer and for different parties that have to have them. The entertainment fund was collected both at Clayton and Minneapolis and is what was left after paying expenses, and should go right into the general fund, as also the insurance fund, which is the old insurance fund and not the one that was started during the past season, where members paid so much on each dollar's worth of stamps sent in. It is an old fund that is not available for anything else.

Mr. Doebelin: Mr. President, I have not had much to say in this convention—at other conventions I always talked too much. But I am really astonished that in Boston I have found so little to talk about. Now at the close of this convention I think we ought to make a change in money affairs. Certainly I have always insisted that the stock fund should stand untouched, but I think that the interest ought to go every year to the general fund. We are always short of money, and I do not see why we should keep the interest separate. But the money in the entertainment fund ought to remain a separate fund. We do not always find a society like the Boston society that will entertain us as generously

as they have done. Sometimes we go to a village, and we need the money very badly.

Mr. Beard: For refreshments.

Mr. Doebelin: I did not say that.

Mr. Beard: I did.

Mr. Doebelin: I make a motion that we take the interest that is now in the bank and all the interest that comes during the year and put it in the general fund, keeping the entertainment fund as a separate fund.

Mr. Bogert: How about the other fund?

Mr. Doebelin: Oh, three dollars!

Mr. Van Dertip: Mr. President, I call for a separate vote on the different amounts.

The President: All right. The first will be, shall the sum of \$223 73, interest fund, be placed in the general fund?

Mr. Albrecht: Yes.

The question was decided in the affirmative by a nearly unanimous vote.

The President: Entertainment fund, \$128.89. Shall that be placed in the general fund?

Mr. Doebelin: No.

Mr. Wainwright: I would like to ask where this fund is, and if this fund is on interest?

Mr. Deats: All the money is on interest.

Mr. Beard: We don't know whether it is or not.

The President: The supposition is that it is drawing interest.

The question was decided in the negative.

The President: The insurance fund, \$3.45. Shall that go into the general fund? (Putting the question.) The ayes have it: it is a vote.

Donation to Walter S. Scott Defence Fund.

Mr. Scott: I move that this society donate a sum according to its means to help on the fight which we now have with the government in regard to the detention of newspaper stamps. We have all had them from the earliest days of their existence. I guess some of the earliest stamps I sold were newspaper stamps. I think almost everyone has them. They were openly sold in all the principal postoffices in the country when they were first issued, and now at this late day we find the agents of our government seizing them. Both the 1875 issue and the current issue were seized in New York. That is manifestly unjust. You have read the comments in the papers and you have read the action of almost every society in the United States. They have all taken up the matter and they have all voted sums of money according to their ability to fight this case. We have now some of the best lawyers in the United States working on it and have raised considerable money to defend the case, but as you are all well aware, law is quite expensive, and it is necessary that this case should be carried out in the best possible way. There should be no stone left unturned to achieve success, and all of that costs money. We can fight this case; I think there is not a flaw in it; I think it is absolutely perfect from beginning to end; there is no taint of illegality in it in any shape. We know where the stamps came from; they were openly sold. There is no special individual who has any interest in this case. It is no dealer's case; it is simply a collector who had those things sold in his auction, so I do not think it will be possible for us ever to find a better test case than this. It may be possible that the government will get sick of its bargain and try to back out. My efforts will be to have the case fought to an issue, and I think that we are able to do it now. As I remarked before, all the societies have contributed according to their means, and I would therefore move that this Association donate at least one hundred dollars. That is the sum which one of the New York societies has given, and this, which is representative of the entire United States, and the largest body in the country, should certainly give as much. If anybody wishes to give more or thinks that it can afford to, so much the better, but I cer-

tainly think that is the very least that should be donated. I therefore move that this Association donate one hundred dollars to the defence fund in the case which is now being carried on against the United States.

Mr. Doebelin and Others: I second the motion.

Mr. Deats: I desire to second the motion, especially as we have just made a profit of two hundred and twenty-four dollars and some cents. We have not made a profit, but have taken the profit.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Vote of Thanks.

Mr. Robie: I desire to move that a vote of thanks be extended to Mr. Batchelder and the other members of the Reception Committee for the delightful entertainment they have afforded us.

The motion was seconded by several voices and carried unanimously.

Time of Next Convention.

The President: Is there any further business? A motion to adjourn is in order.

Mr. Kilbon: Before the motion to adjourn I would like to know if a motion is to be made, and if so, what the motion is to be, as to the time for the next convention. That has always been settled more or less definitely at other conventions.

Mr. Stone: I move that the next convention be held at some time within thirty days of the first day of September, 1898, the date to be fixed by the Official Board.

The motion was seconded.

The President: Any remarks?

Mr. Deats: It seems to me that that allows considerable leeway—sixty days. A great many people take their vacations in August and July, and a comparatively few take them in September, and it might be that many at a distance could not come if it was held in September. It is, of course, true that September is a more pleasant month in New York City than is July or August. Personally, it makes no difference to me. I am only speaking for those who are at a distance and those who cannot get away from home except at vacation time.

Mr. W. F. Gregory: Mr. President, as our fiscal year ends on the first of September and our officers then take their offices, I think that the convention and the election should be held before that time, and I would amend Mr. Stone's motion by saying that the convention shall be held some time during the month of August.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, I will amend my motion by making it within thirty days from the first day of August. That will allow it during July or August.

Mr. Scott: I was going to say, Mr. President, it is not so important as to the special day that it is held as that we shall know as far ahead as possible. It is especially important to those employed in large establishments, where it has got to be decided among quite a number of clerks as to what time they can get away, and they want to know early. If it is announced, say, in May or as early as possible, it will give them plenty of time to arrange their vacation. But if it is left until later, they cannot do so.

Mr. Beard: Mr. President, I have got to notify the members and send them their ballots sixty days ahead, and I have to know thirty days ahead for publication, so that is ninety days ahead of time.

The President: The Secretary informs me that the By-Laws say that he shall send out notices sixty days before the election, and he has to know at least thirty days before that in order to publish it. Of course the convention is called anyway in the city of New York, that is a settled fact. The time and date are to be hereafter settled. Would it not be well to try and set the date in the convention now? Then you will all be looking forward to it.

Mr. Scott: I do not see any objection to it.

The President: What do you think, Mr. Stone? You made the motion.

Mr. Luff: Put it the third Tuesday in August.

Mr. Stone: Then, Mr. President, I will withdraw my motion, if there is no objection, and move that the next convention be held the third Tuesday in August, 1898.

Mr. Deats: I second the motion.

Mr. George Gregory: That will be on the 16th of August.

Mr. Doebelin: That is too early. Let us make it the 23d.

The President: That is the fourth Tuesday.

Mr. George Gregory: The fourth Tuesday is the 23d.

The President: How is that?

Mr. Stone: The fourth Tuesday, then.

Mr. Deats: Second the motion as amended.

The motion as amended prevailed.

The President: Any further remarks, gentlemen?

The Secretary: Mr. President, when we adjourn a gentleman who is here wishes to take a flashlight picture of the group.

The President: Where is he?

The Secretary: Right in the other room. He is arranging the apparatus now and will be ready to take the picture in a few minutes.

The President: We want it taken before we adjourn. If you will please step into the other room and take seats, the picture will be taken.

The members of the convention withdrew to the committee room, where a flashlight photograph was taken of the officers and members present, after which the convention reassembled.

Vote of Thanks to the President.

The President: Gentlemen, if there is no further business, a motion to adjourn is in order.

Mr. Doebelin: Mr. President, where is the Vice-President? (Turning to the convention): Gentlemen, I move that we give a vote of thanks to our President for the able manner in which he has conducted this convention. He has not spoken a harsh word; he has always been courteous and friendly; and I wish the convention would give a vote of thanks to our President.

Mr. Parker: Mr. Secretary, I second the motion.

The Secretary: You have all heard the nice little speech made by Mr. Doebelin in making the motion for a vote of thanks to the President. Those in favor of the motion will rise. It is a unanimous vote.

Mr. Doebelin: Three cheers for the President.

The President: Gentlemen, I will say a few words to you. I thank you all very kindly. We have been here two days in the convention. You have taken particular pains and kept quiet and done everything you could, so that this convention has run smoothly. I want to thank you in behalf of myself and the Board of Directors and officers for the kindness in so many of you coming so far away from your homes to attend this convention. A motion to adjourn is in order.

Adjournment.

Mr. Stone: Mr. President, it has been one of my perquisites at a large number of the conventions to pronounce the benediction, so to speak, and I now move that the twelfth annual convention of the American Philatelic Association adjourn *sine die*.

The motion was seconded.

The President: Are there any remarks? (Putting the question.) The ayes have it, and this convention is adjourned without date.

The convention dissolved at 5:07 P. M.

Attest:

JOE F. BEARD, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE OBITUARY COMMITTEE.

The committee appointed at the convention in Boston in August last to report suitable sketches of those members who have passed away during the year, would respectfully report that they have endeavored to fulfill their task, but on account of the lapse of time since the death of some of these members it has not been possible to secure data. They would suggest that it be made part of the duty of the Secretary to secure from time to time sketches of the members who may die, so as to have them for submission to the annual convention; or else to have a committee appointed at each convention to hold office during the next year, so as to be better able to compile the matter for publication in the year book.

Annexed will be found such sketches as we have been able to secure :

JOHN KERR TIFFANY, DIED MARCH 3, 1897.

In the death of John K. Tiffany, of St. Louis, the philatelic world loses one of its best-known figures. Mr. Tiffany was ill only a short time and had been taken to a hospital to undergo the operation from which he never rallied. Although a native of St. Louis his parents came from Worcester, where his mother resided until her death recently. Mr. Tiffany was educated in Massachusetts and graduated from Harvard College in 1865; in 1868 he was admitted to the bar and he had practiced law in St. Louis up to the time of his death, although the care of his father's large estate occupied most of his time in recent years.

At the time he practically gave up active stamp collecting, there were less than a dozen stamps then listed in the catalogues which were not included in his collection. Of late years Mr. Tiffany had devoted himself to the collecting of philatelic literature and a few years ago his library contained 97 per cent. of all the known philatelic papers and magazines. In 1887 he brought out a work on United States stamps, which was immediately accepted as the standard authority on that subject, and he had previously issued a similar work in a series of monographs published by J. B. Moens, of Brussels. Mr. Tiffany served as President of the American Philatelic Association from its organization in 1886 until September, 1896, when he declined further service. His annual messages to the conventions were finished discourses full of flowery language and abounding in apt metaphor. It is not yet known what disposition will be made of his valuable stamp collection and library, but our national library at Washington has been suggested as a fitting resting place for them.

W. A. BICKET, DIED APRIL 10, 1896.

In the death of W. A. Bicket, of Sibley, Ill., the American Philatelic Association has sustained a loss deeper than the members at large have been aware of. As the Obituary Committee pursued in its quest for data touching upon his life and death, it was gratified to receive hearty and spontaneous tributes testifying to the native worth of Mr. Bicket and to the esteem in which he was held in life. His memory is revered by the many friends that his rare personal qualities made him.

Mr. Bicket was evidently an ideal type of philatelic amateur and followed the gentle pastime primarily because it afforded a means of pleasant and profitable relaxation.

Mr. Bicket was born in Toronto, Canada, September 9, 1842. At the age of 13 he entered a store as clerk, and as a remarkable instance of precocity it is related that he became bookkeeper of the establishment before he became 14 years old. In 1860 Mr. Bicket secured a position in a commission house at Chicago and soon afterwards he had progressed to the berth of bookkeeper. Mr. Bicket went to Minnesota in 1863 and there enlisted in a Minnesota regiment. He served his country until the termination of the war.

Later Mr. Bicket allied himself with a great manufacturing concern, but it was in 1872 that he settled in what became his permanent home, Burr Oaks Farms, Ford County, Ill. From the year 1878 until the time of his death Mr. Bicket was resident agent and general manager of the farms held by the executors of the Hiram Sibley estate.

Mr. Bicket married Miss Ellen Pratt, of Fairbault, Minn., on St. Valentine's Day, 1867.

And so, Mr. Bicket lived and died; a man of sterling grade, a man whose head and heart were sound. Mr. Bicket was an honor to philately and the American Philatelic Association, and we members can have a tender satisfaction in knowing that philately could attract this exemplar of Nature's best.

WILLIAM THEODORE CURTIS, DIED MARCH 30, 1897.

All who knew Mr. Curtis will join in giving him the praise due to one who is an enthusiast in an unpopular cause. The stamps of the South American republics, and those of the Republic of Columbia in particular, have never been very popular with the philatelic fraternity, but to Mr. Curtis they were a never-failing mine from which he was ever extracting new treasures to enrich the already magnificent collections which he had.

Mr. Andreini in one of our periodicals says of him: "During his last illness he often turned to the subject of philately with apparent relief and satisfaction." Thus his unflinching interest in stamps remained unflinching to the end.

Of the three following gentlemen the Committee have been unable to secure any response to their letters of inquiry concerning them:

J. A. SCHIEDT,
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

JAMES B. NEWLIN,
BELLEVUE, DEL.

J. REINHART,
BUTTE, MONT.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM C. STONE,
P. M. WOLSIEFFER,
JOHN L. KILBON,

Committee on Obituaries.

November 1, 1897.

THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

—OF—

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Geo. R. Tuttle, Superintendent, 160 Nassau Street, New York City.

This Department is organized to provide members, who furnish cash deposits in advance, with all newly issued stamps, envelopes and postal cards *unused* at 10 per cent. over cost to the Department.

The cost is sometimes not more than the face value, but in other cases it includes a small rate of commission and postage, and in case of postal cards and entire envelopes, express charges.

Any member of the American Philatelic Association is entitled to participate in this Department, and the following suggestions are made for the information of those who wish to join.

The working capital of the Department is supplied by deposits made by participating members, in accordance with the following rules:

GENERAL RULES.

Governing All Classes of Participants in the Purchasing Department.

I.

A member desiring to avail himself of the benefits of the Purchasing Department must make a cash deposit, as provided in one of the following classes.

II.

A certificate of deposit will be issued to him for the amount deposited, the same redeemable in cash, subject to thirty days' notice of a desire to withdraw from the Department. The member's open account with the Department, however, must be balanced.

III.

New issues will be sent to participating members from time to time, in accordance with their orders, as the stamps are received; he will remit for these bills regardless of his original deposit represented by the certificate. No account of this kind must remain open longer than thirty days.

IV.

A member joining one of the following classes may qualify his order as regards postal cards, cut or entire envelopes and adhesives. He may also make geographical distinctions and limitations according to the class of stamps he collects, but the deposit must be made in accordance with the class he joins, this to be governed by the limit of face value.

Class A. Deposit of \$10 is required. This will entitle the participants to receive all new issues from the lowest denomination up to and including the one whose face value is about 25 cents.

Class B. Deposit of \$25 is required. This will entitle the participants to receive all new issues from the lowest denomination up to and including the one whose face value is about 50 cents.

Class C. Deposit of \$50 is required. This will entitle the participants to receive all new issues from the lowest denomination up to and including the one whose face value is about \$1.

Class D. Deposit of \$100 is required. This will entitle the participants to receive all new issues from the lowest denomination up to and including the one whose face value is about \$5.

If you wish to join send for an application blank.

GEO. R. TUTTLE, Superintendent.

THE SALES DEPARTMENT

—OF—

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

Geo. R. Tuttle, Superintendent, 160 Nassau Street, New York City.

This Department is intended to provide a means for members to sell their duplicates, and give them an opportunity to purchase the duplicates of other members. The business is conducted for a commission of 10 per cent, which is used in paying expense of office. Any member of the Association is entitled to participate, either as a buyer or a seller, subject to the following rules and conditions :

All stamps must be mounted with hinges in the blank books that are furnished by this Department at 10 cents each. These books hold 120 stamps each.

A member must price his own stamps, taking into consideration that the Department will retain 10 per cent of the amount realized from sales. Members can place any price they choose on their stamps, but if they mark them too high they will be disappointed in the result of the sales; most stamps are sold at a discount from catalogue prices.

Members who wish to participate in this Department as buyers should request to be placed on a circuit. Books are sent out to a list of members, to be forwarded by one to another, and finally back to the Department. A member, having requested his name placed on a circuit, must carefully examine the books when received and report any shortage promptly to the Superintendent, and must forward the package, either by registered mail, express or in person, to the next name on the circuit at his own expense, receiving for same a receipt. As soon as the books are forwarded a report sheet containing a memorandum of the total value and a remittance for the amount of stamps taken out must accompany the report, even if the party has stamps of his own circulating in the Department. This Department is conducted on a strictly cash basis.

The Department provides Control Stamps bearing a special number which is recorded, so that when a stamp is removed from a book the member must attach one of the control stamps to the space and cancel same by marking upon it the price of the stamp removed and his initials. These control stamps are furnished by the Department at 10 cents per hundred. Members are prohibited from writing or making any other marks upon the books. Should any blank spaces be found in the books received by a member, it is his duty to notify the one preceding him and adjust the matter with him. Failure to do this will render the last member responsible for the amount.

The Exchange Manager will exercise his judgment in the acceptance of stamps for circulation, and will not circulate rubbish or stamps that are priced too high.

Members who have become specialists, devoting themselves to certain countries, have disposed of the other parts of their collection very profitably through this Department.

When a circuit has been returned, occupying about eight weeks, the owner of the books is notified of the conclusion of the circuit and check sent for amount due, and inquiry made whether owner wishes books to be recalled or put on another circuit. When most of the stamps are sold from books they are returned without notification.

Stamps should be classified as far as possible.

In accordance with the By-Laws a premium of 1 per cent is charged against the owners of all books; the premiums so collected is to establish an insurance fund for the payment of any losses that may occur in the Department.

With this fund members may feel greater security in sending stamps for circulation, as this will provide a guarantee against loss by theft, railroad accident, fire, or in fact, almost any possible contingency.

STOCKHOLDERS

—OF—

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

(Organized September 14, 1886.)

- 1250 Abbott, Dr. Chas. E., 70 Main Street, Andover, Mass.
 214 Ackerman, E. R., P. O. Box 449, New York City.
 766 Addition, Harry L., Dover, N. H.
 1326 Adler, Nicholas, 210 West Market Street, Louisville, Ky.
 113 Albrecht, R. F., 90 Nassau Street, New York City.
 32 Aldrich, E. R., Benson, Minn.
 435 Aldrich, J. D., 1121 College Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
 109 Allen, George H. H., New Bedford, Mass.
 1287 Allen, Paul, 10 East Thirty-sixth Street, New York City.
 1168 Allison, George Grier, 800 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
 827 Althen, Edward C., 369 North State Street, Elgin, Ills.
 1225 Ambler, John P., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
 668 Andreini, J. M., 29 West Seventy-fifth Street, New York City.
 771 Andrews, William H., 206 Harvard Street, Cambridgeport, Mass.
 1327 Annan, C. L., City Engineers' Office, St. Paul, Minn.
 776 Appleton, R. S., Station S, Cr. Calumet El. Co., South Chicago, Ills.
 1458 Armstrong, Herbert, Iron Mountain, Mich.
 368 Ashcroft, R. W., 383 Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 742 Averill, David M., 286 Morrison Street, Portland, Oregon.
 998 Averill, Emery H., 286 Morrison Street, Portland, Oregon.
 756 Ayer, F. W., Bangor, Me.
 363 Bacon, D. H., Derby, Conn.
 410 Badger, Joseph E., Augusta, Me.
 572 Bailey, T. O., 69 Marceline Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.
 927 Bailey, William O., 694 Edmond Street, St. Paul, Minn.
 364 Baird, William Raymond, 271 Broadway, New York City.
 1169 Baker, Major S., Fourth Infantry, Fort Sheridan, Ills.
 483 Baldwin, F. J., Coral, Mich.
 1226 Bandholtz, Lieutenant H. H., Agricultural College, Ingham County, Mich.
 1029 Banks, William, Jr., 44 State Street, Boston, Mass.
 1431 Barber, Mrs. R. M., 237 State Street, Albany, N. Y.
 1397 Barker, E. F., Skaneateles, N. Y.
 899 Barbour, W. J., 34 N. Benton Avenue, Helena, Mont.
 526 Batchelder, A. W., 265 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
 156 Bemish, Charles, 1105 Frankfort Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.
 1000 Beamish, Wm. M., 227 W. Penn Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
 1262 Beams, Charles J., Oneonta, N. Y.
 464 Beard, Joe F., Muscatine, Iowa.
 210 Beardsley, H. C., Box 216, St. Joseph, Mo.
 235 Becker, Alfred L., 1727 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, Mass.
 1329 Beifeld, Joseph, Cor. Market and Jackson Streets, Chicago, Ills.
 868 Belden, Francis S., 211 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ills.
 407 Bent, Stedman, Box 1186, Philadelphia, Pa.
 37 Bergholz, Chas., Liley, Ark.
 178 Berlepsch, M. C., Nathalie Avenue, Kingsbridge, New York City.
 510 Biermann, F. H., 229 Dare Street, Cleveland, Ohio.
 1263 Birdseye, Rufus P., 429 Genesee Street, Utica, N. Y.

- 1187 Black, John F., 23 West 126th Street, New York City.
 1448 Blake, George H., 12 Highland Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.
 1444 Blandy, Oswald R., Erin, Houston County, Tenn.
 984 Boardman, Henry F., 183 Second Street, Troy, N. Y.
 1186 Boehm, Herman, 408 Law Building, Baltimore, Md.
 6 Bogert, R. R., Tribune Building, New York City.
 116 Book, R. D., First National Bank, Pittsburg, Pa.
 957 Booker, W. E., 492 Main Street, Worcester, Mass.
 1251 Bosserman, Charles, 1420 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, Ind.
 477 Bowen, Charles W., 194 Broadway, Providence, R. I.
 1188 Bowen, Herbert, 82 Moffat Building, Detroit, Mich.
 1264 Brady, William G., 109 W. 122d Street, New York City.
 1224 Bridge, Charles F., 600 Madison Avenue, Albany, N. Y.
 1034 Briggs, M. C., Muscatine, Iowa.
 436 Brodie, W. J., 479 The Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio.
 1142 Brodstone, L. T., Lock Box 116, Superior, Neb.
 595 Bronson, Dr. Thomas S., 58 Dwight Street, New Haven, Conn.
 1075 Brown, Allen A., 30 Kilby Street, Boston, Mass.
 900 Brown, A. N., N. A. Library, Annapolis, Md.
 628 Brown, A. W., 216 New York Avenue, Providence, R. I.
 159 Bruce, W. H., Box 283, Hartford, Conn.
 511 Bruck, Henry T., Mt. Savage, Md.
 1076 Bruner, P. F., 529 Broadway, New York City.
 182 Bryant, Guy A., Princeton, Ills.
 101 Buehler, E. H., 134 Lake Street, Chicago, Ills.
 1405 Bullard, Henry N., Parkville, Mo.
 1292 Burgoyne, A. G., Verona, Pa.
 218 Burt, Frank H., 1046 Tremont Building, Boston, Mass.
 844 Burton, Elliott H., 921 North Delaware Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.
 249 Bush, George T., Bellefonte, Pa.
 1035 Button, B. G., Aurora, Ills.
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 1185 De Missolz, E., 27 Rue Vaubecour, Lyons, France.
 679 Diena, Dr. Emilio, 57 Via Campo Marzio, Rome, Italy.
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 1379 Dimock, John W. S., Newcastle, Natal, South Africa.
 807 Drewsen, C. C., Ostergrade 34, Copenhagen, Denmark.
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 834 Epstein, Sallo, Box 1239, Johannesburg, South African Republic.
 549 Evans, Major E. B., Longton Avenue, Sydenham, England.
 729 Fiacre, H., Pres. Int. Phil. Rarities Club, 41 Augustenstrasse, Munich, Bavaria.
 603 Fraser, W. Sutherland, Bangkok, Siam.
 1190 Georgieff, Etienne, Sophia, Bulgaria.
 1334 Giffard, W. M., Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands.
 960 Gillmayr, Edgar, Box 418, Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.
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 1010 Gunter, H. Edwin, Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.
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 687 Kosack, Philip, Neu Koningstrasse 38, Berlin, Germany.
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 694 Kunast, W., 15 Unter der Linden, Berlin, W., Germany.
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 606 Ribeiro, F. J., 2C Staunton, Hong Kong, China.
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 1401 Schenkel, Federico C., Manila, Philippine Islands.
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 1160 Smythe, Hedley V., Box 205, St. Johns, New Foundland.
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 1443 Spyridakis, Stylianos, 3 Rue Lycabette, Athens, Greece.
 1389 Steinberg, L., Rue Victoire 35, Bucharest, Roumania.
 685 Stock, E., 69 Adalbert Street, Berlin S. O., Germany.
 615 Sylva, Henry, Shangahi, China.
 800 Tamsen, Emil C. C., Waterburg, South African Republic.
 768 Thompson, John G., Essex Street, Fremantle, West Australia.
 1164 Vienot, Joseph, 12 Klaragasse, Mulhausen, I. E., Germany.
 538 Vignon, J. L. Th., Heldewier, Curacao, W. I.
 692 Vila, A de Brugada, Albion Dock Co., Pt. Louis, Mauritius.
 819 Von Trescow, Paul, Ruttenscheidt, Germany.
 666 Wasserburger, A., Trier Mosel, Germany.
 897 Wood, S. M., Ponta Delgada, St. Michaels, Azores.
 530 Woods, P. S., U. S. Vice-Consul Reg't, St. Belize, Br. Honduras.
 724 Wcodward, A., Tracey, Kobe, Japan.

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ERRATA.

Wherever "re-incorporation" is used in this book the word should be "incorporation."

CHANGES.

On page 1, in the Board of Directors, Willard C. VanDerlip's address should be 23 Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass. H. B. Phillips' address should be 1315 Henry street, Berkeley, Cal. Geo. R. Tuttle's address should be 160 Nassau street, New York City.

ADDITIONS.

The following persons paid their dues after the regular list of stockholders had gone to press:

- 650 Ammann, A. J., Highland, Ill.
- 199 Chapin, F. Newell, 570 Main Street, Springfield, Mass.
- 1416 Cowan, Robert E., 3229 20th Street, San Francisco, Cal.
- 1254 Elmer, M. K., No. 3 Franklin Street, Bridgton, N. J.
- 1394 Glenn, W. L., 1103 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Md.
- 934 Gregory, George, Clarendon Hills, Ill.
- 450 Hagensick, A. C., Elkader, Iowa.
- 1410 Hartman, W. W., Berwyn, Cook County, Ill.
- 124 Jaessig, Clemens, 2738 Ivanhoe Street, St. Louis, Mo.
- 788 McKusick, H. N., 308 N. Third Street, Stillwater, Minn.
- 274 Moreau, C. L., 122 W. 48th Street, New York City.
- 593 Plank, Will H., 1006 N. Campbell Street, Springfield, Mo.
- 1062 Russell, Marguerite V., 201 13th Street, Portland, Ore.
- 137 Shinkle, Jos. M., 3726 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, Mo.
- 1182 Wainwright, John T., 45 Broadway, New York City.
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